



was bad news. He also said, “But when the seventy years are fulfilled, I will punish the king of Babylon and his nation, the land of the Babylonians, for their guilt . . .”

Several years later, when Zedekiah was king of Judah, Babylon attacked them. “What should I do?” cried King Zedekiah. “Bow your neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon; serve him and his people, and you will live,” Jeremiah responded. But King Zedekiah didn’t listen to God’s message.

Then came Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, with all his army ... When they saw them, Zedekiah king of Judah and all the men of war fled ... But the army of the Babylonians followed ... They captured him and took him to Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon ... The Babylonians made Zedekiah watch as they killed his sons and all the nobles of Judah. Then they removed his eyes, chained him and took him to Babylon as a prisoner. The Babylonians burned the royal palace and the houses of the people and broke down the walls of Jerusalem. They removed all the people who were still in the city and took them as prisoners to Babylon, except for some poor people. As Jeremiah had said, the people of Judah remained in Babylon for 70 years.

During the first year that Cyrus was king of Persia, the Lord moved the heart of Cyrus and he allowed the people to go free. Cyrus announced: “Any of the people among you may go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the Lord, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem, and may their God be with them.” Then, all those whom God placed in their heart prepared to go up and build the house of the Lord, which is in Jerusalem. God had told Jeremiah to warn the people what was going to happen; so he spoke to them several times, but they didn’t listen to him.

So, what God said would happen, happened. Today, we have the messages of Jeremiah in the Bible. God gave us these messages so we would know that we should love and obey Him.

Think About It?

- What did God tell Jeremiah to do?
- What did Jeremiah tell the people?
- What happened to the king and the people of Judah?
- What does this show us about the Bible?