

Mount Zion A.M.E. Church Sunday Worship Experience

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"Rethinking Church In A Changing World"
(1 Corinthians 9:22b)

MOUNT ZION



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African Methodist Episcopal Church of New Brunswick, New Jersey



Pastor

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Welcome!!!

We are excited that you have chosen to visit our evolving website. Mount Zion A.M.E. Church is a growing and thriving ministry, dedicated to building a vibrant Christian community based on biblical



Apostle's Creed ✝

**I believe in God The Father Almighty,
Maker of Heaven and Earth,
And in Jesus Christ His Only Son Our LORD
Who was conceived by The Holy Spirit,
Born of The Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, dead and buried,
On the 3rd day He arose from the dead,
He ascended into Heaven...**

Apostle's Creed ✝

... And sits on the right hand
of GOD The Father Almighty
From thence He shall come to judge
the quick and the dead,
I believe in The Holy Spirit,
The Church Universal,
The Communion of Saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And life everlasting - **AMEN**

Mount Zion A.M.E. Church of New Brunswick, NJ
11/09/2025

By Paul T. Bennett Church School Superintendent

Judah, From Isaiah to Exile Jeremiah and the Promise of Renewal

Jerusalem's Fall

2 Kings 24:18 – 25:9

Background

- The difference between **1 & 2 Kings** and **1 & 2 Chronicles** is their purpose and audience
- **Kings** was written to the exiled Jews to show them that their suffering was the result of their disobedience

Background

- **Chronicles** was written after the exile to encourage the return of the community by focusing on the faithful lineage of the Davidic line and the Temple, while omitting negative details about their heroes to build hope for the future

Background

- The beginning of **2 Kings 24** begins with the end of Jehoiakim's reign with the invasion of Judah by the Babylonians' king Nebuchadnezzar as promised by God for Judah's sins going back to King Manasseh, Josiah's successor(**24:1-4**)

Background

- Jehoiakim's son Jehoiachin become 'king' at 18 years old and like his father did evil before God.
- In his 'reign', Nebuchadnezzar **seized** Jerusalem, stripping the palace and the temple of all its treasures and best people (24:6-16)

Background

- Nebuchadnezzar installed Mattaniah, Jehoiachin's uncle as the next 'king', and changed his name to Zedekiah, ending the line of succession from son to son, and Zedekiah was the last king of Judah or Israel (24:17)

Last Days of Judah

608 - 597	Jehoiakim (Son of Josiah)	Evil / Evil	22:8-20; 2 Chronicles 34:15-28) Habakkuk Zephaniah Jeremiah Ezekiel (Lamentations)	2 Ki 23-24 2 Ch 36
597	Jehoiachin (Son)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 24-25 2 Ch 36
597 - 586	Zedekiah (Son of Josiah)	Evil / Evil		2 Ki 24-25 2 Ch 36

Judah into Babylonian captivity - 586 BC

Lesson Text

2 KINGS 24:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ Zedekiah *was* twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. His mother's name *was* Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah.



Lesson Text

2 KINGS 24:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹ He also did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that Jehoiakim had done.



Lesson Text

2 KINGS 24:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ For because of the anger of the Lord this happened in Jerusalem and Judah, that He finally cast them out from His presence. Then Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.



Lesson Text

The Fall and Captivity of Judah

2 KINGS 25:1 (NKJV)

¹ Now it came to pass in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and all his army came against Jerusalem and encamped against it; and they built a siege wall against it all around.



Lesson Text

2 KINGS 25:2 – 3 (NKJV)

² So the city was besieged until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah. ³ By the ninth day of the fourth month the famine had become so severe in the city that there was no food for the people of the land.



Lesson Text

2 KINGS 25:4 (NKJV)

⁴ Then the city wall was broken through, and all the men of war fled at night by way of the gate between two walls, which was by the king's garden, even though the Chaldeans were still encamped all around against the city. And the king^[a] went by way of the ^[b]plain.



Lesson Text

2 KINGS 25:5 (NKJV)

⁵ But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king, and they overtook him in the plains of Jericho. All his army was scattered from him.



Lesson Text

2 KINGS 25:6 (NKJV)

⁶ So they took the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah, and they pronounced judgment on him.



Lesson Text

2 KINGS 25:7 (NKJV)

⁷ Then they killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, put^[c] out the eyes of Zedekiah, bound him with bronze fetters, and took him to Babylon.



Lesson Text

2 KINGS 25:8 (NKJV)

⁸ And in the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month (which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon), Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem.



Lesson Text

2 KINGS 25:9 (NKJV)

⁹ He burned the house of the Lord and the king's house; all the houses of Jerusalem, that is, all the houses of the great, he burned with fire.



Commentary: Zedekiah's Evil

- Not much is written about Zedekiah's acts as 'king'. He was an installed monarch whose purpose was to facilitate a 'peaceful' transfer of power as willed by God

Commentary: Zedekiah's Evil

- But Zedekiah essentially rebelled against what God ordained, and it proved costly for himself, as he lost his sons before his eyes and his eyesight, and all of Jerusalem was destroyed

Commentary: Acceptance

- Although we may scorn discipline, it is sometimes necessary to humble us and to drive us towards repentance. When people rebel against it, the results are often worse than what they would have been

Commentary: Acceptance

- But we know God disciplines those He loves (**Hebrews 12:6**) and we must trust that it is for our benefit
- Jeremiah promised mercy for those who surrendered to the Babylonians but everyone else would die (**Jeremiah 38:2**)

Commentary: Epilogue

- Despite the utter destruction of Jerusalem, God still gives hope and keeps His promise based on the Davidic covenant – to keep a descendant of David on the throne forever

Commentary: Epilogue

- In the 37th year of king Jehoiachin's exile (the last of the kings of succession), a new king in Babylon – Evil-merodach speaks kindly of Jehoiachin and gives him a higher place than other exiled kings in Babylon

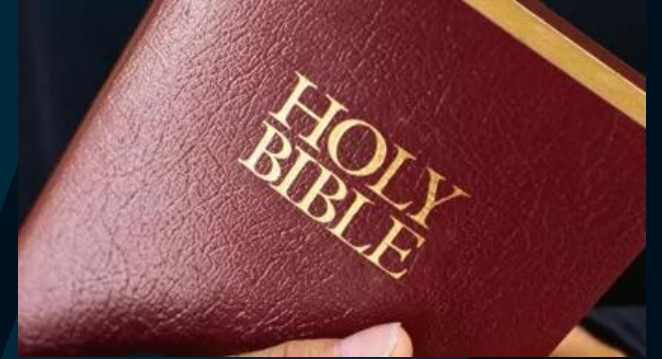
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Commentary: Epilogue

- He supplied Jehoiachin with new clothes and allowed him to dine in the king's presence and supplied him with food for the rest of his live (**2 Kings 25:27-30**), setting the stage for the restoration of Israel

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Scripture References



Refer to Lesson Text

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Church School Creed

Our Church School must grow & grow
And we must help to make it so
Every member a Christian
Every Christian a worker
Every worker trained
A worker that will not be ashamed
This we ask in Jesus' name

-AMEN

Mount Zion A.M.E. Church of New Brunswick, NJ
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Church School Benediction

We have come

We have studied

We have learned

So until our next coming together

To study God's word

May His rich blessings reside with you

And may His Grace be eternally yours

-AMEN