

# The Hebrew Prophets

## Exile & A Future

### I. A Nation Divided (922 BCE)

A. Israel, the Northern Kingdom

B. Judah, the Southern Kingdom

C. Destruction & Exile

1. Israel conquered, 721 BCE by Assyrians
2. Judah conquered, 587 BCE by Babylonians

### II. Faithfulness & Courage

2 Kings 22:1-2 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years. His mother's name was Jedidah daughter of Adaiah; she was from Bozkath. <sup>2</sup> He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and walked in all the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left.

#### A. Discovery

2 Kings 22:11-13 (NIV)

<sup>11</sup> When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his robes. <sup>12</sup> He gave these orders to Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam son of Shaphan, Acbor son of Micaiah, Shaphan the secretary and Asaiah the king's attendant: <sup>13</sup> "Go and inquire of the LORD for me and for the people and for all Judah about what is written in this book that has been found. Great is the LORD's anger that burns against us because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book; they have not acted in accordance with all that is written there concerning us."

#### B. Public Message

2 Kings 23:1-2 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> Then the king called together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> He went up to the temple of the LORD with the men of Judah, the people of Jerusalem, the priests and the prophets--all the people from the least to the greatest. He read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant, which had been found in the temple of the LORD.

#### C. Right & Wrong

2 Kings 23:4-5 (NIV)

<sup>4</sup> The king ordered Hilkiah the high priest, the priests next in rank and the doorkeepers to remove from the temple of the LORD all the articles made for Baal and Asherah and all the starry hosts. He burned them outside Jerusalem in the fields of the Kidron Valley and took the ashes to Bethel. <sup>5</sup> He did away with the pagan priests appointed by the kings of Judah to burn incense on the high places of the towns of Judah and on those around Jerusalem--those who burned incense to Baal, to the sun and moon, to the constellations and to all the starry hosts.

2 Kings 23:7 (NIV)

<sup>7</sup> He also tore down the quarters of the male shrine prostitutes, which were in the temple of the LORD and where women did weaving for Asherah.

2 Kings 23:10 (NIV)

<sup>10</sup> He desecrated Topheth, which was in the Valley of Ben Hinnom, so no one could use it to sacrifice his son or daughter in the fire to Molech.

2 Kings 23:24 (NIV)

<sup>24</sup> Furthermore, Josiah got rid of the mediums and spiritists, the household gods, the idols and all the other detestable things seen in Judah and Jerusalem. This he did to fulfill the requirements of the law written in the book that Hilkiah the priest had discovered in the temple of the LORD.

## D. Celebration

2 Kings 23:21-23 (NIV)

<sup>21</sup> The king gave this order to all the people: "Celebrate the Passover to the LORD your God, as it is written in this Book of the Covenant." <sup>22</sup> Not since the days of the judges who led Israel, nor throughout the days of the kings of Israel and the kings of Judah, had any such Passover been observed. <sup>23</sup> But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah, this Passover was celebrated to the LORD in Jerusalem.

## III. For Our Benefit

### A. Discipline Embraced

Hebrews 12:4-11 (NIV)

<sup>4</sup> In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. <sup>5</sup> And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, <sup>6</sup> because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son." <sup>7</sup> Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? <sup>8</sup> If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. <sup>9</sup> Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! <sup>10</sup> Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. <sup>11</sup> No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

### B. Unaware?

1 Corinthians 6:2 (NIV)

<sup>2</sup> Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?

1 Corinthians 6:3 (NIV)

<sup>3</sup> Do you not know that we will judge angels?

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (NIV)

<sup>9</sup> Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders <sup>10</sup> nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup> And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Corinthians 6:16 (NIV)

<sup>16</sup> Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh."

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV)

<sup>19</sup> Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; <sup>20</sup> you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

1 Corinthians 9:24 (NIV)

<sup>24</sup> Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.

## Prayer

Heavenly Father, open my heart to your truth. May the Holy Spirit give me a spirit of revelation and understanding. I choose to walk in holiness and purity before you. Grant me the strength to choose the right and turn away from destruction. Thank you for loving me and bringing discipline to my life. I rejoice in the faithfulness and loving-kindness of my Lord, in Jesus' name, amen.