

JANUARY, 1989

II CHRONICLES 36:14-20

II KINGS 25:1-21

EZRA 1,3; NEHEMIAH 6:15  
NEHEMIAH 8:1-6

TO FIX TIME  
OF THESE  
SEE EZRA  
NEHEMIAH 2:1

{ "NEHEMIAH REBUILT JERUSALEM"  
THEN  
"EZRA & THE PEOPLE WORSHIP GOD"

(93)  
MANY YEARS AFTER SOLOMON DIED, THE  
PEOPLE OF ISRAEL WEREN'T EVEN TRYING  
TO OBEY GOD ANYMORE. AFTER SOLOMON  
DIED, THERE HAD BEEN MANY TERRIBLE  
KINGS WHO DIDN'T CARE ABOUT OBEYING  
GOD. EVERY TIME AN EVIL MAN BECAME  
THE NEW KING OF ISRAEL, MANY OF THE  
PEOPLE OF ISRAEL FOLLOWED THE KING'S  
EVIL IDEAS INSTEAD OF OBEYING GOD.  
MANY PEOPLE IN ISRAEL EVEN WORSHIPPED  
IDOLS!

THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL WERE EVIL FOR A  
LONG TIME (MANY, MANY YEARS). GOD STILL  
LOVED THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL EVEN THOUGH  
THEY WERE SO EVIL. GOD SENT MANY PROPHETS  
TO PREACH TO THE PEOPLE AND REMIND THEM  
THAT THEY SHOULD OBEY GOD ALWAYS.

BUT MOST OF THE TIME THE PEOPLE JUST  
MADE FUN OF THE PROPHETS. THE PEOPLE  
DIDN'T CARE WHAT THE BIBLE VERSES SAID  
AND DIDN'T CARE WHAT MESSAGES GOD  
SENT FOR THE PROPHETS TO PREACH.

THE PEOPLE SINNED AND SINNED AND  
SINNED TILL GOD WAS VERY ANGRY WITH

THEM FOR BEING SO TERRIBLE. THEY WOULD NOT LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD, SO GOD PUNISHED THEM.

GOD LET THE ARMY OF THE COUNTRY CALLED BABYLON MARCH TO JERUSALEM AND BUILD FORTS ALL AROUND THE CITY. THE ARMY OF BABYLON STAYED AROUND THE CITY OF JERUSALEM FOR 2 YEARS. THEY WOULDN'T LET THE PEOPLE IN THE CITY COME OUT. FINALLY THE PEOPLE IN JERUSALEM RAN OUT OF FOOD.

THE PEOPLE IN JERUSALEM GOT SO SCARED THAT THEIR SOLDIERS SNEAKED AWAY AT NIGHT AND TRIED TO RUN AWAY FROM THE ARMY OF BABYLON. BUT THE ARMY OF BABYLON CAUGHT THE ARMY OF ISRAEL. THE ARMY OF BABYLON KILLED SOME OF THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL. THE ARMY OF BABYLON CHAINED UP THE KING OF ISRAEL AND TOOK HIM TO BABYLON AS A PRISONER.

LATER A CAPTAIN IN THE ARMY OF BABYLON CAME AND BURNED THE TEMPLE THAT SOLOMON HAD BUILT. THEN HE BURNED THE KING'S HOUSE AND ALL THE HOUSES IN JERUSALEM. MANY SOLDIERS WERE WITH THE CAPTAIN. THESE SOLDIERS TORE DOWN ALL THE WALLS AROUND JERUSALEM.

THE ARMY OF BABYLON TOOK ALMOST ALL THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL TO BABYLON AS

PRISONERS. THEY LET JUST THE POOR PEOPLE STAY IN JERUSALEM TO WORK IN THE GARDENS AND VINEYARDS.

THE ARMY OF BABYLON STOLE ALL THE GOLD AND SILVER PIECES OF THINGS USED TO WORSHIP GOD IN THE TEMPLE. ALL THE BEAUTIFUL TREASURES IN THE TEMPLE WERE STOLEN BY THE ARMY OF BABYLON.

WHEN PERSIA GOT A NEW KING, THIS NEW KING DECIDED TO LET THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL GO BACK TO JERUSALEM AND BUILD A NEW TEMPLE. MANY, MANY FAMILIES OF ISRAEL WENT BACK TO ISRAEL TO WORK ON THE TEMPLE. THE NEW KING OF PERSIA EVEN TOOK UP OFFERINGS OF SILVER AND GOLD TO HELP BUILD THE NEW TEMPLE. AND THIS KING EVEN GAVE BACK MANY OF THE BEAUTIFUL TREASURES THAT HAD BEEN IN THE FIRST TEMPLE.

WHEN THE FAMILIES OF ISRAEL MOVED BACK TO ISRAEL, THEY STARTED WORSHIPPING GOD AGAIN - MAKING BURNT OFFERINGS AND MEETING FOR SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES. FINALLY, THE PEOPLE STARTED BUILDING THE NEW TEMPLE.

WHEN THEY STARTED BUILDING THE NEW TEMPLE, THEY SANG SONGS, PRAYED TO GOD, AND SHOUTED PRAISES TO GOD.

DURING THE TIME THAT THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL WERE TRYING TO BUILD JERUSALEM AGAIN, A MAN NAMED NEHEMIAH (A PERSON

FROM ISRAEL) WAS A GREAT LEADER WHO HELPED THE PEOPLE BUILD BACK THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM TO KEEP THE CITY SAFE AGAIN. NEHEMIAH WAS A GREAT LEADER WHO LOVED AND OBEYED GOD. THE PEOPLE BUILT ALL THE WALLS AROUND JERUSALEM IN JUST 52 DAYS.

EZRA WAS ALSO A VERY GREAT LEADER FOR THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL. EZRA WAS A SCRIBE AND A PRIEST - EZRA <sup>STUDIED GOD'S WORD &</sup> TAUGHT THE PEOPLE HOW TO LOVE GOD, HOW TO OBEY GOD, AND HOW TO WORSHIP GOD.

ONE DAY THE PEOPLE GATHERED TOGETHER IN THE STREET. THEY ASKED EZRA TO BRING THE BOOKS THAT MOSES WROTE AND READ IT TO THEM.

EZRA BROUGHT THE BOOKS OF MOSES <sup>AND STOOD ON A BIG PULPIT STAND</sup> AND READ THEM OUT LOUD ALL MORNING (TILL NOON). AND ALL THE PEOPLE LISTENED VERY CAREFULLY TO GOD'S WORD. WHILE EZRA READ GOD'S WORD, THE PEOPLE STOOD UP AND STOOD THERE QUIETLY.

THE PEOPLE LOVED TO HEAR GOD'S WORD. THE PEOPLE WORSHIPPED GOD FROM THEIR HEARTS.