

2 CHRONICLES 35-36

As we come to 2 Chronicles 35 we are in the middle of the life of Josiah and at closing moments of Judah's history. From here there will be a quick succession of kings; Nebuchadnezzar will carry Judah into captivity in Babylon and ultimately destroy Jerusalem and the Temple. Israel will never again be an independent nation from this time forward until 1948. When they finally come back into the land at the end of their captivity they will be subjected to the Persians and the Romans. It really wasn't until 1948 that they would become a nation again. So this is an epic series of events we're covering tonight.

We saw Josiah come on the scene in chapter 34 — He ascends to the throne at the age of eight. At the age of 16 he begins to seek the Lord. At the age of 20 he begins to purge the nation from idolatry. And at the age of 26 — in the 18th year of his reign — he has the temple restored. As they were repairing the house of the Lord they uncovered the Word of God. We noted how the Word of God had been lost in the house of God.

Here in [chapter 35](#) Josiah will lead the nation in celebrating Passover.

Passover predates the giving of the Law and the Leviticus offerings and feasts. Passover was instituted on the night that the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were delivered from death and bondage in Egypt ([Exodus 12](#)). God essentially set the calendar year of Israel by what happened on that night — The feast of Passover was to be celebrated in the first month of the year because the slaying of that lamb without spot and without blemish marked a new beginning for the people of God. As God delivered the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob by way of the lamb that was slain He was in an amazing way revealing Himself to them — actually pointing them to a time when He would — in a demonstration of infinite condescension — come in human flesh — and provide Himself as THE lamb slain to redeem sinful man from death and bondage.

God told them that each household was to take a lamb — it was to be without spot or blemish (no genetic defect and no acquired defect). In the Egyptian culture there was actually a trench at the threshold of the house

to prevent water from running into the house. The lamb was killed there. The blood filled the trench. God commanded them to put the blood of the lamb that had been slaughtered in the trench on the doorposts (the vertical beams on both sides of the door) and on the lintel (the horizontal beam above the door). When angel of death saw the blood of the lamb he would pass over that house. Placing the blood on the doorposts (the vertical beams) and the lintel (the horizontal beam) essentially painted a cross on each side of this lamb that was slaughtered. In that we have a remarkable picture of the death of Jesus — THE Lamb of God, who was slain between two crosses on Calvary.

¹Josiah kept a Passover to the Lord in Jerusalem. And they slaughtered the Passover lamb on the fourteenth day of the first month. ²He appointed the priests to their offices and encouraged them in the service of the house of the Lord. ³And he said to the Levites who taught all Israel and who were holy to the Lord, “Put the holy ark in the house that Solomon the son of David, king of Israel, built. You need not carry it on your shoulders. Now serve the Lord your God and his people Israel.

At some point during the reign of Manasseh or Amon the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord had been taken out of the house of the Lord by the priests to protect it —

QUOTE: John Trapp — *“The Hebrews tell us, that the priests in those idolatrous times had carried the holy ark out of the temple – that it might not stand there among those heathenish idols – and conveyed it to the house of Shallum, who was uncle to the prophet Jeremiah, and husband to the prophetess Huldah.”*

⁴Prepare yourselves according to your fathers’ houses by your divisions, as prescribed in the writing of David king of Israel and the document of Solomon his son.

Prepare is a HUGE word in this chapter. In [verse 6](#) and [verse 10](#) we find the word *prepare*. In [verse 14, 15,16](#) we find the word *prepared*. The big idea here is that they were to get their hearts and lives and resources

ready to worship God and remember how He had redeemed them from death and bondage!

If we look at the history of the Christianity we discover that revival seems to be consistently preceded by a time of prayer. I believe that the Bible tells us that man is not the initiator of revival. Man does not pray and move God to revive His people and advance the Gospel to the saving of souls. It is God who initiates revival. It is God who moves man to prayer. He breaks in upon hearts with a fresh view of His grace and mercy that utterly captivates the hearts of men. Those men and women begin to see the condition of the church as God sees it. Their hearts begin to beat with God's heart and His great concern for His church that has slipped into a spiritual comma — and those men and women begin to participate in God's plans and purposes to revive His people. They begin to cry out in prayer to God for the very thing that God wants to do — revive His people. Count on it — whether you think prayer moves God to revive His people or God moves people to pray for revival — you will never see a revival that isn't preceded by the preparation of hearts by prayer. We see that kind of preparation pictured here as God — by way of this godly king — calls His people to prepare, prepare, prepare — for the nation to see the Gospel in the Passover Lamb.

⁵And stand in the Holy Place according to the groupings of the fathers' houses of your brothers the lay people, and according to the division of the Levites by fathers' household. ⁶And slaughter the Passover lamb, and consecrate yourselves, and prepare for your brothers, to do according to the word of the Lord by Moses.” ⁷Then Josiah contributed to the lay people, as Passover offerings for all who were present, lambs and young goats from the flock to the number of 30,000,

He wanted to make sure that everybody that came would be provided for. Jewish history says that there were at least 10 people for each Passover lamb. So Josiah is providing for 300,000 people. And this was just Josiah's contribution — as we're told that others provided lambs as well. And that doesn't count those who provided their own lamb.

Again — this crowd would have included the remnant of the northern kingdom — those who had survived the Assyrian conquest. These men and women would have grown up worshipping idols — and yet they are now found worshipping the True and Living God. What a remarkable day!

⁷ ...and 3,000 bulls; these were from the king's possessions. ⁸And his officials contributed willingly to the people, to the priests, and to the Levites. Hilkiah, Zechariah, and Jehiel, the chief officers of the house of God, gave to the priests for the Passover offerings 2,600 Passover lambs and 300 bulls. ⁹Conaniah also, and Shemaiah and Nethanel his brothers, and Hashabiah and Jeiel and Jozabad, the chiefs of the Levites, gave to the Levites for the Passover offerings 5,000 lambs and young goats and 500 bulls.

The lambs were the Passover sacrifice. The bulls given for sacrifice have to do with peace offerings and thank offerings and burnt offerings.

All tolled we're looking at 41,400 animals. Now imagine this.

¹⁰When the service had been prepared for, the priests stood in their place, and the Levites in their divisions according to the king's command. ¹¹And they slaughtered the Passover lamb, and the priests threw the blood that they received from them while the Levites flayed the sacrifices. ¹¹And they slaughtered the Passover lamb, and the priests threw the blood that they received from them while the Levites flayed the sacrifices. ¹²And they set aside the burnt offerings that they might distribute them according to the groupings of the fathers' houses of the lay people, to offer to the Lord, as it is written in the Book of Moses. And so they did with the bulls. ¹³And they roasted the Passover lamb with fire according to the rule; and they boiled the holy offerings in pots, in cauldrons, and in pans, and carried them quickly to all the lay people. ¹⁴And afterward they prepared for themselves and for the priests, because the priests the sons of Aaron were offering the burnt offerings and the fat parts until night; so the Levites prepared for themselves and for the priests the sons of Aaron. ¹⁵The singers, the sons of Asaph, were in their place according to the command of David, and Asaph, and Heman, and Jeduthun the king's seer; and the gatekeepers were at each gate. They did not need to

depart from their service, for their brothers the Levites prepared for them. ¹⁶So all the service of the Lord was prepared that day, to keep the Passover and to offer burnt offerings on the altar of the Lord, according to the command of King Josiah. ¹⁷And the people of Israel who were present kept the Passover at that time, and the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days. ¹⁸No Passover like it had been kept in Israel since the days of Samuel the prophet. None of the kings of Israel had kept such a Passover as was kept by Josiah, and the priests and the Levites, and all Judah and Israel who were present, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. ¹⁹In the eighteenth year of the reign of Josiah this Passover was kept.

So this is a remarkable day. If you can, try to imagine the blood of 41,000 animals being shed. Imagine what the Levites, who were dressed in white, looked like by the end of this day. Imagine what the temple courts looked like at the end of this day after 41,000 animals were slain. Those offerings were prescribed by God. They are divinely intentional! He wanted to impress upon this nation from which the Messiah would come that man's redemption and fellowship with God would only be made possible by the shedding of blood — all of that pointing to Jesus who would *wash us from our sin with His blood*; who would *purchase us/redeem us* out from under the penalty and power of sin with His blood; who would by way of His shed blood make it possible for us who were far from God to be brought near to God.

What an impressionable day this was for the entire nation.

DON'T MISS THIS — All of this was according to the commandment of King Josiah. Most of this was **reform** — **not revival**. You can legislate reform — but you can't legislate revival. That being said — there were no doubt many hearts won back to the God of Israel on this day.

DON'T MISS THIS — This Passover celebration, that eclipsed any other Passover in the history of the nation, is right before the lights went out on Judah. It was a part of one last revival before the great falling away that would culminate in Jerusalem being leveled by the Babylonians and the people of Judah carried away into captivity.

I see this and I think — *Lord, let there be an awakening and a revival in America; let the hearts of men and women be drawn back to your son, Jesus Christ in a way that has been unequalled in the past.*

I see this and I think *Lord, if you're about to come, if you're going to judge America for her sin and you're going to judge the world — would You please grant us one last and amazing proclamation of Jesus, our Passover Lamb. May the world see in our lives and hear us proclaim that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son*

²⁰After all this,

It's almost as if you can hear a sigh of sadness as the Holy Spirit says this. After all of this the Holy Spirit is going to tell us about Josiah's failure. We've seen this time and again — so when God repeats Himself we should wake up and listen. If it were left to man to write his own history he would leave out all of his flaws and failures. That's how we know this book is not composed by man. God is the author and He wants us to know that even the most godly men are yet just men.

²⁰After all this, when Josiah had prepared the temple, Neco king of Egypt went up to fight at Carchemish on the Euphrates and Josiah went out to meet him.

By the way — there are 13 years between *after all of this* and Pharaoh Neco going to fight at Carchemish. That would include 13 Passovers!

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND — This was part of the geopolitical struggle between the declining Assyrian Empire and the emerging Babylonian Empire. The Assyrians made an alliance with the Egyptians to protect against the growing power of the Babylonians.

Nineveh has fallen about 12 years before this. The back of Assyria has been broken since the 185,000 Assyrians were slain by the angel of the Lord in one night ([2 Chronicles 32](#)). Assyria has concentrated her troops at Carchemish to make her stand against the Babylonian army. As for Egypt — Pharaoh Neco would rather face the Babylonians with the Assyrians at

Carchemish than wait for the Babylonians to defeat Assyria and have to fight an even more powerful Babylonian army **alone** on Egyptian ground.

Neco would have made this journey along the Via Mare — which passed through the Jezreel Valley by Megiddo.

DON'T MISS THIS — As Neco makes his way up towards Carchemish there was some political relationship Babylon and Jerusalem because of King Hezekiah. Josiah — without prayer and without the Lord's leading feels it's his responsibility to go to Megiddo and delay Neco's forces so that Babylon would have victory against the Assyrians.

²¹But he (Neco) sent envoys to him, saying, "What have we to do with each other, king of Judah? I am not coming against you this day, but against the house with which I am at war.

NOTICE — this is Neco of Egypt saying this

And God has commanded me to hurry. Cease opposing God, who is with me, lest he destroy you." ²²Nevertheless, Josiah did not turn away from him, but disguised himself in order to fight with him.

If you have to cover your face or disguise yourself you're probably in a battle you don't belong in.

He did not listen to the words of Neco from the mouth of God, but came to fight in the plain of Megiddo.

This is the man who in chapter 34 heard the Word of God and then sent to a prophetess to know how to respond to the Word of the God Josiah. Some years pass and now he takes this course of action without prayer. He doesn't seek the Lord. He didn't send for Jeremiah or Huldah. Or perhaps he did but didn't listen.

After an entire life of seeking the Lord — he heads out into this battle without God's leading.

THIS IS CRUCIAL FOR US TO SEE — The Holy Spirit recorded this for you and me tonight in the 21st century!

1 Corinthians 10:11-12 Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. ¹²Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

God knows that there's enough Josiah in every one! He knows it's in each of us to involve ourselves in battles that God hasn't led us into.

HERE'S THE POINT — No matter how zealous you are — no matter how right the cause might seem — don't get involved in battles that the Lord hasn't called you to!

Josiah was a zealous guy. Some Christians are by nature (not new nature in Christ) zealous! Some Christians are by nature (not new nature in Christ) the kind of person who just loves to get their nose in everyone's business. They dive in and get their own nose bloodied or bloody some one else's nose that didn't need to get bloodied say — and then they say — *Well that's the way I am.* They say, *Well that's the way I am.* Yes, and God sent his son to die on a cross because of the way you are. God didn't save you to leave you unchanged.

Ephesians 4:22-24 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

²³And the archers shot King Josiah. And the king said to his servants, "Take me away, for I am badly wounded." ²⁴So his servants took him out of the chariot and carried him in his second chariot and brought him to Jerusalem. And he died and was buried in the tombs of his fathers. All Judah and Jerusalem mourned for Josiah. ²⁵Jeremiah also uttered a lament for Josiah; and all the singing men and singing women have spoken of Josiah in their laments to this day. They made these a rule in Israel; behold, they are written in the Laments.

This is not the Book of Lamentations.

²⁶Now the rest of the acts of Josiah, and his good deeds according to what is written in the Law of the Lord, ²⁷and his acts, first and last, behold, they are written in the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah.

He's 39 years old and he died and was buried in one of the sepulchers of his fathers.

This 609 BC. In 605 BC when Nebuchadnezzar comes to Jerusalem for the first time.

CHAPTER 36

¹The people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah and made him king in his father's place in Jerusalem. ²Jehoahaz was twenty-three years old when he began to reign, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. ³Then the king of Egypt deposed him in Jerusalem and laid on the land a tribute of a hundred talents of silver and a talent of gold. ⁴And the king of Egypt made Eliakim his brother king over Judah and Jerusalem, and changed his name to Jehoiakim. But Neco took Jehoahaz his brother and carried him to Egypt.

Egypt is in control of the territory from 609 to 605. So he takes Eliakim, changes his name to Jehoiakim — please keep this all straight because there's going to be a quiz when we're done tonight. And he makes him king.

Jehoiakim becomes king under Necho and he ends up being king under Nebuchadnezzar.

⁵Jehoiakim

who is really Eliakim (remember verse 4)

was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord his God.

Jeremiah 36:22-24 describes the ungodliness of Jehoiakim. He went so far as to burn a scroll of God's word.

***Jeremiah 36:29-30** And concerning Je-hoiakim king of Judah you shall say, 'Thus says the Lord, You have burned this scroll, saying, "Why have you written in it that the king of Babylon will certainly come and destroy this land, and will cut off from it man and beast?"' ³⁰Therefore thus says the Lord concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah: He shall have none to sit on the throne of David, and his dead body shall be cast out to the heat by day and the frost by night.*

⁶Against him came up Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon

This happened in 605 B.C. and it was the first (but not the last) encounter between Nebuchadnezzar and Jehoiakim. There would be two later invasions (597 and 587 B.C.).

This specific attack is documented by the Babylonian Chronicles — a collection of tablets discovered around 1887 — now held in the British Museum.

and bound him in chains to take him to Babylon. ⁷Nebuchadnezzar also carried part of the vessels of the house of the Lord to Babylon and put them in his palace in Babylon.

This campaign was cut short when Nebuchadnezzar got word of his father's death. He raced back to Babylon to secure his succession to the throne. He traveled about 500 miles in two weeks — remarkable speed for travel in that day.

Because of his sudden departure Nebuchadnezzar only had the time to take a few captives and a few treasures back with him. Daniel the prophet is carried away to Babylon with Nebuchadnezzar in 605 BC. He was just a middle school aged kid when he was taken into captivity. Nebuchadnezzar took the best and the brightest of Israel back to Babylon to brainwash to immerse them into Babylonian culture and religion.

⁸Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim, and the abominations that he did, and what was found against him, behold, they are written in the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah. And Jehoiachin his son reigned in his place. ⁹Jehoiachin was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned three months and ten days in Jerusalem.

Now you should be glad that we're not in Second Kings because there Jehoiachin is called Koniah, Jechoniah and Jehoiachin.

He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. ¹⁰In the spring of the year King Nebuchadnezzar sent and brought him to Babylon, with the precious vessels of the house of the Lord, and made his brother Zedekiah king over Judah and Jerusalem.

“His presence in Babylon is attested by tablets listing oil and barley supplies to him, his family and five sons in 592-569 B.C. and naming him as ‘Yaukin king of the Judeans.’” (Wiseman)

This is the **second deportation** — it took place 597. 10,000 Jews are carried away with Jehoiachin — Ezekiel, the prophet, was in this second deportation. When Jehoiachin was taken Zedekiah was placed on the throne.

Judah and Jerusalem are disintegrating. Nebuchadnezzar is taking harsher steps towards Jerusalem because under Zedekiah Jerusalem is in rebellion against Babylon — even though God has spoken through Jeremiah telling Judah to not resist Babylon. Finally Jerusalem is leveled.

¹¹Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. ¹²He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord his God. He did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet, who spoke from the mouth of the Lord.

For example, Jeremiah 32:1-5 tells us that Jeremiah clearly told Zedekiah that he would not succeed in his rebellion against Babylon. Zedekiah actually arrested Jeremiah and imprisoned him for speaking that Word from the Lord.

¹³He also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God. He stiffened his neck and hardened his heart against turning to the Lord, the God of Israel.

THIS IS HUGE — During this time Jeremiah is in Jerusalem speaking to the people. Ezekiel is in Babylon speaking to the captives — and we have Daniel next to Nebuchadnezzar, his right-hand man. By Daniel's influence Nebuchadnezzar will make a decree and publish it through the whole realm of Babylon that the God of Daniel is the only true God, the God of Heaven and Earth — and that anybody who messed with the Jews in any of the provinces would be cut into pieces and their houses turned into a dung hill.

Even in this dark, dark hour God is still speaking — God is still ruling in all of the affairs of his people.

¹⁴All the officers of the priests and the people likewise were exceedingly unfaithful, following all the abominations of the nations. And they polluted the house of the Lord that he had made holy in Jerusalem.

It was during this time that the Lord supernaturally picked up Ezekiel and carried him back to Jerusalem (Ezekiel 8). There God showed him all of the idolatry — the worship of Astarte — the perverted things happening in the temple — the pornographic things that were being drawn on the wall in the house of the Lord.

Whoever says that the God of the Old Testament is a not a God of love or grace; that He's just a God of wrath and judgment, has NEVER read the Old Testament! The darkest moment in Judah's history is filled with God's grace and care! God continued to carefully care for his rebellious people — sent them messengers — because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place.

¹⁵The Lord, the God of their fathers, sent persistently to them by his messengers, because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place.

NKJV — ¹⁵And the Lord God of their fathers sent warnings to them by His messengers, rising up early and sending them,

QUOTE: F.B. Meyer — *“What a touching a graphic phrase! How did God yearn over that sinful and rebellious city! Like a man who has had a sleepless night of anxiety for his friend or child, and rises with the dawn to send a servant on a message of inquiry, or a message of love. How eager is God for men’s salvation.”*

LOOK AT THEIR RESPONSE TO THE CARE AND COMPASSION OF GOD

¹⁶But they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising his words and scoffing at his prophets, until the wrath of the Lord rose against his people, until there was no remedy.

until there was no remedy — What a chilling phrase! It literally means, ‘no healing’.

God measures time morally. When it comes to the point where there’s nothing to be redeemed out of the circumstance, nothing to be gathered to be saved — God acts to judge.

Unbelieving man is quick to attack God, attack the Bible; attack Christianity, because of God’s judgment. Unbelieving man essentially hates the thought that God can or should judge anyone for anything. They want to attack God as being unjust when He judges. They have a very anthropocentric view of Judgment — they impose upon God the flaws of human judgment. Listen — Man is fallen and flawed. He can only act from who he is. Fallen man can judge wrongly — because he is finite — he cannot know everything about everything! Because man is morally flawed he can pass judgment that is unjust — prejudice, bitterness and hate influence his judgments. But God always acts out of who He is. He can never err in His judgment because He is omniscient; He does know everything about everything. He can never be unjust because He is morally perfect!

When God acts in judgment it is not because he is impetuous or acting in a fit of rage. When God moves in judgment it is because He has waited and waited for man to turn and be saved

***2 Peter 3:9** The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*

For a man or woman to face God's judgment is a repeat of the tragedy played out in **2 Chronicles 36**. Judgment came because they rejected God's offers of reconciliation. God had been so relentless in caring for his people; so relentless in giving them opportunities in the face of their rebellion — so relentless in sending messengers and prophets. But in the face of God's relentless pursuit and care they rebelled — not just ignoring but mocking the messengers and killing them.

¹⁷Therefore

QUOTE: John Trapp — “Men's sins put thunderbolts into God's hands.”

he brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans, who killed their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary and had no compassion on young man or virgin, old man or aged. He gave them all into his hand. ¹⁸And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king and of his princes, all these he brought to Babylon. ¹⁹And they burned the house of God and broke down the wall of Jerusalem and burned all its palaces with fire and destroyed all its precious vessels.

The scope of destruction is seen in the words **all** (5 times), **young**, **old**, **great** and **small**. Nothing left that wasn't judged.

Adam Clarke gives us some historical context — “Thus the temple was destroyed in the *eleventh* year of Zedekiah, the *nineteenth* of Nebuchadnezzar, the *first* of the XLVIIIth (48th) Olympiad, in the *one hundred and sixtieth* current year of the era of Nabonassar, *four hundred*

and twenty-four years three months and eight days from the time in which Solomon laid its foundation stone.”

²⁰He took into exile in Babylon those who had escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and to his sons until the establishment of the kingdom of Persia,

QUOTE: Adam Clarke — “Thus, ends the history of a people the most fickle, the most ungrateful, and perhaps on the whole the most sinful, that ever existed on the face of the earth. But what a display does all this give of the power, justice, mercy, and long-suffering of the Lord! There was no people like this people, and no God like their God.”

²¹to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths. All the days that it lay desolate it kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.

Jeremiah spoke of the 70 years of exile in two places: Jeremiah 25:11-13 and Jeremiah 29:10.

While the Israelites were on their way from Egypt into the land that God had promised to Abraham and his descendants God gave to them the laws concerning the Sabbath. He gave them specific laws concerning the use of the land.

Leviticus 25:1-4 *The Lord spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying,*
²*“Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you come into the land that I give you, the land shall keep a Sabbath to the Lord. ³For six years you shall sow your field, and for six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather in its fruits, ⁴but in the seventh year there shall be a Sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a Sabbath to the Lord. You shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard.*

Here’s what the Lord did — Every sixth year they saw a miracle! The land would produce twice as much as they needed because it would carry them through the seventh year and to the planting and the harvest of the eighth year.

But God also said this —

Leviticus 26:34-35 “Then the land shall enjoy its Sabbaths as long as it lies desolate, while you are in your enemies’ land; then the land shall rest, and enjoy its Sabbaths. ³⁵As long as it lies desolate it shall have rest, **the rest that it did not have on your Sabbaths when you were dwelling in it.**

Do the math — The 70 years of captivity in Babylon meant that they hadn't given the land its Sabbath rest for 490 years. That meant they owed God 70 years.

The failure to give the land rest was a symptom of their idolatry. They refused to let God inform their lives and their behavior. They lived as though God's Word was meaningless.

God says what He means and means what He says!

²²Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also put it in writing: ²³“Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, ‘The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever is among you of all his people, may the Lord his God be with him. Let him go up.’”

REMEMBER — The Books of 1 and 2 Chronicles were written for the Jews returning from exile! The Holy Spirit wanted them to know that **God's plans and purposes and promises of God are not hindered or altered** by the **failures of man** — they are **founded upon** the **unchanging, unfailing** nature of God!