

## E2E- Part 103

### 2 Kings 24

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1. People often ask why there is so much turmoil and trauma in our world. It's a complex answer; the full truth of the issue is rooted in God's astounding kindness and patience, which is beyond our comprehension. Because He is kind beyond measure, and does not desire that anyone would perish, He is also patient beyond our understanding. These attributes allow Him to endure very long periods of human rebellion, but ultimately, His wrath against rebellion will be released.
2. King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon is so powerful that he has defeated many nations, including Judah. Scripture states that this is a result of King Manasseh's sin. Yahweh is using human politics as part of His judgment on Judah.
3. God is sovereign over everything, which means that all world history is either the fulfillment of His plan or what He allows.
4. When the army of Babylon places Jerusalem under siege, the treasures of the royal palace and Solomon's temple are stripped by King Nebuchadnezzar. This marks the beginning of Judah's exile.
5. Nebuchadnezzar takes everything he desires, including the temple treasury, all of Jerusalem's skilled workers, the entire military, and chooses Zedekiah to rule as king.. This leaves Israel stripped of everything, including their dignity.
6. God's final act of mercy is to instruct Jeremiah, a new prophet, to inform Zedekiah that surrender will avoid a bloodbath. Zedekiah chooses to ignore Jeremiah.
7. History tells us that in 588 B.C. Zedekiah is lured into the foolish notion that he can rebel against Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar responds immediately and sends the full weight of his mighty army.
8. Nebuchadnezzar cuts off any military relief and all food supplies to Judah. After nearly a two-year siege, Babylon troops breach the walls and completely take over. He torches the temple, the palace, the people's homes.
9. Historians count this as another conquest for Nebuchadnezzar. We know that it serves as a reminder that God doesn't mess around. God has extreme patience, but ultimately, there is a price for rebellion.

## GREEK & HEBREW WORDS

### QUOTES

[Nebuchadnezzar] '*...the King appointed there a king of his own choice <sup>(Zedekiah)</sup> and, taking vast tribute, brought it to Babylon.*

- **Babylonian Chronicle 590 BC**

*"...the king called up his army and marched to the land of Hatti <sup>(Israel)</sup>. He besieged the city of Judah (Jerusalem)..."*

- **588 BC**

### TODAY'S WORSHIP

Thank You Jesus  
Come Thou Fount  
Living Hope

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Hebrews 4:12 together. Josiah's story proves that the Word of God is "living and active." It didn't just inform him, it transformed him. When has Scripture hit you in such a personal way that it changed your attitude, behavior, or direction in life?

Hezekiah was godly, but his son Manasseh was wicked. Yet a few generations later, Josiah returned to righteousness. What gives you hope when you see faith skipped or rejected in your family or among people you love?

In Josiah's time, the Temple was active with worship and sacrifices, yet the worship was not for God. The "Book of the Law" had been lost, and the people had replaced God's truth with man-made religion and idol worship. Have you ever experienced a time when your worship or spiritual habits looked good on the outside, but God's Word wasn't really at the center? What helped you recognize it and turn things around?

When Josiah heard the Word, he tore his clothes in grief and repentance. His heart was tender. How do you usually respond when God's Word exposes something in your life that needs to change?

Scripture says Josiah "did not turn to the right or the left." That's rare! It's a description of a heart completely devoted to God. What helps you stay spiritually "on the rails" when life pressures or distractions try to pull you off course?

Josiah's reforms were bold and he really "cleaned house" to bring the nation back to God. If you were to "take out the trash" in your own life right now, what might need to go?

Mark's message ends with a challenge: "We cannot read the Word of God, comprehend it, and remain the same." What is one practical step you can take this week to live out something God's Word has been pressing on your heart lately?