



BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS INC.

www.bibleradio.org.au

BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1565 ~ Jerusalem Destroyed.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

War is not fun when once it's begun! War brings its own brand of misery to all those involved. When one life is lost needlessly, the human race loses too. War turns people into savages. All the basic manners and consideration of others that society is dependent on are gone.

Recent research into wars fought some decades ago has discovered that many soldiers would not aim their guns at an enemy soldier. Instead, they shot over his head so they would not be guilty of taking a life. To overcome a poor strike rate for soldiers' shots, army personnel are now given desensitisation training. This training teaches the soldiers not to see the enemy as another human being.

Well should we follow the Apostle Paul's command in the New Testament 1st letter to Timothy to pray for those in authority, that we may live a quiet and peaceful life with all reverence toward God and with proper conduct!

Jeremiah warned the people of Judah that God was not going to overlook their sins forever. A day of reckoning was coming and soon! Even among the priests in Jerusalem, there was a confidence that Jerusalem at 500 years old would never be overthrown. Jeremiah's words that it would be were not well received by either the ordinary people or the priests and kings.

Following Josiah's death, there were four kings on the throne of Judah in 25 years. This history is listed in 2nd Chronicles, Chapter 36. Josiah's second born son lasted three months as king before he was imprisoned by the King of Egypt for refusing to pay tribute. The King of Egypt then put Josiah's first born son on the throne and this son taxed the people of Judah heavily to get the required tribute money to give to Egypt. Josiah's first son reigned 11 years, with the last three being under the control of Babylon when Egypt was defeated. Josiah's grandson followed his father on the throne for only three months before surrendering to Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, who had been besieging Jerusalem at that time.

Nebuchadnezzar successfully took away all the treasures in the Temple and 10,000 captives to Babylon. He put another of Josiah's sons on the throne of Judah and changed his name to Zedekiah. Zedekiah reigned for 11 years before he rebelled against Babylon and was severely punished for this in 588BC. Two years later, one of Nebuchadnezzar's officials burnt the temple in Jerusalem, along with the king's palace and all the rich people's houses. The wall of Jerusalem was also broken down. God certainly kept His word that Jerusalem would be destroyed.

The poor people of Judah were allowed to live in the land and Nebuchadnezzar appointed the son of Josiah's scribe to be the governor over the area. The governor tried to settle the people down and told them not to fear Nebuchadnezzar's officials. However, the governor was murdered by a couple of the royal family who thought they had greater claim than he to be governor. The people then feared reprisals from Babylon so they fled to Egypt and it's believed that they took Jeremiah with them when they did so.

What can we learn from this time in Judah's history? Certainly, sin doesn't pay! Throughout his time of imprisonment, Jeremiah faithfully told the people to repent of their sin and to surrender peacefully to Babylon. Of course, the last king of Judah didn't listen to him and Jerusalem was besieged. Some people in Jerusalem starved to death when the food supply ran out during this difficult time.

What does the fall of Jerusalem say to us? God's patience did run out with His faithless people. Yet He still gave Jeremiah the words to tell the people that God would bring back their descendants to the land. That's why, just before the fall of Jerusalem, Jeremiah purchased a plot of land. Despite how bad things looked for the people who went into exile as slaves and for himself in prison, Jeremiah continued to hope in God's promises and His great loving kindness.

Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem had stood for 400 years but God had long since deserted it as His holy place after the people had defiled it with their sin. Amazingly, some 2,500 years after these events, Jerusalem is still a city fought over to this very day. In Psalm 122, we're instructed to pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

Jeremiah was a sensitive person and he grieved over the sins of the people of Judah. He wrote the book of Lamentations, which follows after the book Jeremiah that bears his own name. Because the theme of Lamentations is largely to do with Judah and Jerusalem, it hasn't been read as a lament over sin as much as some of the Psalms have been. When we think of the Psalms, often we think of praising God and giving Him thanks. But really, over fifty of the Psalms are called actually "laments."

There are seven elements of laments but not every Psalm has them all. These elements are:

1. addressing God with a cry for help
2. referring to God's blessings in the past or to His character
3. describing the cause of distress
4. confessing trust and confidence
5. asking God to hear and deliver
6. further questioning and petitioning
7. praising God for His answer or promising to praise and worship in the future.

These things all come into play when a person is in a period of intense distress.

At the end of the kingdom of Judah did God judge the sins of Judah harsher than those of other nations? Judah was His own chosen people, to whom He sent many prophets to warn them to repent and turn back to Himself. The Lord Jesus said in Luke's Gospel Chapter 12: "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded."

When an unbeliever and a believer are tempted into sin, which person is worse in God's sight? The sin of an unbeliever is just one more spot on the filthy rags God can never accept. But the sin of the believer in Christ is actually far worse, because we Christians wear a white robe on which every spot is seen.

Don't be unconcerned or careless when you realize that you have sinned somehow in your life. Run to our Heavenly Father urgently, asking Him for forgiveness and confess your failures. If you've wronged someone else, go and ask that person privately for forgiveness too.

In the New Testament letter 1st John, Chapter 1, it says: "If we confess our sins to God, He will keep His promise and do what is right: He will forgive us our sins and purify us from all our wrongdoing."

In Psalm, Chapter 103, it says: "As a father is kind to his children, so the Lord is kind to those who honour him. He knows what we are made of; he remembers that we are dust." Let us bow before Him and honour Christ Jesus with all of our lives.

MUSIC - [Integrity Music](#).

That was Rick Riso singing "If my People."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

< END OF SCRIPT >
