



**Mustard Seed Children's Lesson for
Sunday, 19 November 2006
Released on November 15, 2006**

"The People Went into Exile"

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT: 2 Chronicles 36:15-21; Psalm 137:1-6

2 Chronicles 36:15-21 (KJV)

15 And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place:

16 But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.

17 Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand.

18 And 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.

19 And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof.

20 And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon; where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia:

21 To fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths: for as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfill threescore and ten years.

Psalm 137:1-6 (KJV)

1 By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion.

2 We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof.

3 For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion.

4 How shall we sing the LORD's song in a strange land?

5 If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning.

6 If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy.

GOLDEN TEXT:

"By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion" (Psalm 137:1).

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

The lesson will help the children understand that God punishes disobedience. The following truths are stressed: (1) The Israelites became exiles as a punishment for their sin of disobedience; and (2) we should do our best to obey and please God.

LESSON BACKGROUND:

Chaldea (Babylon) was the land where God made a covenant with Abraham. Generations later, Abraham's relatives were carried back to Chaldea as prisoners of war. The Chaldeans destroyed the kingdom of Judah. This was the result of the people's disobedience to God's covenant.

During the time before the people went into exile, the prophet Jeremiah had warned the people that God would punish their disobedience. But the people and King Zedekiah would not listen to Jeremiah's warnings and were not true to the covenant. Because of this disobedience, the king and the people were taken from their homeland to Babylon, five hundred miles away. They became the slaves of their enemies.

God's covenant of loving care is everlasting, but disobedience results in discipline.

UNDERSTANDING WORD MEANINGS:

Exile – to force someone to live his or her homeland or country.

Chaldea / Babylon – the land that the Israelites were forced to go to as slaves.

Zion – refers to Jerusalem; another name for the homeland of the Israelites.

TELLING THE LESSON:

The events in this week's lesson happened many years before Jesus was born. The people were living at a time when the country was split into two sections (Israel and Judah) because of disagreements between the tribes. God's covenant with His people was the same and had not changed, but the people were still disobedient. This lesson focuses on Judah since God has already punished Israel for its disobedience.

1. Were the people of Judah obedient to God's covenant?

The people were disobedient to God's covenant. They worshiped idols even though God said for them to only worship Him, the one true God.

2. How did God respond to the disobedience of His people?

God still loved them. He sent prophets to warn them. The prophets warned them that they were not obeying their covenant with God and gave the people the chance to change (repent) but they would not turn from their sin. God decided that He had given enough warning, and He took away His protection.

3. What happened to the people when God's protection was taken away?

Enemy soldiers came into the country. The soldiers burned the houses, and they destroyed the temple. They broke down the wall around Jerusalem. They took the people as prisoners to Babylon, a long way from home.

4. What did the people remember when they were prisoners in Babylon?

The people remembered Jerusalem (Zion) and their homeland. They remembered the covenant that God had made with Abraham. They knew that the covenant was everlasting, and they were sorry for not obeying God.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

The people of Israel and Judah had God's covenant which told them what to do. Today we have the Bible. It tells us what God expects of each of us and what God wants us to do. To obey God, we must have His word in our heart.

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee"
(Psalm 119:11 KJV).

We must ask God to forgive us when we disobey. We must ask God to help us do what pleases Him.

EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT:

"By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion" (Psalm 137:1).

God's people were prisoners in Babylon. "Zion" means Jerusalem. As they sat by the rivers in Babylon, they remembered Jerusalem and their homeland. They were a long way from home and could not return. They cried as they remembered their home.

LESSON ACTIVITIES:

Encourage your student to learn the golden text – use this as the memory verse for the lesson. Two additional activities are included at the end of the lesson.

PRAYER:

Dear God, thank you for your word that tells us what to do to please you. Help us to obey your word and forgive us when we don't do what we should. We pray in the name of Jesus, amen.

ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:

Next week's lesson is "God's People Returned Home" from Ezra 1:1-7.

**FILL-IN-THE-BLANK: The People Went into Exile
(2 Chronicles 36:15-21 KJV; Psalm 137:1-6 KJV)**

Choose the correct word to complete the following statements:

1. The Lord sent messengers to his people because he had _____ (COMPASSION, RESPECT) on them and on his dwelling place. (2 Chron. 36:15)
2. The people mocked the messengers, despised their words and _____ (CARED FOR, MISUSED) God's prophets. (2 Chron. 36:16)
3. The people of God were taken as prisoners to (BABYLON, EGYPT). (2 Chron. 36:18)
4. The enemy _____ (CLEANED, BURNED) the house of God. (2 Chron. 36:19)
5. The walls of _____ (JERUSALEM, JERICHO) were torn down and the palaces were burned. (2 Chron. 36:19)
6. The people being taken as prisoners to Babylon fulfilled the word of the Lord by the prophet _____ (JONAH, JEREMIAH). (2 Chron. 36:21)
7. The land of Judah would lay desolate for threescore and ten years or for _____ (70, 30) years. (2 Chron. 36:21)
8. The people of Judah sat and wept by the _____ (WALLS, RIVERS) of Babylon. (Psalm 137:1)
9. In Babylon, the people remembered and sang songs of _____ (JOY, ZION). (Psalm 137:1, 3)
10. "How shall we sing the Lord's song in a _____ (EVIL, STRANGE) land?" (Psalm 137:4)

Answer Key:

- 1 - Compassion
- 2 - Misused
- 3 - Babylon
- 4 - Burned
- 5 - Jerusalem
- 6 - Jeremiah
- 7 - 70 (a score is 20 years – $3 \times 20 = 60$, $60 + 10$)
- 8 - Rivers
- 9 - Zion
- 10 - Strange

Lesson Summarized by

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