

1. The Fall of Judah—Jeremiah 39; 52; 2 Kings 25; 2 Chronicles 36 (So we come to the end for Judah—the actualization of Jeremiah’s warnings. The day of the Lord came to Judah just as he foretold as Babylon laid waste to Jerusalem—having had enough of their rebellion. But they were just God’s instruments—to be dealt with later by him—to bring about his judgment upon his people. One text in the Chronicle account sums it all up)
2. 2 Chronicles 36:15-16
3. No Remedy (let those words soak in. The why of this was generations in the making, of course. From the Exodus until captivity—first Israel and then Judah failed epically to understand, embrace and live out who God wanted them to be. He chose them by his sovereign will to be his people; blessed them with numerous gifts; and asked in return that they honor him among all the nations. He extended grace to them repeatedly, but still they failed. This failure can be seen in four vital and fundamental ways)
  - a. Failed to honor his Name—Exodus 20:2-7 (No mistake that the first three of the 10 commandments emphasize honoring God’s name and his will above all. This was more than just an acknowledgement of God. It was a call to infuse God into every single aspect of their identity in big and small ways. His Name was to be above all names in the hearts, homes, cities, and nation. His will nailed to their doorposts. Instead—they brought in other gods, later even into the temple—an abomination. His people never truly prioritized their God)
  - b. Failed to honor the Land—Jeremiah 2:7 (not just the land, but the Promised Land—God’s gift to them. They failed to use this gift appropriately—sharing it; using it to God’s glory. Instead greed and misuse took over—exploitation instead of exhortation)
  - c. Failed to honor Family—Jeremiah 34:9-17 (that is—each other—instead of becoming a model nation demonstrating the grace of God to one another, they cheated, demeaned and even, ironically, enslaved one another. This was detestable to God)
  - d. Failed to honor the Others—Isaiah 49:6 (called to be a light to the nations—to bless them—to welcome in the aliens and strangers; they instead became just like the other nations—no light shining toward God at all—so they could reach the point at which the prophets were mocked and no remedy was left—only judgment)
4. Translation to Now (So how does all this dusty history apply to us? Much has changed but the principles remain the same—what God expects of us under much different circumstances and covenant are strikingly similar)
  - a. God is to be prioritized above all—Matthew 6:33
  - b. Our gifts are to be prioritized for his purpose and to his glory—1 Peter 4:10
  - c. We are to prioritize each other as God’s family—Philippians 2:3-4
  - d. Priority is to be given to sharing the gospel with others—1 Peter 2:9
5. (Just as they were chosen and called—so are we—and just as they were warned so are we with a similar no remedy context) Hebrews 10:26-27 (Wow. Does that seem harsh? Does not have to happen—just like Babylon did not have to happen. All depends upon our hearts; our faith; our desire to prioritize God above all. Are we or are we just like the world around us? These are questions that we honestly need to ask ourselves. And through it all though—know this one thing: God is faithful and will never abandon those who are his. In the midst of all the mess that was Judah—here is what he promised them)
6. Jeremiah 33:6 & 8 (that remains his promise to us—let’s not have to go into exile to realize it. Let’s listen to his word now)