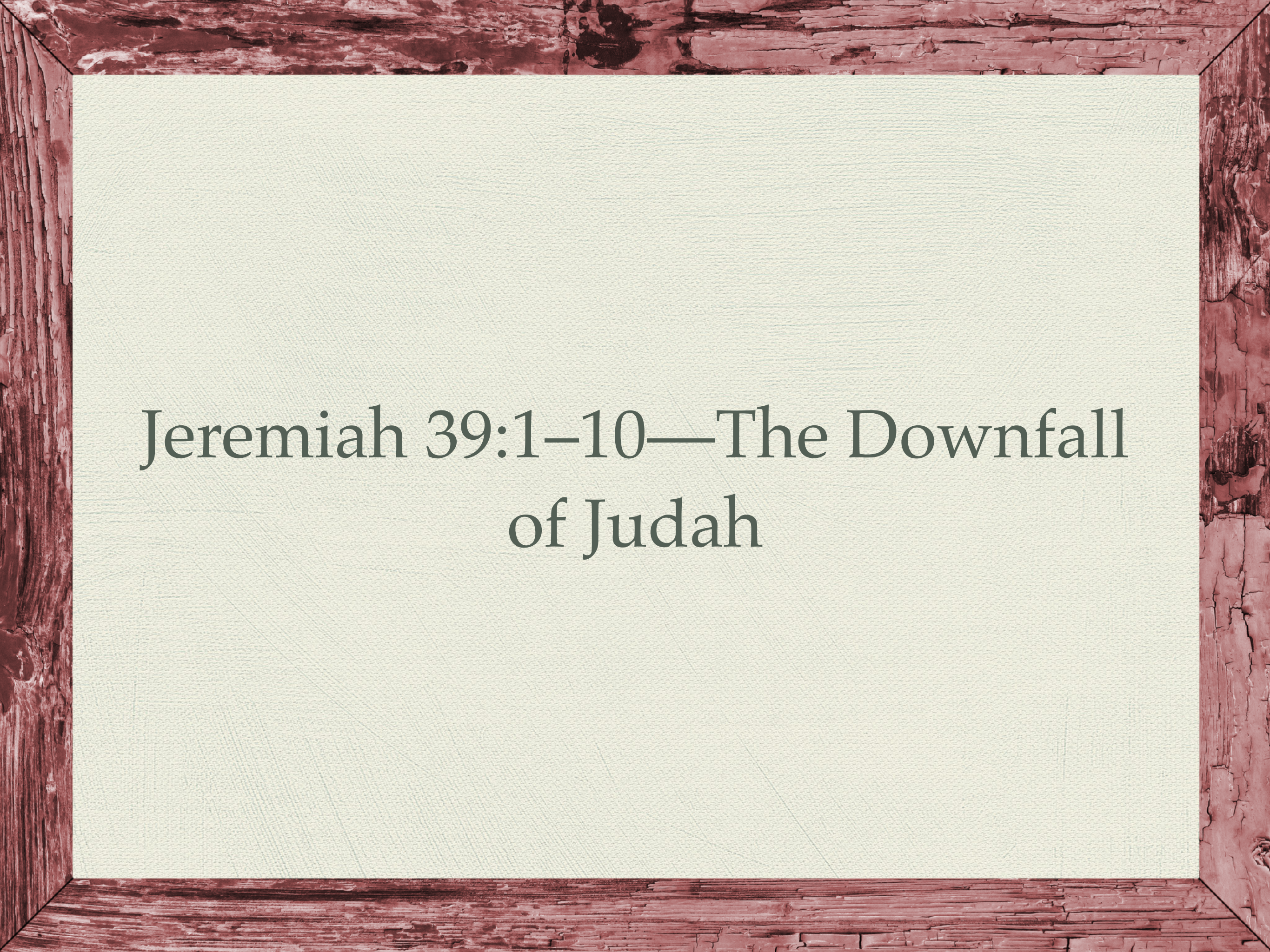


# Lessons from the Old Testament

*Lesson 10—Jeremiah 39:1-10*

*“The Downfall of Judah”*



Jeremiah 39:1–10—The Downfall  
of Judah



Jeremiah 36—History To Be  
Repeated

This chapter is a record of historical events that **will be repeated**. Let all who desire to receive warning, **read carefully**. (*MS65* 1912, par. 21; quarterly was written in 1892)

- ◆ Same manner and with the same temptations as ancient Israel
- ◆ Papal persecution; death decree
- ◆ The fanaticism in early Adventism is to be repeated with music, drums, shouting, dancing, and false doctrine, such as holy flesh
- ◆ Revelation 6:6–8, dissension
- ◆ Antediluvians—violence, perversity, cruelty, wickedness

Jeremiah called their attention repeatedly to the counsels given in Deuteronomy. **More** than any other of the prophets, he emphasized the teachings of the Mosaic **law** . . . . “Ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein,” he pleaded, “and ye shall find rest for your souls.” Jeremiah 6:16. (*PK 411.1*)

On one occasion, by command of the Lord, the prophet took his position at one of the principal entrances to the city and there urged the importance of **keeping holy the Sabbath day**. The inhabitants of Jerusalem were in danger of losing sight of the sanctity of the Sabbath, and they were solemnly warned against following their secular pursuits on that day. (*PK 411.2*; see Jeremiah 17:19–25)

The Lord gave Jeremiah a message of reproof to bear to his people, charging them with the continual rejection of God's counsel: "I have spoken unto you, rising early and speaking; but ye hearkened not unto Me. (*4T* 164.2)

The princes of Judah had heard concerning the words of Jeremiah and came up from the king's house and sat in the entry of the Lord's house. "Then spake the **priests and the prophets** unto the princes and to all the people, saying, **This man is worthy to die**; for he hath prophesied against this city, as ye have heard with your ears." (4T 166.4)

There are many false prophets in these days, to whom sin does not appear specially repulsive. They complain that the peace of the people is unnecessarily disturbed by the reproofs and warnings of God's messengers. . . . [the false prophets] lull the souls of sinners into a fatal ease by their smooth and deceitful teachings. Ancient Israel was thus charmed by the flattering messages of the corrupt priests. Their prediction of prosperity was more pleasing than the message of the true prophet, who counseled repentance and submission. (4T 185.1)

**The very last deception** of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God. “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” [Proverbs 29:18.] Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God’s remnant people in the true testimony. He will bring in spurious visions to mislead and mingle the false with the true, and so disgust people that they will regard everything that bears the name of visions, as a species of fanaticism; but honest souls, by contrasting false and true, will be enabled to distinguish between them. (6LtMs, *Lt 12*, 1890, par. 45; 1SM 48.3)

**The Lord is fitting a people for heaven.** The defects of character, the stubborn will, the selfish idolatry, the indulgence of faultfinding, hatred, and contention, provoke the wrath of God and must be put away from His commandment-keeping people. (4T 180.3)

# Jeremiah 39:1–12—The Downfall of Judah

Jeremiah 38:14

First Invasion (c. 605 BC): Early in his reign, Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem, making King **Jehoiakim** a vassal. He took the first group of captives, including Daniel and his companions, and some temple vessels, marking the beginning of the 70-year prophecy.

Second Invasion (597 BC): Following a rebellion by King **Jehoiakim**, Nebuchadnezzar returned to punish Jerusalem. He deposed King **Jehoiachin** and carried him, along with 10,000 captives—including the prophet Ezekiel and the elite—into exile, placing **Zedekiah** on the throne.

Third Invasion (588–586 BC): After **Zedekiah** rebelled, Nebuchadnezzar launched a final, two-year siege. In 586 BC, the Babylonians breached the walls, burned Solomon's Temple, destroyed Jerusalem, and took the remaining population captive, leaving only the poorest farmers.

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it. . . . Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: (Daniel 1:1, 6)

**Jehoiakim** *was* twenty and five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. . . . In his days Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant three years: then he turned and rebelled against him. . . . So Jehoiakim slept with his fathers: and **Jehoiachin** his son [was 18] reigned in his stead. . . . And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came against the city, and his servants did besiege it. . . . And he carried away all Jerusalem, and all the princes, and all the mighty men of valour, *even* ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and smiths: none remained, save the poorest sort of the people of the land. And he carried away Jehoiachin to Babylon . . . . And the king of Babylon made Mattaniah his father's brother king in his stead, and changed his name to **Zedekiah**. Zedekiah *was* twenty and one years old when he began to reign . . . (2 Kings 23:36, 2 Kings 24:1, 6, 11, 14–15, 17–18)

Jeremiah 37:6–21  
Jeremiah 38:1–13  
Jeremiah 38:14–28  
Jeremiah 39:1–18  
Ezekiel 12:13

Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and polluted the house of the Lord which he had hallowed in Jerusalem. 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: 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. 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. (2 Chronicles 36:14–17)

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. 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. 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: (2 Chronicles 36:18–20)