In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 27
God's Prophets Foretell Coming Judgment and Deliverance

Themes:

- God punished His sinful people by dividing them into two kingdoms: Israel and Judah.
- God sent prophets to His people warning them of judgment if they did not repent.
- God sent enemy nations to take Israel and then Judah into captivity.
- God promised to send a new type of King to rule over His people.
- God promised to make a new kind of covenant with His people.

Scripture:

Portions of 1 and 2 Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Hosea, Joel, Amos, and Micah

Memory Verse:

John 1:9 (and review verses 1-8)

Today's Clues:

GOD WITH US, RULER FROM BETHLEHEM, NEW COVENANT

Home and Heart:

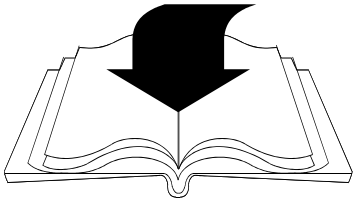
Read the message of warning from Joel 2:1-2 and the call to repentance in verses 12-13. These verses were given specifically to the people of Judah many years ago. The people did not pay attention to God's warnings and did not repent. Does the Bible have verses with warnings for all people? What about verses that call all people, including you, to repent? Read and discuss some of these verses. (John 3:36; Acts 17:30; Romans 2:4-5; 2 Peter 3:9; etc.) Do you heed these warnings? Are they calling you to repent? How do you respond to God's call?

Read and discuss Micah 5:2, Isaiah 7:14, and Jeremiah 31:31-33. Each of these passages has a special message of hope for God's people. Why was it important for God's prophets to be given these clues by God? Since we have the New Testament, we have already seen how God fulfilled these promises in Jesus. Why is it important for us to know that these clues were given to God's prophets long before Jesus was born? What does this prove? Can God be trusted to keep His promises?

Did the prophets always tell people what they wanted to hear? Do you think their warnings were popular? What was the purpose of these warnings? Suppose your parents warn you ahead of time about the punishment you will receive if you do not change a certain behavior. Will you have any excuse when you are punished after behaving that way? Why not? Did Judah and Israel have any excuse for not listening to God's warnings? Could they say God was being mean or unfair? Why not? Are there times when what you read in the Bible isn't what you want to hear? For example, read Colossians 3:20. Would there be a reason that you might not want to hear these words? But do you NEED to hear these words? Why?



DISCOVER MORE



Jeremiah

The book of Jeremiah records the words God gave to the prophet Jeremiah. He was a prophet to the smaller nation of Judah. Jeremiah is sometimes called the "weeping prophet" because he often was given messages of warning and judgment to speak to God's rebellious people. He had a very long and difficult job since Judah did not listen to God's warnings. Jeremiah lived to see God's promises of judgment come true—Jerusalem was destroyed by the nation of Babylon. But God also gave Jeremiah messages of great hope. And Jeremiah knew that some day in the future, God would keep these promises, too. This week, read through the following passages in Jeremiah. Then, write down a few key words or phrases that summarize each passage.

Jeremiah 11:1-17

Jeremiah 23:1-7

Jeremiah 31:1-14