

## **Jerusalem, Oh my Jerusalem!**

### **Scripture Reading: 2 Kings 25:1-12, Jeremiah 38:1 – 39:18**

During the days of Zedekiah, Jeremiah had told that all those who are here would die, but those who are taken to Babylon will live. He said that the Babylonians would capture the city. The Jews opposed the message of Jeremiah. The King of Babylon along with his army was marching towards Jerusalem. They surrounded the city and took over all the gates of entry. There was no supply of food inside the city. For almost a year there was no sowing or reaping. The second year they faced a severe famine. Many people died of hunger and sickness. All this had happened to the Jews because of the sins of Manasseh during his days.

The walls of the city were broken up and all the men of war fled by night by the way of the gate between two walls which is by the king's garden. Zedekiah ran for his life towards the plain. The men of Nebuchadnezzar pursued after and caught hold of him. Just as Jeremiah had prophesied, he along with his family were bound in chains and were made to stand before the king. They brought Zedekiah by foot for almost 400 kilometers to a place called Ribla. They slew his sons before his eyes and put out the eyes of Zedekiah. Blinded Zedekiah was then taken to Babylon.

The Chaldees broke the walls of Jerusalem and burnt the city. Even the temple that King Solomon built was burnt. They placed idols in the place God was worshipped. Nebuchadnezzar left just a few poor people to cultivate and take care of the land. The rest were taken to Babylon as slaves. God desired to deliver the Jews. But the Jews because of their sins went astray from God and therefore went into bondage as slaves.

### **Questions:**

1. Why did Jerusalem fall?
2. What did Jeremiah say?
3. What did God desire?