

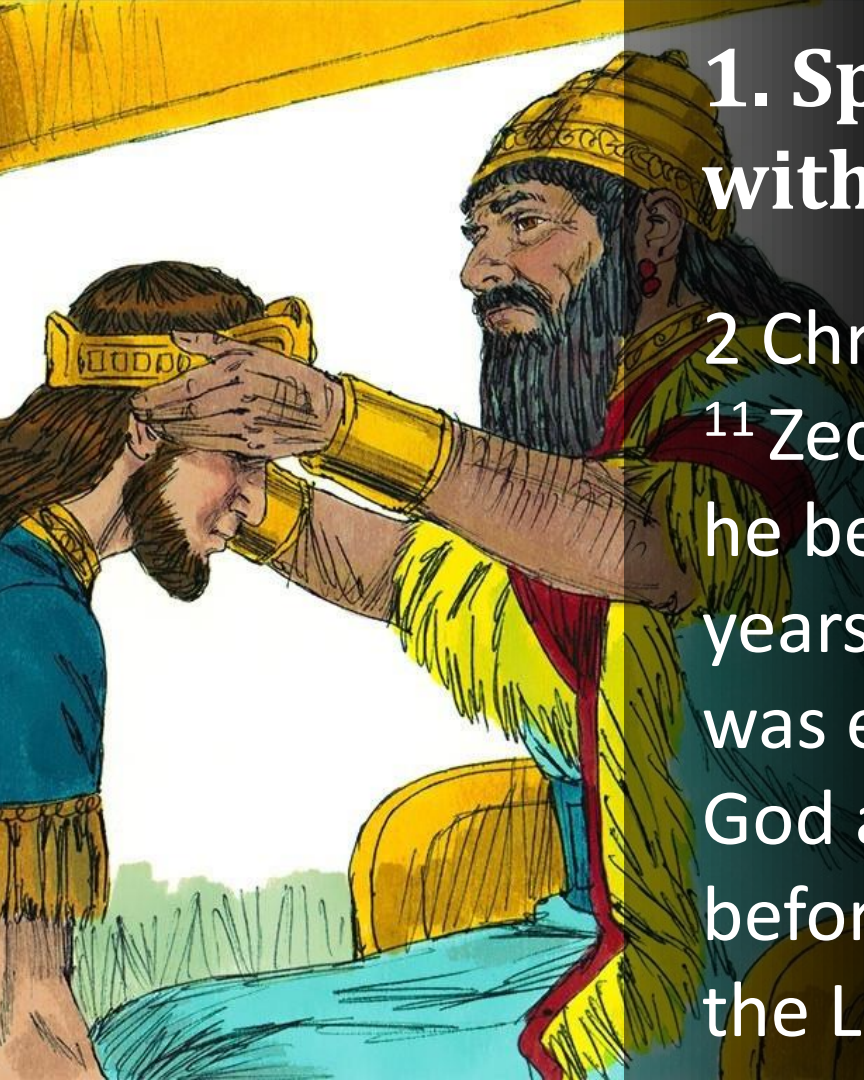
*God the...*

**REVEALER**

**The Great Fall of Jerusalem**  
2 Chronicles 36; Jeremiah 38

# 1. Spiritual downfall begins with hardened hearts





# 1. Spiritual downfall begins with hardened hearts

2 Chronicles 36:11-14 (HCSB) –  
<sup>11</sup> Zedekiah was 21 years old when he became king and reigned 11 years in Jerusalem. <sup>12</sup> He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord his God and did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet at the Lord's command.



# 1. Spiritual downfall begins with hardened hearts

2 Chronicles 36:11-14 (HCSB) –  
<sup>13</sup> He also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar who had made him swear allegiance by God. He became obstinate and hardened his heart against returning to Yahweh, the God of Israel.



# 1. Spiritual downfall begins with hardened hearts

2 Chronicles 36:11-14 (HCSB) –  
<sup>14</sup> All the leaders of the priests and the people multiplied their unfaithful deeds, imitating all the detestable practices of the nations, and they defiled the Lord's temple that He had consecrated in Jerusalem.



## + WARNING SIGN #1: Pride

2 Chronicles 36:12 (HCSB) –

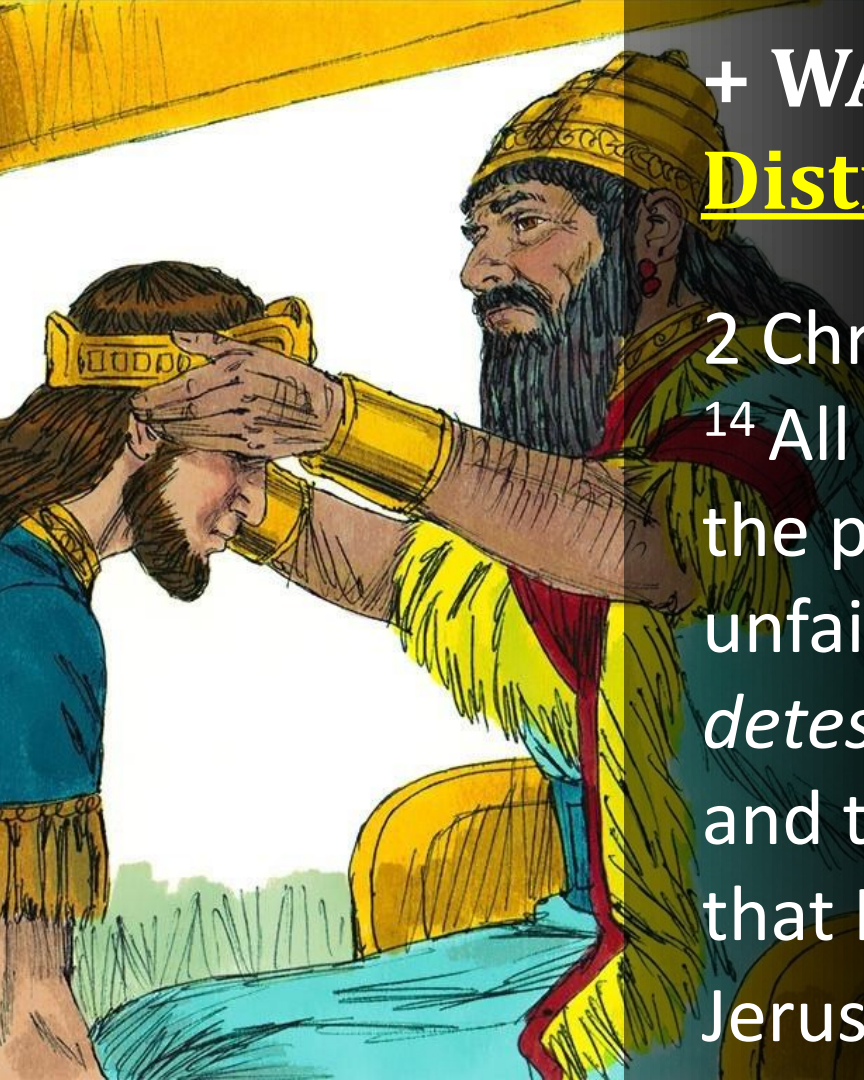
<sup>12</sup> He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord his God and *did not humble himself* before Jeremiah the prophet at the Lord's command.

## + WARNING SIGN #2: Lack of Repentance

2 Chronicles 36:13b (HCSB) – He became obstinate and *hardened his heart against returning to Yahweh, the God of Israel.*



## + WARNING SIGN #3: Lack of Distinction



2 Chronicles 36:11-14 (HCSB) –  
<sup>14</sup> All the leaders of the priests and the people multiplied their unfaithful deeds, *imitating all the detestable practices of the nations*, and they defiled the Lord's temple that He had consecrated in Jerusalem.

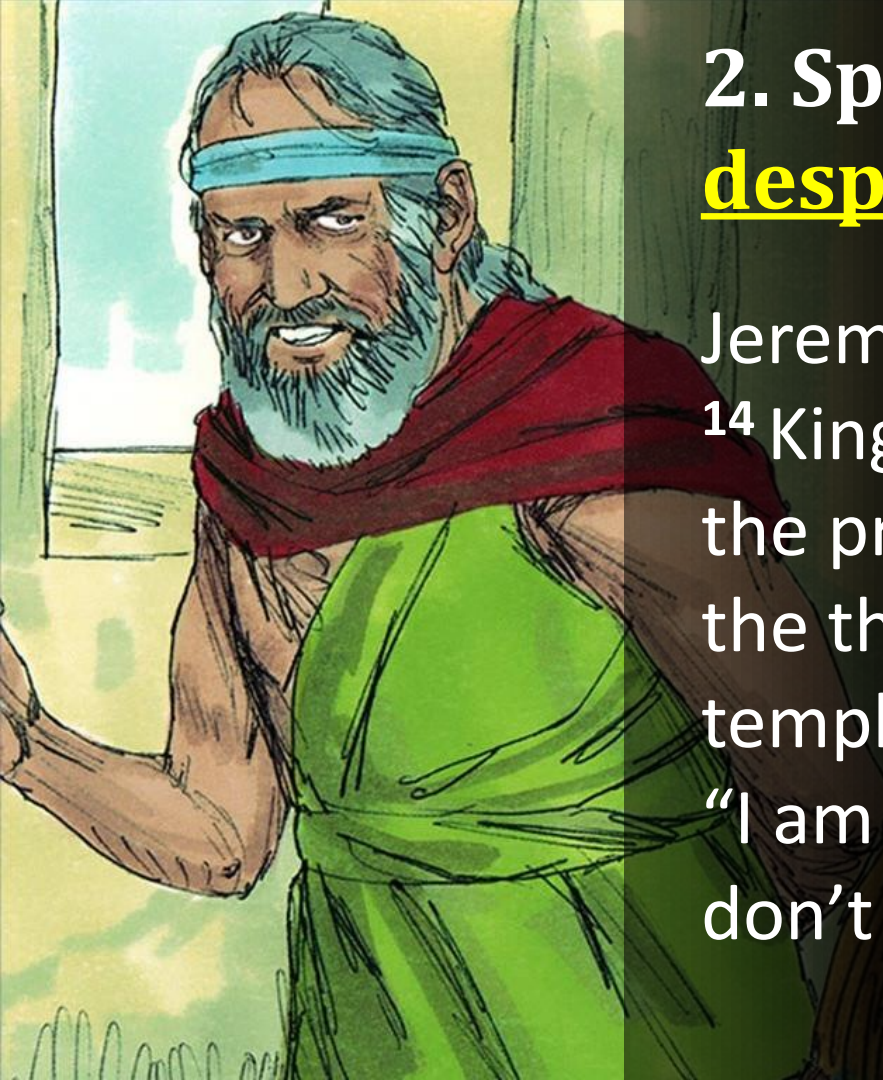
## Psalm 139:23-24 (HCSB)

<sup>23</sup> Search me, God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my concerns.

<sup>24</sup> See if there is any offensive way in me;  
lead me in the everlasting way.

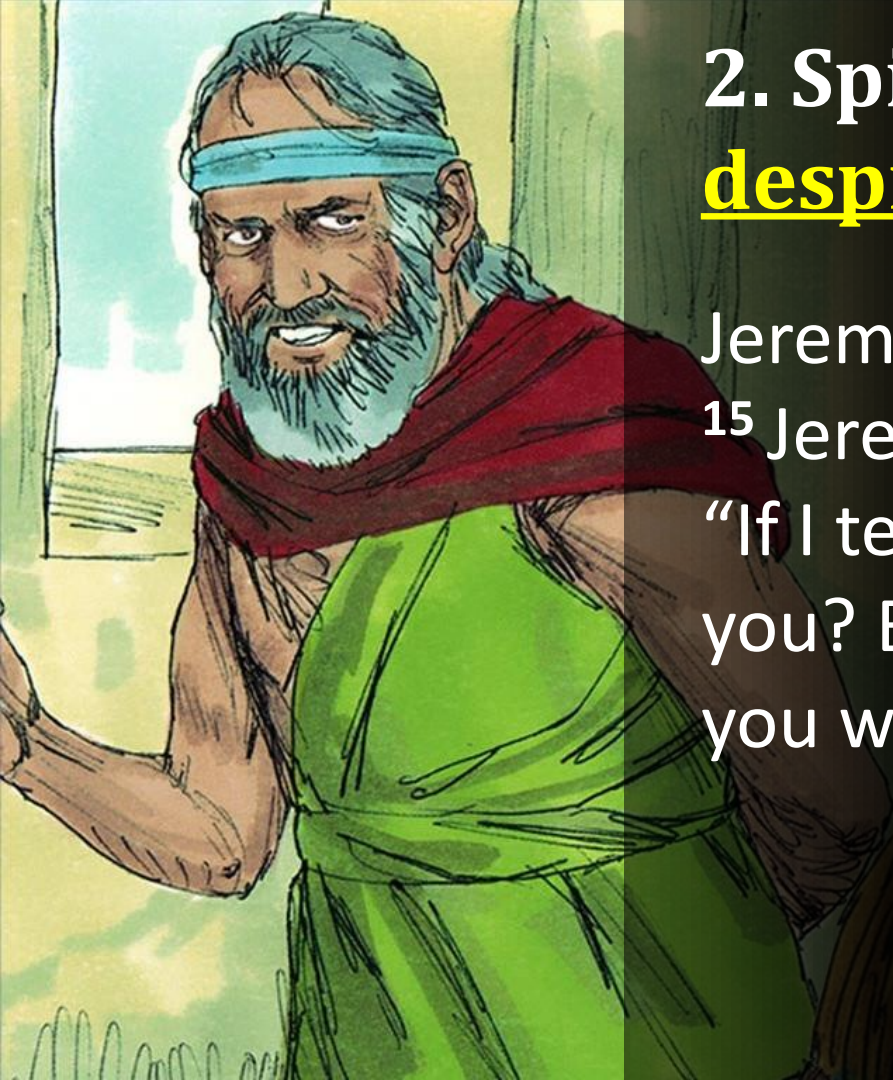


## 2. Spiritual downfall leads to despising God's Word



## 2. Spiritual downfall leads to despising God's Word

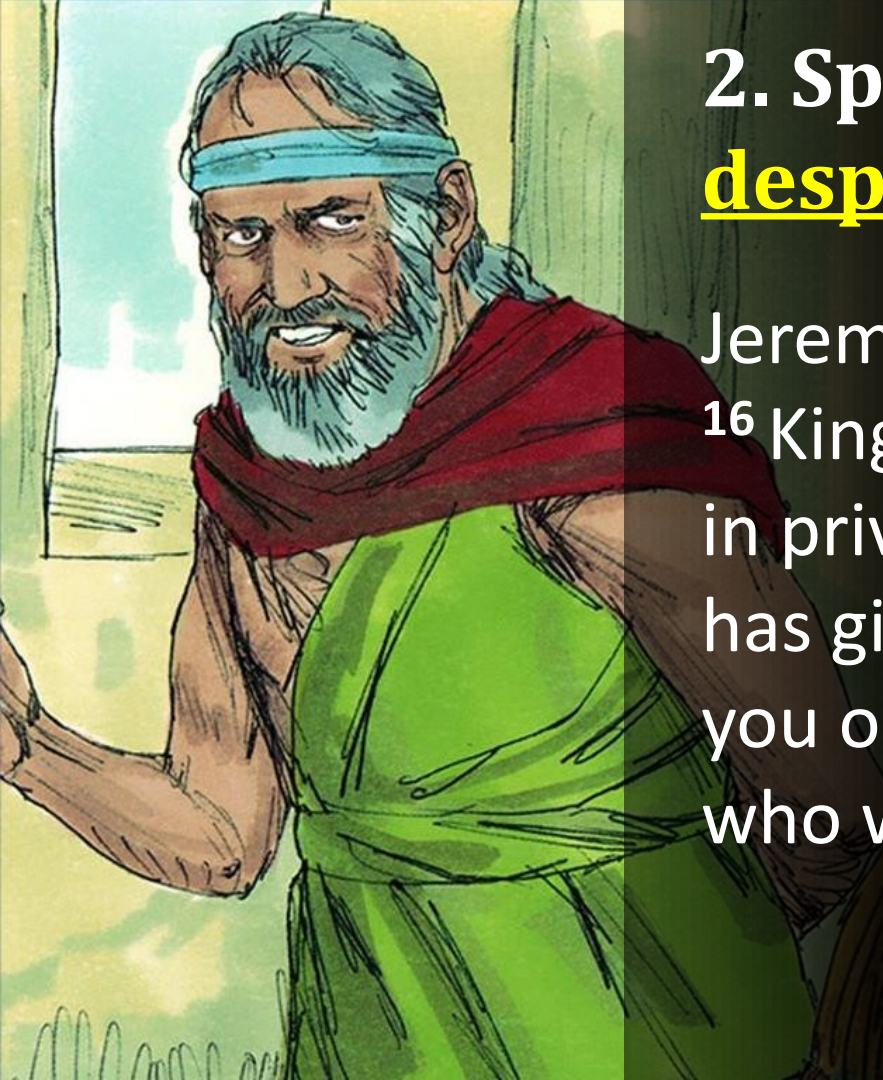
Jeremiah 38:14-18 (HCSB) –  
14 King Zedekiah sent for Jeremiah the prophet and received him at the third entrance of the Lord's temple. The king said to Jeremiah, "I am going to ask you something; don't hide anything from me."



## 2. Spiritual downfall leads to despising God's Word

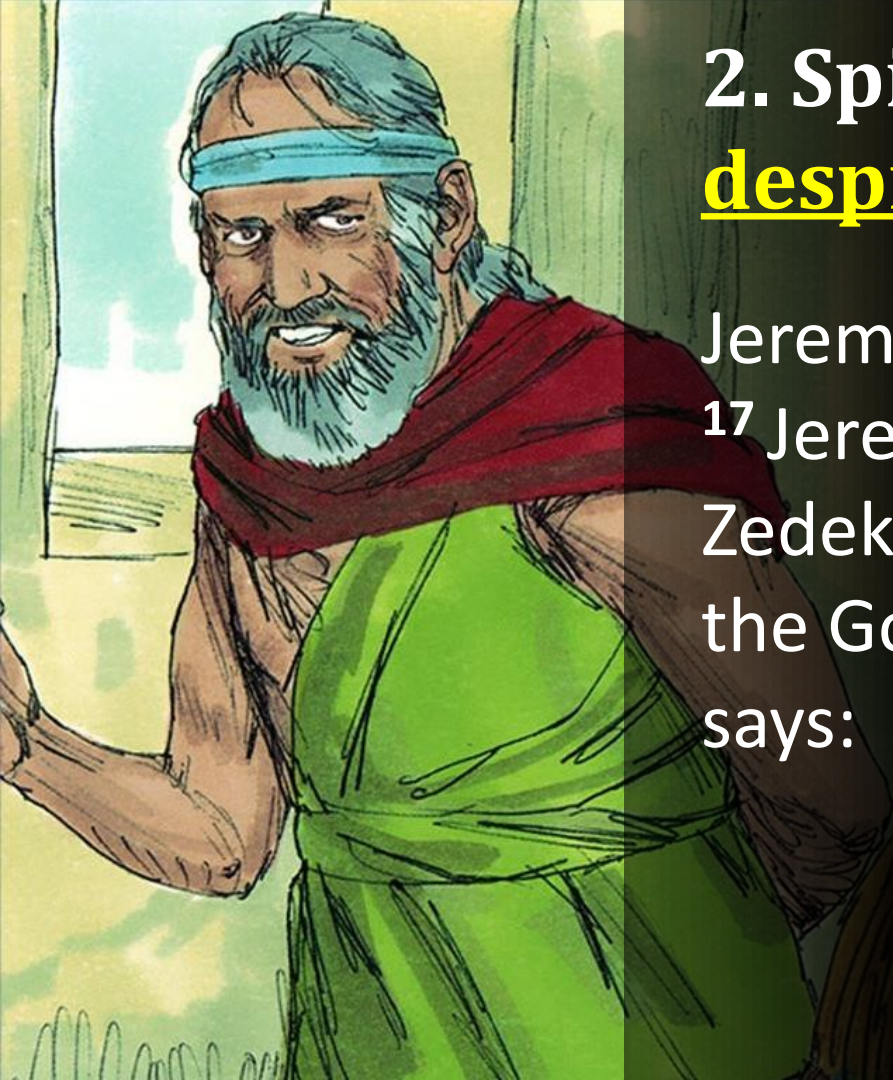
Jeremiah 38:14-18 (HCSB) –

<sup>15</sup> Jeremiah replied to Zedekiah,  
“If I tell you, you will kill me, won’t  
you? Besides, if I give you advice,  
you won’t listen to me anyway.”



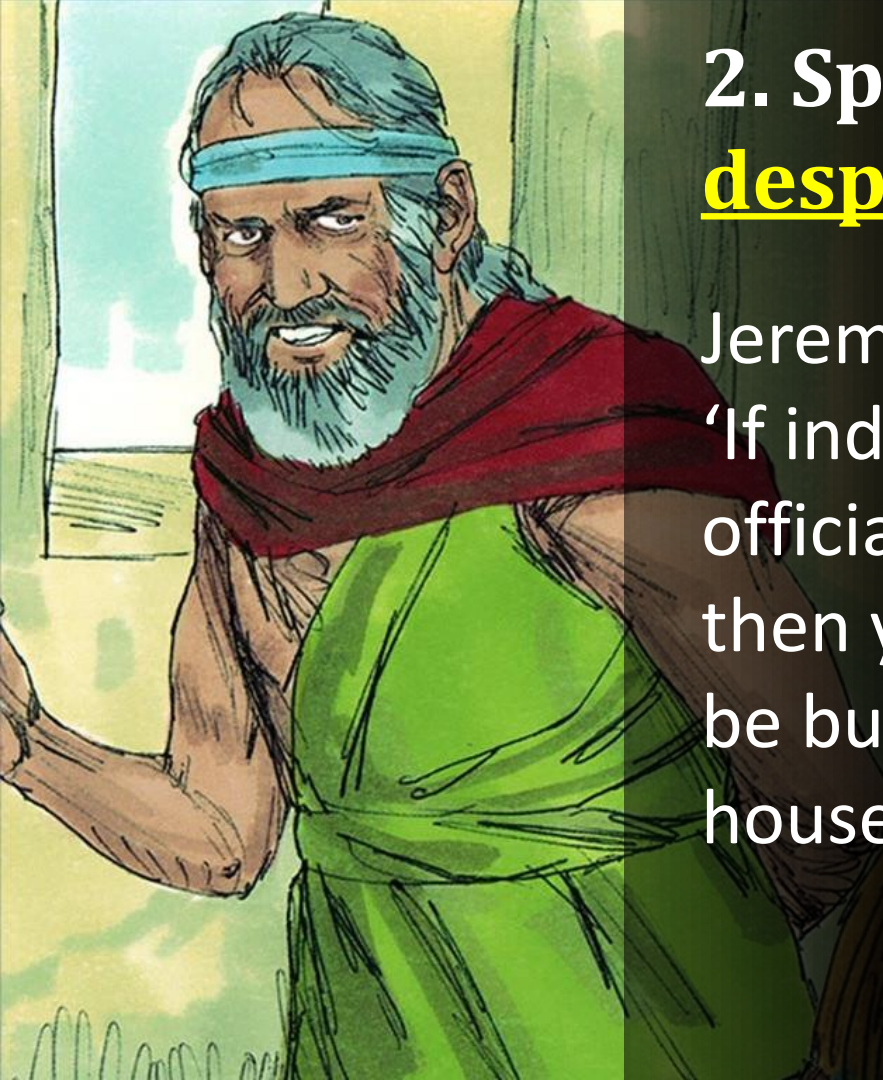
## 2. Spiritual downfall leads to despising God's Word

Jeremiah 38:14-18 (HCSB) –  
<sup>16</sup> King Zedekiah swore to Jeremiah in private, “As the Lord lives, who has given us this life, I will not kill you or hand you over to these men who want to take your life.”



## 2. Spiritual downfall leads to despising God's Word

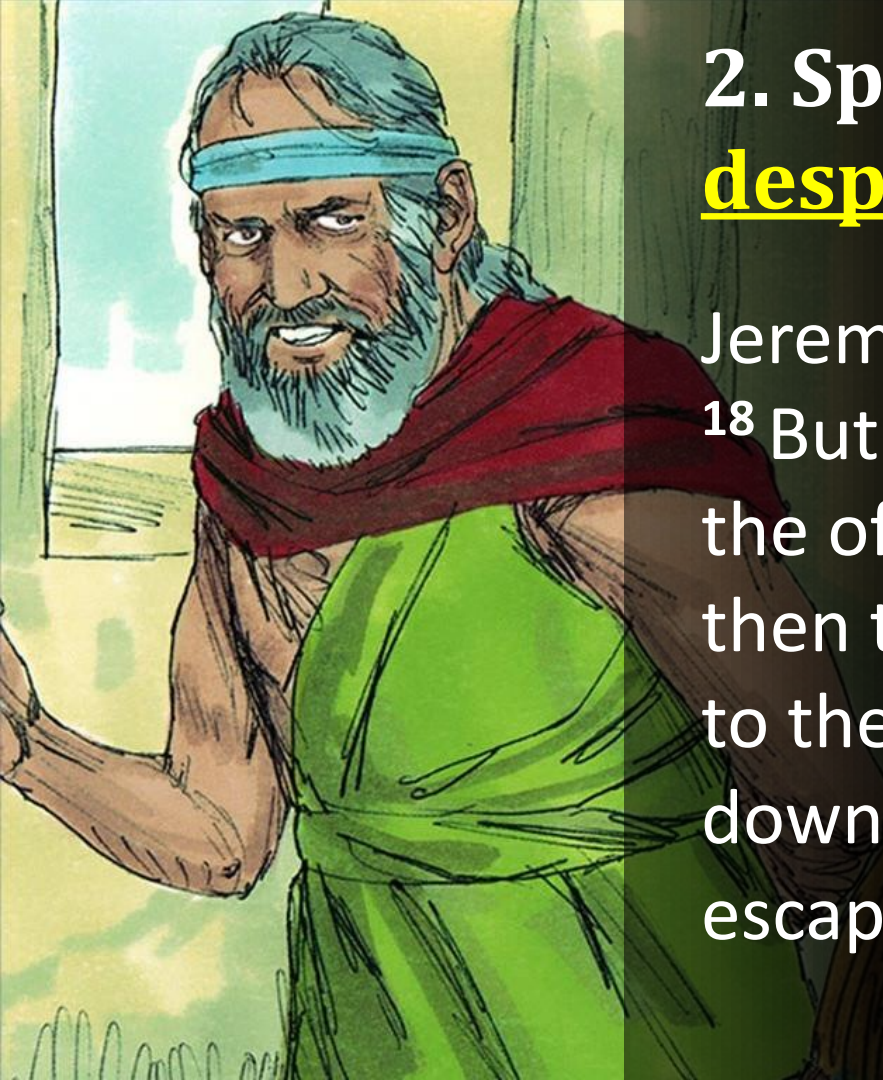
Jeremiah 38:14-18 (HCSB) –  
17 Jeremiah therefore said to Zedekiah, “This is what the Lord, the God of Hosts, the God of Israel, says:



## 2. Spiritual downfall leads to despising God's Word

Jeremiah 38:14-18 (HCSB) –

‘If indeed you surrender to the officials of the king of Babylon, then you will live, this city will not be burned down, and you and your household will survive.



## 2. Spiritual downfall leads to despising God's Word

Jeremiah 38:14-18 (HCSB) –

<sup>18</sup> But if you do not surrender to the officials of the king of Babylon, then this city will be handed over to the Chaldeans. They will burn it down, and you yourself will not escape from them.”

## **Jeremiah 17:9 (HCSB)**

The heart is more deceitful than anything else,  
and incurable – who can understand it?



## 2. Spiritual downfall leads to despising God's Word

Jeremiah 38:24-28 (HCSB) –

<sup>24</sup> Then Zedekiah warned Jeremiah,  
“Don't let anyone know about  
these things or you will die.



## 2. Spiritual downfall leads to despising God's Word

Jeremiah 38:24-28 (HCSB) –

<sup>25</sup> If the officials hear that I have spoken with you and come and demand of you, ‘Tell us what you said to the king; don’t hide anything from us and we won’t kill you. Also, what did the king say to you?’ <sup>26</sup> then you will tell them,



## 2. Spiritual downfall leads to despising God's Word

Jeremiah 38:24-28 (HCSB) –  
‘I was bringing before the king my petition that he not return me to the house of Jonathan to die there.’



## 2. Spiritual downfall leads to despising God's Word

Jeremiah 38:24-28 (HCSB) –

<sup>27</sup> When all the officials came to Jeremiah and questioned him, he reported the exact words to them the king had commanded, and they quit speaking with him because nothing had been heard.



## 2. Spiritual downfall leads to despising God's Word

Jeremiah 38:24-28 (HCSB) –  
28 Jeremiah remained in the guard's courtyard until the day Jerusalem was captured, and he was there when it happened.

## **Ephesians 4:15 (HCSB)**

**<sup>15</sup> But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into Him who is the head – Christ.**

### 3. Spiritual downfall brings God's wrath



### 3. Spiritual downfall brings God's wrath

2 Chronicles 36:15-21 (HCSB) –  
<sup>15</sup> But Yahweh, the God of their  
ancestors sent word against them  
by the hand of His messengers,  
sending them time and time  
again, for He had compassion on  
His people and on His dwelling  
place.



### 3. Spiritual downfall brings God's wrath

2 Chronicles 36:15-21 (HCSB) –  
<sup>16</sup> But they kept ridiculing God's messengers, despising His words, and scoffing at His prophets, until the Lord's wrath was so stirred up against His people that there was no remedy.



### 3. Spiritual downfall brings God's wrath

2 Chronicles 36:15-21 (HCSB) –  
<sup>17</sup> So He brought up against them  
the king of the Chaldeans, who  
killed their choice young men with  
the sword in the house of their  
sanctuary.



### 3. Spiritual downfall brings God's wrath

2 Chronicles 36:15-21 (HCSB) –  
He had no pity on young men or  
young women, elderly or aged; He  
handed them all over to him.





### 3. Spiritual downfall brings God's wrath

2 Chronicles 36:15-21 (HCSB) –  
<sup>18</sup> He took everything to Babylon –  
all the articles of God's temple,  
large and small, the treasures of  
the Lord's temple, and the  
treasures of the king and his  
officials.



### 3. Spiritual downfall brings God's wrath

2 Chronicles 36:15-21 (HCSB) –  
<sup>19</sup> Then the Chaldeans burned  
God's temple. They tore down  
Jerusalem's wall, burned down all  
its palaces, and destroyed all its  
valuable articles.

### 3. Spiritual downfall brings God's wrath

2 Chronicles 36:15-21 (HCSB) –  
<sup>20</sup> He deported those who escaped  
from the sword to Babylon, and  
they became servants to him and  
his sons until the rise of the  
Persian kingdom.





### 3. Spiritual downfall brings God's wrath

2 Chronicles 36:15-21 (HCSB) –  
<sup>21</sup> This fulfilled the word of the Lord through Jeremiah and the land enjoyed its Sabbath rest all the days of the desolation until 70 years were fulfilled.

## **Ezekiel 33:11 (HCSB)**

“I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked person should turn from his way and live. Repent, repent of your evil ways! Why will you die, house of Israel?”

## 2 Peter 3:8-9 (HCSB)

<sup>8</sup> Dear friends, don't let this one thing escape you: With the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.

<sup>9</sup> The Lord does not delay His promise, as some understand delay, but is patient with you, you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance.

*God the...*

**REVEALER**

**The Great Fall of Jerusalem**  
2 Chronicles 36; Jeremiah 38





These illustrations are the copyright of Sweet Publishing and licensed by FreeBibleimages for free download under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Share-alike 3.0 unported licence.

[www.freebibleimages.org](http://www.freebibleimages.org)