

'Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for eleven years. He did evil in the eyes of the Lord his God. Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon attacked him and bound him with bronze shackles to take him to Babylon.' 2 Chronicles 36:5-6 NIV

Nebuchadnezzar collected _____.

King _____.

'Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for three months and ten days. He did evil in the eyes of the Lord. In the spring, King Nebuchadnezzar sent for him and brought him to Babylon, together with articles of value from the temple of the Lord, and he made Jehoiachin's uncle, Zedekiah, king over Judah and Jerusalem.' 2 Chronicles 36:9-10 NIV

King _____.

'Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem for eleven years. He did evil in the eyes of the Lord his God and did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet, who spoke the word of the Lord.' 2 Chronicles 36:11-12 NIV

'So in the ninth year of Zedekiah's reign, on the tenth day of the tenth month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon marched against Jerusalem with his whole army. He encamped outside the city and built siege works all around it. The city was kept under siege until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah. By the ninth day of the fourth month the famine in the city had become so severe that there was no food for the people to eat.' 2 Kings 25:1-3 NIV

'Then the city wall was broken through, and the whole army fled at night through the gate between the two walls near the king's garden, though the Babylonians were surrounding the city. They fled towards the Arabah, but the Babylonian army pursued the king and overtook him in the plains of Jericho. All his soldiers were separated from him and scattered, and he was captured. He was taken to the king of Babylon at Riblah, where sentence was pronounced on him. They killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes. Then they put out his eyes, bound him with bronze shackles and took him to Babylon.' 2 Kings 25:4-6 NIV

'The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?' Jeremiah 17:9 NIV

Deceitful is _____ to _____.

You owe it to yourself to _____, even if it points you in a direction you don't intend to _____.

Am I _____ myself the truth or am I _____ myself a regret?

I will not _____ to myself even when the _____ makes me feel bad about myself.



1. Read Jeremiah 17:9. What stands out to you? How does it make you feel?
2. When was the last time you "sold yourself" in order to justify a purchase?
3. If a sales associate in a retail establishment said to you the kinds of things you say to yourself (when selling yourself), how would you respond?
4. Where do you struggle the most telling yourself the truth? What are your go-to justifications?
5. What strikes you about the various kings in the message? What aspects you have identified remind you of yourself or someone you know?
6. Jesus said that knowing the truth will set us free (John 8:32). But acknowledging what's true can be terrifying. Is it possible that the fear of what you might discover about yourself by being honest with yourself is an obstacle to the freedom you desire?
7. In what current circumstance do you need to ask: Am I being truthful with myself... really

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