

Session 15 EXILE

Next week readings: Ezra, Nehemiah, Ester; CCC none

REVIEW: Israel now has everything they asked from GOD – the promised land, a royal kingdom, a king like everyone else. After Solomon's death, his son Rehoboam forced the separation of the tribes into two groups – the Northern kingdom and the Southern kingdom. Two hundred+ years later, twenty kings, and numerous prophets and warnings, GOD brought punishment. The people of Israel were enslaved again. They married the Canaanites; did not teach their children and they **did not trust GOD**.

RECAP: people asked for a king, they get Saul (kingdom ripped from him); then David who receives the covenant of the kingdom, then Solomon, then Rehoboam-then rebellion; split between South (Judah and North (Israel) – no temple, no Word of GOD; prophets Amos and Hosea plead w/North to return but they do not; Assyrians (722 BC) take North captive. The South did not do much better; some good kings, some bad kings but did not listen to prophets – deported to Babylon in 597 BC.

Today study: World powers: Egypt and Assyrians but Babylonians took over Assyria and they GOD used them to deal with South; Supplemental books are Lamentations, Habakkuk, Baruch, etc. (see baby blue part of chart); Major Prophets - Daniel, Zechariah, etc. Three waves from south into Babylonian exile 605, 597, 587 BC; was a physical removal to another place for 70 yrs. – striped of identity, took “best and brightest”; tried to change dietary habits and teachings of *Torah*; to better understand, read Jeremiah 34 (major prophet who stayed in Jerusalem during deportation and prophesied to remnants – who still would not listen to GOD namely

Sabbatical Year-Correlation: Judah is treating people in term of slavery the same way Egypt treated Israel – GOD told them there would be consequences. (See Matthew 18 – Peter's question to Jesus)

Daniel and Nebuchadnezzar's dream of five kingdoms (Daniel 2)-statue and stone: Head- gold (Babylon); Breast and arms – silver (Persia/Medo-Persia); Belly and thighs- bronze (Greece); Legs- iron; Feet-iron mixed w/clay (Rome); Stone cut out by no human hand-becomes a mountain (Kingdom of GOD) – relevant to New

Testament: a temple “not made with hands” in messianic age; Jesus' trial (Mark 14: 56-58; Stone is Jesus – by extension church built on Peter – the rock. Nebuchadnezzar wants to change Daniel to turn away from GOD's ways (dietary restrictions, idol worship, no temple) just as others want us to turn away from GOD and what we. Believe; to strip us of our identity; this exile different from others – problem: Judah likes Babylonian ways; become comfortable there

Book of Daniel apocalyptic – figurative; little complicated – studying first three chapters today; Daniels interpretation of the Nebuchadnezzar's dream – richness in details that related to future and Jesus Christ. (Some debate by scholars on interpretations but does not affect faith; used to help us find better understanding)

Dan 9:3 – Daniel's interceding for the people; Dan 9:20 – Angel Gabriel appears to him at evening sacrifice (about 3 or 4 in afternoon) – to tell Daniel the time the Israelites will be in captivity – not original 7 yrs but to 741 yrs. because of their iniquities – they did not honor the sabbatical law (remember 7x70 is number of perfection/completion) REF: Matt 18:18-35 when Peter asked how many times should I forgive my brother 7x7 times? Jesus answers, “No. 70 x7” and tells story of man who owed a debt and was thrown into prison. This is what my Father in heaven will do to you if you do not forgive your brother.

Second deportation – 597 BC: Ezekiel 34: Ezekiel is exiled to Babylon where he is both priest and prophet to exiles who are cut off from the Land and Temple; the shepherds of GOD's flock did not do their job; GOD will return Himself to bring back the lost sheep. Jesus has way of bringing the OT as relates to Him (use of *hekesh*, “to bang together); Luke 19: 9-10

Third deportation – 587 BC (2 Kings 25): Babylonians destroy the Temple; King Zedekiah deported (was hiding in desert and paying tribute to Egyptians)

Symbol of Babylon is the lion; many lions dens in Babylon; Daniel was thrown into lion's den but walked out without harm – symbolism is just as lions drag their prey back to their dens to devour, so too Babylon dragged Judah back to their dens to devour their nation.

Meditation: What about today in America? Don't have to go to Babylon – our culture wants to pick us up and drag us into its den and rip the faith from us and re-define who we are and change our habits – our kids are in the lion's den – will they come out unscathed?

51 **Timeline**

- 52 612 Babylonians and Medes conquer Assyria
 53 605 Babylonians battle Egyptians at Carchemish
 54 605 Nebuchadnezzar becomes King of Babylon
 55 605 The Babylonians invade Judah
 56 605 First wave of deportations of Jews to Babylon
 57 605 Daniel is taken captive and begins to prophesy
 58 601 Babylonians battle Egypt, both sides suffer losses
 59 601 Judah decides to realign itself with Egypt, Jeremiah warns them
 60 597 Jehoiachin becomes King of Judah
 61 597 Babylonians capture Jerusalem
 62 597 Second Wave of deportation to Babylon from Judah
 63 597 Ezekiel is taken captive to Babylon
 64 597 Zedekiah becomes King of Judah
 65 593 Ezekiel begins to prophesy
 66 586 Babylonians destroy Jerusalem and the Temple
 67 586 Jerusalem's walls and gates are burned with fire
 68 586 Third wave of Jews deported to Babylon
 69 586 Babylonian Exile (Galut Babvel)* begins
 70 586 End of Babilonia (First Temple) Period
 71 586 The end of the monarch in Judah
 72 539 Fall of Babylon
 73 539 Beginning of the Persian Period to 332
 74 539 The Decree of Cyrus II allowing Jews to return
 75 516 Jews rebuild the Temple (70 years)

76 **The Jewish diaspora (Hebrew: Tfutzá, תְּפוצָּה) or exile (Hebrew: Galut, גלות; Yiddish: Golus) refers to dispersion of Israelites*
 77 *or Jews out of their ancestral homeland (the Land of Israel) and their subsequent settlement in other parts of the globe.*

78 **Conclusion:** GOD allowed His chosen people to choose for themselves who they would serve, but man's heart
 79 is desperately wicked and they chose to forsake the LORD. The Jews, His inheritance and peculiar treasure, had
 80 become an abomination. The Word of GOD says that they were so corrupt that they were like a crooked wall,
 81 which had to be torn down and completely rebuilt. It is amazing to think that GOD allowed His holy city
 82 Jerusalem to be burned with fire, and His Temple to be completely destroyed. Then His people were taken into
 83 captivity 800 miles across the Arabian Desert, to the land of idols and bondage. Yet they would only be there
 84 for 70 years, and there would be an end to their misery. The lesson GOD was to teach them in Babylon would
 85 only be for a season. During their hardships, GOD was still with them; He had chosen servants who ministered
 86 to them and He still had a plan and hope for them in His promised Redeemer. Many of them had blamed GOD,
 87 yet it was their own rebellion that brought the judgment of GOD upon them, as the prophets continually
 88 warned.

89 Many of them hated the Babylonians for storming GOD's chosen city and destroying the Temple, yet it
 90 was their own rebellion that brought the Babylonians upon them, as the prophets continually warned. There
 91 were also those who realized that it was because they had forsaken GOD that the judgment came or because of
 92 their attachment to the things of this world and they were sorry and turned back to the LORD.

93 There were also those who remembered that it was because of their estrangement to the wonderful
 94 purposes that GOD had for them that they were driven from their land of promise, and they were sorry and
 95 turned back to the LORD. The LORD would remember His people even in the foreign land of Babylon; He would
 96 keep His sworn oath that He made to their fathers and bring them back to their land and bring them the
 97 promised Redeemer. (Jer 29: 10-14)

2 Chronicles 7:14 -22

(Prophecy of the Exile when
consecrating Solomon's Temple)

"¹⁴...and if my people, upon whom
my name has been pronounced,
humble themselves and pray, and
seek my presence and turn from
their evil ways, I will hear them from
heaven and pardon their sins and
revive their land..."

"¹⁹...but if you turn away and forsake
my statutes and commands which I
placed before you, if you proceed to
venerate and worship strange GODs,
then I will uproot the people from
the land I gave them; I will cast from
my sight this house which I have
consecrated to My honor..."

"²²...they forsook the LORD, the GOD
of their fathers who brought them
out of the land of Egypt, and they
adopted strange GODs and
worshiped them and served them.
That is why He brought down upon
them all this evil."