

Bethel Bible Series

History Itself is the Judgment of God

Week 19

Welcome & Announcements

Opening - Why did God allow the Babylonians to destroy His chosen people?

Prayer Requests and Opening Prayer

Review of Last Week

Review of Last Week - *The Exile*

Two large swords in the foreground = Two deportations by powerful Babylonian forces

Burning city in the background = Jerusalem is pillaged and destroyed

Masses moving out of the burning city = Judah's citizens are taken into exile

Expression of despair on face = Destruction & exile bring great despair

Ezekiel and Jeremiah scrolls = These prophets spoke before & during exile

Woman carries infant in arms = Prophets renew hope stating that a remnant shall return

How did God try to get His people to return to Him? = Sent His prophets

How did God decide to punish Israel's faithlessness? = Destroy Judah, 70 yrs exile

Who was king during the first deportation to Babylon? = Jehoiachin

What was taken to Babylon with the first exile? = Anything & anybody of value

What major prophet spoke to the first exiles in Babylon? = Ezekiel

How did this prophet speak against the exiles' despairs?

God is punishing us for our fathers' sins. = Father & son don't share guilt

God has brought us here to die. = God wants wicked to be righteous, not destroyed

God has abandoned us without hope. = God will raise dry bones with His Spirit

Who was king during the second deportation? = Zedekiah

What was taken to Babylon with the second exile? = All remaining, Jerusalem destroyed

How did Jeremiah escape this exile? = Nebuchadnezzar released him to stay with Gedaliah

If the Babylonians took everyone, who did Gedaliah govern? = Those who had fled

What happened to Gedaliah? = He was killed by Ammonites (Ishmael)

What were the remaining Jews afraid of? = Didn't trust God to protect them from Nebuchadnezzar

What did they decide to do? = They disobeyed & fled to Egypt, taking Jeremiah & Baruch

What happened to this group? = Died in Egypt from sword, animals, plague

What happened to the land during the exile? = Enjoyed 70 yrs of sabbath rests, empty

How did the synagogue differ from the temple? = Instruction & prayer vs. sacrifice & worship

Who was Belteshazzar? = Daniel was one of 4 young Jews selected to train in Babylonian ways

How did he become an advisor to Nebuchadnezzar? = God gave wisdom & interpret dreams

What did he do in the 70th year of captivity? = Prayed for return of remnant

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Lesson - *History Itself is the Judgment of God*

Jeremiah's Messages of Comfort to the Exiles (Page 119)

Jeremiah 24:1-8 = God will watch over the exiles, they will return
Jeremiah 29:10-14 = God has not abandoned His people, He has a plan for them
Jeremiah 29:4-7 = Be a blessing where you are
Jeremiah 9:7, 24 = God has judged because He loves

God's Plan

Have we been studying God's failed OT plan that He corrected with Jesus?
Ephesians 3:8-12 = No. It is part of God's eternal plan
Was God's promise and destiny only for the Jews?
Galatians 3:6-9, 14 = All who believe are Abraham's descendants & heirs of promise
Romans 2:28-29 = A Jew is one circumcised in the heart, not outwardly
When did God add Gentiles (non-Jews) to His plan as heirs of the destiny?
Ephesians 3:4-6 = Part of His plan from beginning, revealed through Christ

Was God's Law given only for the Jews?
Romans 3:9-10, 19-20 = The whole world, Jews & Gentiles, are guilty of breaking the Law
How does the Law testify to God's plan of righteousness?
Romans 3:21-24 = All have sinned & are unrighteous under Law, Christ is for all who believe
Romans 7:7, 13 = The Law shows me what sin is & how it leads to death
Romans 3:28-31 = God justifies all through faith apart from law, upholding the law
Globe on blueprint = God has a divine plan for His world
Hand crashes through blueprint = Hand of God through history

God's Justice

What does God require of His faithful people?
Micah 6:8 = *To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God*
How important is justice to God?
Deuteronomy 16:20 = Follow justice alone so you may live & inherit promise
How did God demonstrate His justice?
Romans 3:25-26 = Gave atonement through Christ to justify the faithful

How did God's people respond to His requirement for justice?
Zechariah 7:8-14 = God commanded justice, people refused, God judged
How does God respond to injustice?
Amos 8:4, 7-8 = God will punish the land for its injustice
Isaiah 10:1-4 = Injustice will be judged on the day of reckoning
Hand hold scales of justice = God's judgment ensures justice

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History Itself is the Judgment of God

How do God's judgments result in the world's history?

Judges 3:12 = The people did evil so God made them subject to Moab

Jeremiah 25:8-9 = Since you haven't listened, I will use Babylon to destroy Judah

Jeremiah 51:11 = God punished Babylon by raising the Medes (Persians)

Isaiah 5:26 = God calls nations to bring His judgment, they obey

Calendars of time = History itself is the Judgment of God

Can we expect God's judgment in our daily lives?

Isaiah 3:10-11 = Righteous will enjoy fruit of deeds, wicked will meet disaster

Jeremiah 4:18 = Your own conduct & actions have brought this punishment

Two gavels between calendars = Judgment is administered while we live

What other time can we expect God's judgment?

Romans 14:10-12 = Each of us will stand before God's judgment seat

Revelation 20:11-12 = John saw the dead standing before the throne for judgment

Small gavel beyond surface of globe = All are judged beyond the grave

God's Judgment - Positive or Negative?

How does God use negative judgment in response to man's revolt of sin?

Jeremiah 5:26-29 = As a just God, He must punish evil and sinfulness

Numbers 12:1-15; 16:1-50; Matthew 23:13-36 = Miriam & Aaron; Korah rebel; Pharisees mislead

Small gavel on left = Negative aspect of judgment is its condemnation

How does God use positive judgment to save His people & protect His plan?

Psalms 76:8-9 = God judges to save the afflicted

Isaiah 1:25-27 = I will turn my hand against you to purify & redeem you

Isaiah 26:9 = God's people learn righteousness when He judges

Large gavel on left = Positive aspect of judgment is in saving the lost

Why does God judge His people?

Hebrews 12:5-11 = God disciplines those He loves, as a father disciplines a son

Flowers on large gavel = God judges because of His love for all people

Open Discussion on any Old Testament topics

Closing Prayer

Distribute Materials = Hand out Study 19 and Assignment 20

Next Week - *The Restoration*