

# Bethel Bible Series

## The Exile

Week 18

Welcome & Announcements

Opening - Why did God have His prophets give promises of hope amongst their calls to faithfulness?

Prayer Requests and Opening Prayer

### Review of Last Week

Review of Last Week - *Pointing Ahead*

What warning did the prophets give? = Israel would be destroyed & exiled for unfaithfulness

What hopes did the prophets give? = Israel will return; A Messiah would be raised

*Figure in center* = The prophet speaks to Israel

*Withered tree & barren earth* = Prophets often spoke during time of crisis

*Young boy points to green tree on horizon* = Prophet gave hopes for Israel's future

*Six manuscripts* = Six specific promises of hope were given by the prophet

*The coming of a Messiah out of David's seed*

What promise had God given David that led to hope? = Dynasty would last forever

What kind of messiah would the Jews expect? = A King to reign wisely, just & right – faithful

Why did Jesus tell his disciples not to tell others who he was? = People had wrong idea of messiah

Did the disciples understand Jesus' mission? = Still unclear even after resurrection

*The Birth of a New Era*

How would the world differ under this new era? = New covenant, sins forgiven, peace

*The Restoration of Paradise*

How would paradise be restored? = Harmony with God, Self, Others & Nature

*The Exaltation of Mount Zion*

What was Mount Zion? = A hill in Jerusalem where the temple was built

Why was Mount Zion important to the Jews? = Focal point of worship, represented God's presence

How would Mount Zion be exalted? = People of world would come to Zion to learn of God

How did Jesus clarify Zion's role? = God is not confined to temple, Take gospel to world

*The Return of a Remnant*

How did the promise of a returning remnant comfort the Jews? = Israel not dead

*The Suffering Servant*

What role of God's calling had the Jews forgotten? = To be His servant

How would God's new servant suffer for others? = As offering, carry sins, justify many

Did the prophets understand what God told them to say? = No. Nor angels

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### Lesson - The Exile

#### *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

#### God's Judgment of Judah

How did God try to get His people to return to Him?

Jeremiah 25:4-6 = He sent prophets to get the people to return

Was God's message effective?

Jeremiah 25:7 = You didn't listen to me, you have provoked me

Why didn't God's people find it necessary to return to God?

Micah 3:11b = *Isn't the Lord among us? No disaster will come upon us*

What did God decide to do as a result of Judah's continued faithlessness?

2 Kings 21:10-13 = Bring disaster on Judah & Jerusalem

How would God do this?

Jeremiah 25:8-11 = Summon my servant Nebuchadnezzar, 70 yrs exile

How would the 70 years of captivity be ended?

Jeremiah 25:12 = Babylon would be destroyed

#### The First Deportation

How did God begin to bring about this destruction?

2 Kings 24:10-12 = Jehoiachin surrendered to Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon

What did Nebuchadnezzar take back to Babylon with the first exile?

2 Kings 24:13-16 = Anything & anybody of value were deported to Babylon

#### The Response

How did the Jews respond to this?

Lamentations 1:1-2; 2:11; 5:22 = They were devastated, God had rejected them

What prophet was taken into exile with Jehoiachin?

Ezekiel 1:2-3 = Ezekiel began prophesying while in exile in Babylon (5 yrs after exile)

Why was Ezekiel compelled to warn the Jews even though they were already receiving His punishment?

Ezekiel 33:7-9 = Ezekiel responsible if the Jews stayed unfaithful because he didn't warn them

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### Ezekiel Answered Doubts of Exiles

God is punishing us for the sins of our fathers. = For nation, not souls  
Lamentations 5:7 = *Our fathers sinned, we bear their punishment*  
Exodus 34:6-7 = God punishes children to the 4th generation  
Ezekiel 18:1-4, 20 = Quote proverb no more. Father & son don't share guilt.  
Matthew 23:29-36 = Like evil father, like evil son; Zechariah – son of Jehiada the priest

Our guilt is too great. God has brought us here to die.  
Lamentations 1:8-9 = The pain of guilt was very heavy  
Ezekiel 33:10-11 = God has no pleasure destroying wicked, turn from evil & live  
Ezekiel 18:23, 26-27 = Righteous turned evil dies, wicked turned righteous lives

God has abandoned His people Israel. We have no hope.  
Lamentations 3:1-3, 7-11, 18 = God has beaten and abandoned us. Our hope is gone.  
Ezekiel 37:1-4, 10 = Ezekiel prophesies to dry bones & they come to life  
Ezekiel 37:11-14 = I will raise you with my Spirit & return you to your land

### The Second Deportation

How did God bring about the final exile? = Even ate their own children in famine (Lamentations 4:10)  
2 Kings 25:1-7 = Neb besieged Jerusalem; Zedekiah fled, caught, sons killed, blinded  
What did Nebuchadnezzar take back to Babylon with the second exile?  
2 Chronicles 36:15-20 = Everything & everyone that was left, Jerusalem destroyed  
How did those of the first exile hear of the final destruction & exile?  
Ezekiel 33:21 = A man who had escaped brought word to Ezekiel  
What happened to anyone who escaped the exile and stayed in Judah?  
Ezekiel 33:27-29 = Killed by sword, animals or plague  
2 Chronicles 36:21 = Land enjoyed 70 yrs of sabbath rests

### Jeremiah

Jeremiah prophesied during the reigns of which kings of Judah?  
Jeremiah 1:1-3 = Through Josiah, Jehioakim, Jehoiachin & Zedekiah  
How was Jeremiah allowed to remain in Judah instead of going to Babylon?  
Jeremiah 39:11-12; 40:1-6 = Nebuzaradan, comm of guard, released him to Gedaliah  
What happened to Jews who had fled to nearby countries before the exile?  
Jeremiah 40:11-12 = They returned to Judah to farm under Gedaliah  
What happened to Gedaliah?  
Jeremiah 40:13-14; 41:2-3 = He was killed by Ammonites (Ishmael)  
  
How did the few left handle the assassination of Babylon's appointed ruler?  
Jeremiah 42:1-3 = They had Jeremiah ask God what they should do  
What answer did Jeremiah return with?  
Jeremiah 42:9-16 = Stay here & I'll build you, Leave & you'll die  
What did the Jews do with God's instructions?  
Jeremiah 43:1-7 = They disobeyed & fled to Egypt, taking Jeremiah & Baruch  
How did God punish this disobedience?  
Jeremiah 44:13-14 = God would kill all who went to Egypt

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### During the Exile

Synagogue was developed  
Needed since temple no longer existed  
Synagogue focused on instruction & prayer  
Temple had focused on sacrifice & worship

Memories of older people were recorded

### Daniel

Who was Belteshazzar and how was he trained to serve in the king's palace? = From Jehoiakim exile  
Daniel 1:3-7 = Daniel was one of 4 young Jews selected to train in Babylonian ways  
How did Daniel and his friends become trusted advisors to Nebuchadnezzar?  
Daniel 1:18-20 = God gave them knowledge & wisdom, Understood visions & dreams  
How long did they serve the Babylonians?  
Daniel 1:21 = Until the Persians took over (King Cyrus)  
Did Daniel know Jeremiah's prophecy that the exile would last 70 years?  
Daniel 9:1-3 = After 70 years, Daniel prayed for remnant to return

### Summary - *The Exile*

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### Closing Prayer

Distribute Materials = Hand out Study 18 and Assignment 19

Next Week - *History Itself is the Judgment of God*