

Bethel Bible Series

History Itself is the Judgment of God

Week 19

There is only one thing you can't do in Heaven – bring someone to Christ. - PK

Welcome

Opening - Why did God allow the Babylonians to destroy His chosen people?
Prayer Requests and Opening Prayer
InDepth Concept Review

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 and exile bring great despair
Ezekiel and Jeremiah scrolls = These prophets spoke before and 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 and anybody of value

What major prophet spoke to the first exiles in Babylon? = Ezekiel
How did this prophet speak against the despairs of the exiles?
God is punishing us for our fathers' sins. = Father and 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 and fled to Egypt, taking Jeremiah and 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 and prayer vs. sacrifice and 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 and 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 9:7, 24 = God has judged because He loves
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

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 and 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 and Gentiles, are guilty of breaking the Law
How does the Law and the Prophets (Old Testament) testify to God's plan of righteousness?
Romans 3:21-24 = All have sinned and are unrighteous under Law, Christ is for all who believe
Romans 7:7-13 = The Law shows me what sin is and how it leads to death
Romans 3:28-31 = God justifies all through faith apart from law, thereby upholding the law
Globe on blueprint = God has a divine plan for His world
Hand crashes through blueprint = Hand of God through history

Bethel: *We have been watching the purpose of God unfold in the historical experiences of this people and hence acquainting ourselves with God's will for His world.*

God's Justice

What does God require of His faithful people? = Love others (justice, mercy) and God (walk with Him)
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 and 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

Bethel: *From Genesis to Malachi, we see the Creator as a God of love who is jealously concerned over the welfare of His children. He will permit no person or nation to exploit that creature whom He has fashioned after His own likeness. A holy and righteous God, HE DEMANDS 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, 28 = 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 and 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

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

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

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

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

Discuss examples of God showing His love through judging for both negative and positive purposes:

Numbers 12:1-15 = Miriam and Aaron disrespected Moses, built respect for God's chosen

Numbers 16:1-50 = Korah rebelled against Moses & Aaron, people led to follow them

Matthew 23:13-36 = Pharisees misled people, people shown wrongness of example

Open Discussion on any Old Testament topics

Closing Prayer

Distribute Materials = Hand out Study 19 and Assignment

Next Week - *The Restoration*

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Old Testament Bethel Study Topics

In The Beginning

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| 1) Genesis 1 | - Creation |
| 2) Genesis 2 | - Divine Intentions |
| 3) Genesis 3 | - Disharmony |

Blessed to be a Blessing

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| 4) Genesis 12 | - Pronouncement of a Destiny (SELECTION) |
| 5) Genesis 12-50 | - Ardent Dreams of a Destiny (SEPARATION) |
| 6) Genesis 12-Exodus 20 | - United for a Destiny (UNITING FACTORS) |

The Emerging Nation

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| 7) Exodus 12-Deut | - An Emerging Nation on the Way to its Homeland |
| 8) Exodus 1- Joshua 5 | - A Destiny Insured (INSURING FACTORS) |
| 9) Leviticus | - Empowered for a Destiny (ATONEMENT) |

The Developing Nation

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| 10) Numbers 13-Joshua | - The Conquest |
| 11) Judges-Ruth | - Judges Forestall Threats |
| 12) 1 Samuel 1-12 | - The Philistine Menace |
| 13) 1 Samuel 11 - 1 Kings 11 | - The United Kingdom |

The Declining Nation

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| 14) Prophets | - Recalling a Destiny |
| 15) 1 Kings 12 - 2 Kings 17 | - The Crumbling North |
| 16) 1 Kings - 1 Chronicles | - The Crumbling South |
| 17) Prophets | - Pointing Ahead |

The Resurrected Nation

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| 18) Jer, Lam, Ezekiel, Daniel | - The Exile |
| 19) Genesis - Malachi | - History Itself Is the Judgment of God |
| 20) Ezra, Neh, Hag, Zech | - The Restoration |