

Part 2 — “The People of God in Exile” — 5 June 2022

Introduction:

The book of Daniel demonstrates that while the Most High God is sovereign over the events of history, He is also personally involved in the lives of His people. The events described within the book occur in Babylon during a time of exile for the people of Israel & Judah. It was through the lives of four exiles that the Lord demonstrated His sovereign power and gave insight into the unfolding of His plans and purposes for all of history.

Main Point: The biblical concept of _____ is central to both understanding the message of the book of Daniel in its historical context and applying it in our own lives as Christians.

Israel in Exile

The Covenantal Background

1. The _____ Covenant (Gen. 15:17-19)

Gen. 15:18—*On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,*

2. The _____ Covenant (Lev. 26:14-34)

Lev. 26:32-33—³² *And I myself will devastate the land, so that your enemies who settle in it shall be appalled at it. ³³ And I will scatter you among the nations, and I will unsheathe the sword after you, and your land shall be a desolation, and your cities shall be a waste.*

3. The _____ Covenant (Deut. 30:1-5)

Deut. 30:4-5—⁴ *If your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there the Lord your God will gather you, and from there he will take you. ⁵ And the Lord your God will bring you into the land that your fathers possessed, that you may possess it.*

Key Point: Although Israel could experience exile from the land in the case of their _____, hope would remain that they could one day return because of God’s _____ promise to Abraham.

The Biblical-Historical Background

• God’s Protection of Judah from the _____ (2 Kings 18-20)

⇒ Beginning in 740 BC successive Assyrian kings began the conquest of the N. Kingdom of Israel which culminated in the destruction of Samaria in 722 BC. Although the Assyrians captured many cities in Judah, they were unable to take Jerusalem after Hezekiah the king sought the Lord who then destroyed the enemy army. After these things the king became ill but recovered and then showed off the treasury of Judah to an envoy sent from Babylon.

• The Death of Josiah and the Rise of _____ (2 Kings 22-23)

⇒ Following a period of apostasy under the kings who followed Hezekiah, a period of reform and revival occurred under the reign of Josiah. During this time, the Assyrian empire began to collapse and they called on their allies, the Egyptians under Pharaoh Neco II. Josiah went out to meet the Egyptians in battle and was killed in 609 BC.

⇒ By 626 BC a Babylonian king named Nabopolssar and won independence from Assyria and sacked the Assyrian capital of Nineveh. Under the command of his son, Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian army defeated the Assyrians at Harran (609 BC) and Carchemish (605 BC).

• The Failure of the _____ of Judah and the Deportations to Babylon (2 Kings 24-25)

- (1) In 605 BC Nebuchadnezzar first came against Jerusalem as he pursued the Egyptian army. At this time he forced the king Jehoiakim (1 Kings 24:1-3) to pay tribute and he carried off the first captives from the city, including Daniel and his friends.
- (2) In 597 BC, in response to the rebellion by Jehoiakim and Jehoiachin, Nebuchadnezzar captured the city and took the vessels from the temple and the royal treasury along with 10,000 captives, including Ezekiel, back to Babylon. After these things, the prophet Jeremiah warned of the coming destruction and predicted that the exile would last for 70 years (Jer. 25:8-14).
- (3) In 586 BC, Zedekiah’s rebellion brought about the final siege of Jerusalem. The Babylonians captured the king, destroyed the temple and the walls of the city, and slaughtered much of the population.

Key Point: The general failure of the kings of Israel to _____ the Word of the Lord and to _____ in His ways was representative of the people as a whole.

The Purpose of the Exile

I. _____

- * The northern kingdom of Israel went into exile because of their _____.

2 Kings 17:7-8,18—⁷ And this occurred because the people of Israel had sinned against the Lord their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods⁸ and walked in the customs of the nations whom the Lord drove out before the people of Israel, and in the customs that the kings of Israel had practiced...

¹⁸ Therefore the Lord was very angry with Israel and removed them out of his sight. None was left but the tribe of Judah only.

- * The southern kingdom of Judah went into exile because they failed to _____ the Lord and heed His Word from the Scriptures and the mouths of the prophets.

2 Chron. 36:15-16, 21—¹⁵ The Lord, the God of their fathers, sent persistently to them by his messengers, because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place. ¹⁶ But they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising his words and scoffing at his prophets, until the wrath of the Lord rose against his people, until there was no remedy...²¹ to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths. All the days that it lay desolate it kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.

2. _____

- * God intended for Israel to _____ in exile.

Jer. 29:4-7—⁴ “Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵ Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. ⁶ Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. ⁷ But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

- * God intended for Israel to live with _____ in exile.

Ezek. 37:21-22a—²¹ then say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will take the people of Israel from the nations among which they have gone, and will gather them from all around, and bring them to their own land. ²² And I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. And one king shall be king over them all, and they shall be no longer two nations, and no longer divided into two kingdoms. ²³ They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols and their detestable things,

Key Point: Although Israel had gone into exile because of their disobedience, God would not _____ them or His promises.

Christians in Exile

- ### I. In contrast to the people of Israel, Christians become “exiles” because of our _____ to God.

1 Pet. 1:1-2—¹ Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood:

- ### 2. For Christians, “exile” is a positive _____ marker.

- * We are set apart from the surrounding culture by our _____ of God.

1 Pet. 1:17-19a—¹⁷ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ,

- * We are set apart to serve as _____ to Jesus Christ within the surrounding culture.

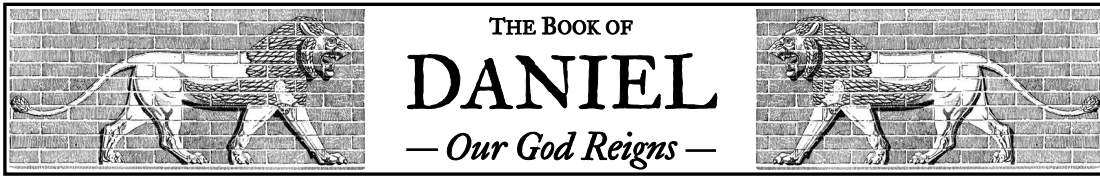
1 Pet. 2:11-12—¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

Key Point: Ironically, in becoming “exiles” in the world, Christians are no longer “strangers” to God’s _____.

Eph. 2:12-13—¹² remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Concluding Thought: Living as exiles means living with _____!

Phil. 3:20-21—²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.



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Main Point: The biblical concept of exile is central to both understanding the message of the book of Daniel in its historical context and applying it in our own lives as Christians.

Israel in Exile

The Covenantal Background

1. **The Abrahamic Covenant (Gen. 15:17-19)**

Gen. 15:18—On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,

2. **The Mosaic Covenant (Lev. 26:14-34)**

Lev. 26:32-33—³² And I myself will devastate the land, so that your enemies who settle in it shall be appalled at it. ³³ And I will scatter you among the nations, and I will unsheathe the sword after you, and your land shall be a desolation, and your cities shall be a waste.

3. **The Land Covenant (Deut. 30:1-5)**

Deut. 30:4-5—⁴ If your outcasts are in the uttermost parts of heaven, from there the Lord your God will gather you, and from there he will take you. ⁵ And the Lord your God will bring you into the land that your fathers possessed, that you may possess it.

Key Point: Although Israel could experience exile from the land in the case of their disobedience, hope would remain that they could one day return because of God’s unconditional promise to Abraham.

The Biblical-Historical Background

• **God’s Protection of Judah from the Assyrians (2 Kings 18-20)**

⇒ Beginning in 740 BC successive Assyrian kings began the conquest of the N. Kingdom of Israel which culminated in the destruction of Samaria in 722 BC. Although the Assyrians captured many cities in Judah, they were unable to take Jerusalem after Hezekiah the king sought the Lord who then destroyed the enemy army. After these things the king became ill but recovered and then showed off the treasury of Judah to an envoy sent from Babylon.

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Key Point: The general failure of the kings of Israel to heed the Word of the Lord and to walk in His ways was representative of the people as a whole.

The Purpose of the Exile

I. Punishment

- * **The northern kingdom of Israel went into exile because of their idolatry.**
2 Kings 17:7-8,18—⁷ And this occurred because the people of Israel had sinned against the Lord their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods⁸ and walked in the customs of the nations whom the Lord drove out before the people of Israel, and in the customs that the kings of Israel had practiced...¹⁸ Therefore the Lord was very angry with Israel and removed them out of his sight. None was left but the tribe of Judah only.
- * **The southern kingdom of Judah went into exile because they failed to trust the Lord and heed His Word from the Scriptures and the mouths of the prophets.**
2 Chron. 36:15-16, 21—¹⁵ The Lord, the God of their fathers, sent persistently to them by his messengers, because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place. ¹⁶ But they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising his words and scoffing at his prophets, until the wrath of the Lord rose against his people, until there was no remedy...²¹ to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths. All the days that it lay desolate it kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.

2. Purification

- * **God intended for Israel to thrive in exile.**
Jer. 29:4-7—⁴ “Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵ Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. ⁶ Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. ⁷ But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.
- * **God intended for Israel to live with hope in exile.**
Ezek. 37:21-22a—²¹ then say to them, Thus says the Lord God: Behold, I will take the people of Israel from the nations among which they have gone, and will gather them from all around, and bring them to their own land. ²² And I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. And one king shall be king over them all, and they shall be no longer two nations, and no longer divided into two kingdoms. ²³ They shall not defile themselves anymore with their idols and their detestable things,

Key Point: Although Israel had gone into exile because of their disobedience, God would not abandon them or His promises.

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2. For Christians, “exile” is a positive identity marker.

- * **We are set apart from the surrounding culture by our worship of God.**
1 Pet. 1:17-19a—¹⁷ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ,
- * **We are set apart to serve as witnesses to Jesus Christ within the surrounding culture.**
1 Pet. 2:11-12—¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

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Concluding Thought: Living as exiles means living with hope!

Phil. 3:20-21—²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.