



Biblical Literacy

Scripture • Substance • Spiritual Passion

Lesson 56

Old Testament Survey: Exile

Outline for Class

- Welcome
- Theme Today
In the hard times, God is at work molding not only the individual, but also putting into play the pieces that affect His kingdom as he wills. Thousands and thousands of Judah's people were relocated from Judah into Babylon, some not returning for up to seventy years, and some not returning at all. As we examine this time of exile, we see God's hand working immediately and in the long range, for his kingdom.
- Prayer for Faith
- Video (33 minutes)
- Discussion & Points for Home

Points for Home

- ❖ "How shall we sing the LORD's song in a foreign land?" (Ps. 137:4).
There are definite times in everyone's life when pain and shock are the only recognizable emotions. "The New Testament says, 'you will have much trouble' [Jn 16:33], and this is true. The way life works out, there are things very hard to bear. That's the way it is. When you become a Christian, you're not in for a glory ride now – the glory comes later. There are things that happen, and you have to throw yourself on your bed, burst into tears, and get the emotion out. Then you think about it, and in prayer, find the direction of God." I am touched to hear these words from one of the most prolific scholars of the last 100 years. The words show his humility as well as the godly wisdom accumulated alongside the earthly knowledge he has garnered in a lifetime of academia. On those days (or weeks, months, or years) of sorrow and distress, I am taking Ken's advice to heart, for it is the teaching of Scripture. Pain and shock are appropriate responses in appropriate times. But living through them to God's glory is the life of faith. For days are long, but years are short.
- ❖ "...To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion" (1 Pet. 1:1).
What a tremendous work of God – to move through the agony of exile and destruction to build a kingdom! I have little doubt, that had Judah been allowed to continue on its course, ignoring YHWH, killing his prophets, mutilating his Law, incorporating the pagan religions, and courting the international powers, Judah would have disappeared as a people group and a religious testimony to YHWH, the delivering and saving God. The Lord restored his people, leaving the dispersed to prepare the world for the coming gospel. The hand of God moved mightily in the midst of sin, disobedience and tragedy. What we endure (whether from undeserved mistreatment of others, disease, or consequences of our own sinful devices) God can and will use, if we allow him. God never turns a blind eye without regard for what he sets in motion. Praise God!
- ❖ "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10). You are not an accident, and neither is your life. God has some serious work for you in his kingdom. But rest assured, God has good works planned specifically for you! God has work for you in his kingdom. I am committed to finding out how to best serve him today. I want to play my role in having his kingdom come and will done on e

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