

# THE QUEENS MINISTRY

## Wednesday Night Vision Class – Summer Bible Series

### “The Exilic Experience”

July 14, 2021

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#### Going through the Exile – An in-depth study of the events and people

The aim of this lessons is to provide:

- A biblical context, and foundation of the Exile experience of the Israelites
- As well as the historical context
- The reasons the Exile took place
- Identify valuable lessons we can learn from it
- What happened before the event of the Exile; events preceding the Exile

The Exile in its significance and importance, is 2<sup>nd</sup> only to the escape of Egypt under the leadership of Moses

#### The Preceding Events Timeline

##### **Part 1: The Period of the Judges**

Some scholars consider Joshua to be the first judge of the tribes of Israel – his leadership takes place right after the transition of Moses – who had led the children of Israel out of Egypt, through the wilderness and to the doorstep of the Promise Land, during their 40-year journey.

Joshua assumes the leadership role and strategically enters the Promised Land with the children of Israel and proceeds to conquer most of the land and divides it up amongst the twelve tribes

After his death, the land or tribes, a loosely collective group, are ruled by several judges – such as, Deborah, Gideon, Samson; some good, some not so good. During the end of this period there arose a godly figure by the name of Samuel.

Samuel known as a prophet, priest and judge - is the last the judge before the Israelites move to another type of leadership - after Samuel the leadership type moves to the reign of kings or monarchs

The people began to ask Samuel for a king of their own - the reason they asked Samuel for a king is because they saw what everyone else in the surrounding area had, but what the people of Israel missed is **that they were not like everyone else!** Because they had a unique relationship with God- which separated them from everyone else – the were not expected to conform to their surrounding communities. They forgot that they had a king – God was their King! Yet God allows Samuel to anoint a king over the people

**Point to note - some of things we don't have - is because God is not treating us like everyone else!**

## **Part 2 – The Period of the Kings**

Approximately 400- 500 years before the Exile – Saul, David and Solomon – are appointed the first three kings of Israel

These three kings are grouped together because they served when Israel is a united nation -they are known as the Kings of the United Kingdom. They serve when all twelve tribes are united -the twelve tribes function as One Nation -

Following the death of Solomon - the last of the united kings - the kingdom divides into two nations - the Northern Kingdom and the Southern Kingdom

The Northern Kingdom retains the name of the United Kingdom - which is Israel – and consists of 10 of the twelve tribes. The Southern Kingdom becomes known as Judah with two of the remaining tribes joining together - Benjamin and Judah. (In later years the people of the south begin to call themselves Judahites – these Judahites then become known as Jews)

The Southern Kingdom was smaller but, contained the Temple and the Holy City of Jerusalem - something the Northern kingdom doesn't have

### **The Exile Events Timeline**

#### **Part 3 - The Start of the Exile**

**Around 722 BC** the Northern Kingdom is invaded by the Assyrians - Israel is conquered, enslaved and taken over by the people of Assyria. During their reign the Assyrians intermingle (marry) with the Israelites and the offspring of this mixing of people become known as the Samaritans

Even though the Assyrian conquers the Northern Kingdom - they never overtake the Southern Kingdom

The Southern Kingdom is spared - for now!

(Mostly because the kings of the south were not as rebellious and wicked as the northern kings had been – but this would not last, Judah too, falls for her sinful ways)

**Around 539 BC** - the nation of Assyria is conquered by the Babylonians

Once the Babylonians conquers the Assyrians and the former Northern Kingdom they later overtake the Southern Kingdom under the rule of Nebuchadnezzar – King of Babylon

This invasion was allowed by God because of the people sinful nature - to teach them a lesson about their faithless nature and allegiance to other gods

**Point to note: There are some benefits you have in your life when you stay in good terms or in a good relationship with God!**

Nebuchadnezzar - invades the Temple, rummages the city of Jerusalem and takes the best and brightest of Jerusalem royalty and upper citizens and takes them back to Babylon

The Babylonians did not intermingle - or marry the citizens of the Southern Kingdom (the poor and destitute were left in the city to tend to what was left of the land)

Several individuals that are significant from this time in Babylon are Daniel as well as Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who end up in Babylon to serve the king - which ended up being 70 years

#### **Part 4 - The Start of the Return**

After around 70 years - the Babylonians are later conquered by the Persians - under King Cyrus or Darius

The King of Persia - history has not fully pointed out if King Cyrus or King Darius were one or two separate persons

(Following the conquest of Persia - the Greeks eventually overtake the Persians and later the Romans would conquer the Greeks and rule of the Jewish people)

It is under the rule of King Cyrus, after around 70 years, that the Jewish people in Babylon are allowed to return home. Two men arise as leaders of this epic event – Ezra, a priest and Nehemiah, the King’s Cupbearer - who begin the journey – back to the Promise Land.

Not everyone makes the decision and commitment to return and those that do - they do not return to the same city they had left. Neither are the people that are returning the same - **they are changed!**

They have become people with Babylonian influence and discipline. They were no longer people who had the relationship with God as their fore parents and ancestors.

**Point to note - Similar to our current day - the Church will not be the same as it was in pre-pandemic days - nor will the people be! Change has taken place!**

**The biblical precedent for this event is the Exile. There is similarity and characteristics noted from the Exile Experience to what is seen today.**

My question posed to us today is: **Do we need an Ezra and a Nehemiah as we return from an exile of the Coronavirus – the Pandemic period, to set us on a right footing again with God?**

**We pray - Lord send a Revival!**

**Notes:**

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