

THE BIBLE

FROM BEGINNING TO END

SESSION FOUR CONSOLATION

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1. RECAP

As a result of Solomon's sin, the kingdom was divided.

The northern kingdom, Israel, quickly fell into a pattern of false worship and doing evil. In 722BC Israel was defeated by the Assyrians and the people went into exile.

The southern kingdom, Judah, held out longer, with some kings who brought the people back to faith in God, but eventually they were defeated by the Babylonians and taken into exile in 587BC.

During the time of the kingdom, God sent many prophets to warn the people of coming judgment if they did not repent. But they did not heed the warnings and as a result, they lost the land and with it, God's presence among them.

2. RULERS IN JUDEA

Babylon Empire (586 – 539BC)

Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar



Persian Empire (539-332BC)

Darius, Cyrus, Xerxes



Hellenistic Empire (332-63BC)

Alexander the Great



Roman Empire

Pompey

3. LIVING IN EXILE

i. Letter from Jeremiah

- build houses and settle
- pray for the city where you are

ii. Daniel

- being distinctive
- being faithful

iii. Esther

- using her status to save the Jewish people

iv. Psalm 137

- grieving for Jerusalem

4. RETURNING TO JERUSALEM

i. Ezra's return

- rebuilding the temple
- facing opposition

ii. Nehemiah's return

- rebuilding the city walls
- facing opposition
- renewing the covenant

5. PROPHECIES OF THE EXILE

i. Lament

Lamentations, Ezekiel 19

ii. Judgment

Joel, Ezekiel 5-11, 21-22, 25-32, Zechariah 9, 12

iii. Comfort

Isaiah 40-55

iv. Hope

Isaiah 56-66, Jeremiah 30-31, Ezekiel 37-48

6. THE DISAPPOINTMENT OF THE RETURN

i. The disappointing temple

ii. The disappointing priests

iii. The disappointing leaders

They are in the land but don't have autonomy.

They are much less numerous than in previous generations.

The restored temple is a shadow of the original.

They aren't enjoying God's blessings as in previous generations.

The reality does not match the promises.

7. THE PROMISES OF MORE TO COME

- i. A better land**
Isaiah 35

- ii. A better leader**
Ezekiel 34

- iii. A better temple**
Ezekiel 40-48, Haggai 1-2

- iv. A better covenant**
Jeremiah 30-31

- v. A better sacrifice**
Isaiah 53

- vi. A better victory**
Daniel 7-12, Zechariah 14

- vii. A better future**
Isaiah 61-66, Joel 3

8. SUMMARIES OF EACH BOOK

EZRA

Tells how the exiles were permitted to return to Jerusalem during the reign of King Cyrus of Persia. They rebuilt the temple, and those who had stayed in the land repented of marrying women from other nations.

NEHEMIAH

Returns to Jerusalem to supervise the rebuilding of the city walls. When it was complete, Ezra read the book of the Law and the people renewed the covenant with God and confessed their sins.

ESTHER

A Jewish woman is taken as the wife of a Persian king and is able to use her position to foil a plot to have all the Jewish exiles destroyed.

LAMENTATIONS

Probably written by Jeremiah, this is a prophetic lament for the city of Jerusalem after she has been laid waste by her enemies and a prayer to God to restore her fortunes.

EZEKIEL

Ezekiel prophecies in Babylon, about the exile, while there are still some Jews remaining in Jerusalem. He warns that God's judgment is coming and that Jerusalem will be destroyed, but that other nations will also suffer God's judgment. The final chapters of the book are a glorious vision of God's restoration of his people (the dry bones that will have life) and his city.

DANIEL

An exile in Babylon, Daniel is a model of how to be faithful to God in a foreign place. He interprets the dreams of the king and his life is twice saved miraculously, in the fiery furnace and the den of lions. Daniel is then given an apocalyptic vision of the end times, in which he sees one like a Son of Man, who will reign over all the earth.

JOEL

A prophesy of God's judgment and of Judah's restoration. Joel prophesies about a time when God's spirit will be poured out on all people.

HAGGAI

A prophesy about the rebuilding of the temple.

ZECHARIAH

A series of visions illustrating God's judgment. God's promise to restore Jerusalem, to cleanse the people from sin, and to bring judgment on her enemies.

MALACHI

Malachi's prophecy includes reassurances of God's love, warnings addressed to corrupt priests, and a promise that God will spare his people, as his treasured possession. It ends with a promise that the prophet Elijah will return to announce the coming day of the Lord.

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