

LESSON 1 - BACKGROUND FOR ISRAEL'S EXILE

DAY 1 - READ JEREMIAH 25:1-14

READING: Jeremiah 25:1-14; Luke 8:21; James 1:22; Leviticus 26:40-45; 1 John 1:9; Luke 24:46-47 [[Open NKJV](#)] [[Open NIV](#)]

1. According to verse 3, how long had Jeremiah been speaking the word of the Lord to the people of Judah? How did the people of Judah respond?

2. a. Using verses 7-11, summarize what was about to happen to the nation of Judah.

b. Luke 8:21 and James 1:22 address the main problem that God had with the nation of Judah.
How can you apply these two verses to your own life?

3. According to verse 12, how long was Judah going to be exiled in Babylon? What was going to be the fate of Babylon?

4. Leviticus 26:40-45, was written nearly 1,000 years prior to the Babylonian exile,
 - a. What comfort should the people of Judah receive from the Leviticus promise?

 - b. Using 1 John 1:9 and Luke 24:46-47, state how this comfort is available to you today as a New Testament Christian.

5. **Personal Question:** Has God ever given you a promise from His Word from which you have received comfort some time in your life? Explain the situation and promise.

DAY 2 - READ JEREMIAH 39:1-18

READING: Jeremiah 39:1-18 [[Open NKJV](#)] [[Open NIV](#)]

6. Who was the King of Judah and who was the King of Babylon, at the time Babylon conquered Jerusalem? (Judah's capital city)

7. What did the King of Babylon do to the King of Judah and his family? (v. 7)

8. a. How did the King of Babylon treat the prophet Jeremiah? (vs. 11-14)
- b. Even though faithful people often suffer mistreatment by others, why does verse 18 say Jeremiah was treated differently by King Nebuchadnezzar than King Zedekiah?
9. Summarize Jeremiah's prophecy recorded in verses 15-18.
10. **Personal Question:** God was about to act on the warning that he had given King Zedekiah and the nation of Judah. What warning do you receive from verse 16?

DAY 3 - READ JEREMIAH 29:10-14

READING: Jeremiah 29:10-14; 1 Corinthians 2:9; Hebrews 11:6 [[Open NKJV](#)] [[Open NIV](#)]

11. According to verse 11, what plans did God have for His people, Judah?
12. **Personal Question:** Using verse 11 and 1 Corinthians 2:9 and Hebrews 11:6, what plans does God have for you?
13. Summarize the promise made by God to Judah through the prophet Jeremiah in verses 11-14.
14. **Thought Question:** What was God's purpose in sending Judah into Babylonian exile for 70 years?

DAY 4 - READ 2 KINGS 25:1-21

READING: 2 Kings 25:1-21; 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 [[Open NKJV](#)] [[Open NIV](#)]

15. Describe the physical condition of Jerusalem after the invasion of Babylon.

16. What did the Babylonian King, Nebuchadnezzar, order to have done to the Chief Priest and his assistants?

17. **Personal Question:** If you compare your life to the condition of Jerusalem's wall, is there something in your life that needs rebuilding? Would you share that with your group? (Note: Use 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 to help with your answer.)

DAY 5 - READ EZRA 1:1-7

READING: Ezra 1:1-7; Ezra 7:6-12 [[Open NKJV](#)] [[Open NIV](#)]

(Note: By the end of the 70-year Babylonian exile, King Cyrus of Persia ruled over Babylon)

18. Why did King Cyrus allow Judah to return to their home?

19. Based on verses 2-4, what did King Cyrus believe about God?

20. a. According to verse 5, who was allowed to return to Jerusalem?

b. What do you learn about God from these verses?

c. **Personal Question:** From your previous answer, what difference should this make in your own life?

21. Using Ezra 7:6-12, how had Ezra prepared himself while living in Babylon to be useful for God and His purposes?

DAY 6 - READ DANIEL 9:1-19

READING: Daniel 9:1-19 [[Open NKJV](#)] [[Open NIV](#)]

22. What did Daniel confess on behalf of the nation of Judah in verses 4-6?
23. According to verse 7, why did God scatter Judah from Jerusalem?
24. **Thought Question:** According to verse 18, on what basis did Daniel approach God with his appeal?
25. **Personal Question:** When you pray to God, do you appeal to Him because of your righteousness or because of His great mercy? Explain your answer.
26. Share one main take away from this week's lesson.