

# EXILIC & POST-EXILIC PROPHETS OF THE BIBLE

Senior Adults & Friends Bible Study — Summit View Church of Christ  
Spring 2022-2023

## PART 6, SECTION 4 — DANIEL'S VISION OF A GREAT WAR, PART 1

### EZRA 2:1, 2:64, 2:68-70 — THE FIRST RETURN TO JERUSALEM (538-520 BC)

*Date:* 538-537 BC — Cyrus's decree permitting the Jews to return to their homeland was issued in 539 BC. It took time for the first Jews to organize and travel back to Israel. They appear to have begun arriving in 538 BC and finished in 537 BC.

2:1 — The Jews had been taken into exile by \_\_\_\_\_ king of Babylon. They now returned to Jerusalem and Judah.

Notice 2:64. Rounding up to the nearest thousand, the whole company of exiles (including slaves) who returned to Israel numbered about \_\_\_\_\_.

2:68 — Upon their arrival, some families immediately gave contributions toward the rebuilding of the \_\_\_\_\_.

#### *for group discussion...*

Do we have to have a church building in order to worship God together? If not, why do you think rebuilding the temple was so important to the Jews returning from exile that they immediately, upon their arrival in Jerusalem, began collecting funds and supplies for this project?

2:70 — Not all the returning Jews settled in Jerusalem. The priests, Levites, and others settled in their various \_\_\_\_\_.

### PSALM 126 — A PSALM (LIKELY) ABOUT THE RETURN FROM EXILE

*Date:* probably 538-537 BC, as the first Jews returned from Babylonian exile to the homeland of Israel

- What is the primary emotion in this psalm? Why might this emotion have fit the first return of Jewish exiles to Jerusalem and the Israelite homeland?

## DANIEL 10 — VISION OF A GREAT WAR, Part 1

*Date:* 537 BC — 10:1, "the third year of Cyrus king of Persia" — Chronologically, this vision probably comes last in all of our stories of Daniel, about 2 years after chapters 5 and 9 and likely a year or two after chapter 6.

- *The first month* — The first month was a month of celebration for Jews. The Passover was held on the 14th day, and the Festival of Unleavened Bread lasted from the 15th day to the 21st day (Exodus 12:1-20). In spite of the festive season, Daniel, distraught because of the revelation he received, abstains from the usual festive foods (10:1-3).

### Spiritual Warfare

Daniel encounters or hears about 4 supernatural beings:

- the "man dressed in linen" (10:5 and throughout)
  - Compare his appearance in 10:5-6 with the appearance of Jesus in Revelation 1:13-15. Could this be a pre-incarnation vision of Jesus? Is there any other explanation for the similarity?
- the "prince of the Persian kingdom" (10:13)
  - What did he do?
- Michael, "one of the chief princes"/"your prince" (10:13, 10:21)
  - What does Michael do according to Daniel 12:1?
  - What do we know about Michael from Jude 9?
  - What do we learn about Michael from Revelation 12:7?
- the "prince of Greece" (10:20)
  - What will he do?
- Daniel will encounter 2 more angelic beings in 12:5-6.

### *ABOUT SPIRITUAL POWERS*

Ephesians 6:10-12 — Our struggle is not really against flesh and blood. Who is it against?

Isaiah 24:21-22 — This passage foretells God's destruction of the earth. At that time, whom will the Lord punish?

- Notice the similar linking of a king and a heavenly "prince" in Daniel 10:13.

### *ABOUT DEMONS / WICKED ANGELS*

Jude 6 — How did these angels sin?

...What will their punishment be?

2 Peter 2:4 — Can angels sin?

...What is their punishment?

Matthew 25:41 — For whom was hell prepared?

Romans 8:38-39 — How can angels or demons separate us from God's love?

## *THE EFFECTS OF THIS SUPERNATURAL ENCOUNTER ON DANIEL*

10:2-3 — How did Daniel initially react to this vision?

10:7 — How did Daniel's companions react, even though they couldn't see the "man in linen"?

What physical effects did this supernatural encounter have on Daniel?

- 10:8-9 —
- 10:10-11 —
- 10:15-17 —
- 10:18-19 —

### **Theology**

- For 3 weeks, it must have felt to Daniel like God had not heard his prayer (10:12). Yet the "man in linen" reveals that God had heard it from the beginning. How should this story affect our prayers?
- Consider how awesome our God is. He rules over human beings and also over angelic/demonic beings, and he will hold both accountable for their deeds.
  - Daniel 4:35 — "He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth."
- Consider the grandeur of God as revealed by how a mere encounter with the supernatural realm affects human beings...
  - Daniel's reaction here in chapter 10
  - Isaiah, a righteous man, was struck by his own guilt when he glimpsed God in a vision — Isaiah 6:5-7
  - John fell down as if dead when he saw Jesus in his exalted form — Revelation 1:17
  - Angels appearing to human beings often say, "Do not be afraid," because the natural first reaction to an encounter with them in their glory is fear. — Daniel 10:12; Matthew 28:5; Luke 1:13, 1:30, 2:10

### **Application**

- 1) Spiritual warfare is real! Yet the God who rules over every power loves us and has chosen us to be his people. Do not fear, but pray.
- 2) There are spiritual powers in the universe beyond what we can normally perceive. In eternal life, we will share in the heavenly glory in which these powers now exist. With this in mind, consider the glory God's people are destined for, and be encouraged. Consider the encouraging message of these texts:
  - Romans 8:17-21
  - 2 Corinthians 4:16-18
  - Daniel 12:2-3
  - Philippians 3:20-21