

EXILIC & POST-EXILIC PROPHETS OF THE BIBLE

Senior Adults & Friends Bible Study — Summit View Church of Christ
Summer 2022

PART ONE — HISTORICAL CONTEXT: Teetering on the Brink of Destruction

722 BC

2 Kings 17 — Why God Sent Israel into Exile

- Shalmaneser king of Assyria laid siege against (north) Israel's capital, Samaria for _____ years. When he captured it, what did he do with the Israelites he now controlled?

17:7-12 — List 4 or 5 sins of Israel for which God finally punished the nation:

17:13 — Through all his _____ and _____, the Lord had warned the people of Israel to turn from their evil ways.

17:14-15 — How did the people respond to the Lord's warnings?

17:16-17 — The Israelites had made two idols in the shape of _____. They had made an _____ pole (some Bibles don't say "pole"). They bowed down to the _____ host. They worshiped _____. They sacrificed their _____ and _____ in the fire. They practiced _____ and sought _____ and sold themselves to do _____ in the eyes of the Lord.

17:18 — What did the Lord finally do to Israel?

17:18-19 — How well did Judah obey God, compared with Israel?

17:21-23 — THREE STAGES OF (NORTH) ISRAEL'S HISTORY:

- *about 930 BC* — God had torn Israel away from the house of David. _____ became king of (north) Israel. (David's grandson Rehoboam ruled over Judah.)
- This king caused Israel to commit a great sin (the worship of the two calf idols). The Israelites did not turn away from his sins.
- *722 BC* — The Lord removed the Israelites from his presence, as he had warned through the _____. The people of Israel were sent into exile in _____.

17:24-33 — The king of Assyria settled other peoples in Israel's land. How faithfully did they worship God?

17:34-41 — This is an example of syncretism, the practice of worshiping multiple gods (or following multiple religions) at the same time. The people living in Israel did not worship God (17:34)—but even when they did, they continued to serve their idols (17:41)!

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June-October 609 BC

2 Kings 23:25-37 — Warning Shot: Egypt Takes Control of Judah

- Was Josiah, king of Judah, a godly or an ungodly king?
- But the Lord was still angry because of all the evil Josiah's grandfather _____ had done. The Lord said, "I will _____ Judah also from my presence as I removed _____, and I will reject _____, the city I chose, and this _____, about which I said, 'My Name shall be there.'"
- King Josiah met Pharaoh _____ king of Egypt in battle and was killed in Megiddo. *(This pharaoh ruled Egypt 610-595 BC.)*

Behind the scenes — *"Pharaoh Necho intended to help Ashur-Uballit II, the last Assyrian king, in his struggle against the rising power of Babylon under Nabopolassar. The Assyrian capital, Nineveh, had already fallen to the Babylonians and Medes in 612 (see the book of Nahum). The remaining Assyrian forces had regrouped at Harran, but in 609 they were forced west of the Euphrates. It appears to be at this time that the Egyptians under Necho were coming to the Assyrians' aid... Perhaps Josiah opposed the passage of Necho's army through the pass at Megiddo (2Ch 35:20-24) because he feared that the growth of either Egyptian or Assyrian power would have adverse results for the continued independence of Judah."* NIV Study Bible page 640, notes on 2 Kings 23:29

More on the fall of the Assyrian Empire & the rise of Babylon — *The Babylonians and their allies conquered the Assyrians with several successive victories in battle:*

- 614 BC — the Medes conquered the major Assyrian city Asshur
- 612 BC — the Babylonians conquered Nineveh, the Assyrian capital; Assyria moved its capital to Harran
- 610/609 BC — the Babylonians & Medes conquered Harran; Assyria moved its capital to Carchemish
- 609 BC — Egypt & Assyria joined forces to retake Harran, but were defeated (apparently at or near Carchemish), eliminating the last Assyrian threat against Babylon
- 605 BC — crown prince Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon defeated the Egyptians at Carcemish
- 601 BC — Nebuchadnezzar (now king) again defeated Egyptian forces; in 605 BC Babylon also took control of Judah

source: NIV Archaeological Study Bible pages 569, 571

Jeremiah 13:1-11 — Prophecy about a Linen Belt (maybe between 609 & 605 BC)

In this parable-in-action, what did God foretell he would do to Judah and Jerusalem? Why?

Jeremiah 25:1-14 — Prophecy of 70 Years of Exile (605 BC)

For what sins would God send his people into exile in Babylon?

Which Babylonian king would God use for this purpose? _____

How long would this exile last? _____ years