

EXILIC & POST-EXILIC PROPHETS OF THE BIBLE

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

PART FIVE, SECTION 1

Initial Aftermath of the Exile of 586 BC

PSALM 137 — The Horrific Experience of Exile

Date: during/after 586 BC

137:1 — The writer was apparently part of a group of Jews taken by force into exile “by the rivers of Babylon”. Why did he and his companions weep?

137:2-4 — What act of cruelty from the Babylonian captors does the writer record here? What would have made their demand so cruel?

137:5-6 — The writer desperately longs to never forget _____.

137:7 — What evil had the Edomites (descendants of Jacob’s brother Esau, living to the south of Israel/Judah) done against Jerusalem and its people when the city fell?

for group discussion: What should Christians make of verse 9? Is it ever appropriate for people who obey Jesus’ command to love our enemies (Matthew 5:44) to pray like this? Why and in what circumstances, or why not?

EZEKIEL 37:1-14 — Vision of the Valley of Dry Bones

Date: probably between 585 and 573 BC

37:1-10 — What happened in this vision?

37:11 — This vision addresses this complaint of the Israelites/Jews: “Our _____ are dried up and our _____ is gone; we are _____.”

37:12-14 — Interpreting the vision of the dry bones, God promises his people...

- verse 12: I am going to open your _____ and bring up you from them; I will bring you back to the land of _____.
- verse 13: I will open your _____ and bring you up from them.
- verse 14: I will put my _____ (*in Hebrew, this word also means “breath”*) in you and you will _____, and I will settle you in your own _____. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken...

JEREMIAH 52:28-30 — Record of Three Jewish Exiles to Babylon

Date: 581 BC

This passage records three occasions when Babylon's King Nebuchadnezzar had Jews exiled from their homeland to Babylonia:

- in 597 BC, Nebuchadnezzar's seventh year: _____ Jews*
- in 586 BC, Nebuchadnezzar's eighteenth year: _____ people from Jerusalem
- in 581 BC, Nebuchadnezzar's twenty-third year: _____ Jews
- TOTAL: _____ people in all

* Compare this first number to the numbers given in 2 Kings 24:14-16. How do they compare? The difference may indicate that Jeremiah's account only represents the men taken into exile.

OBADIAH — Prophecy Against Edom

Date: maybe between 586 and 533 BC — *The date of Obadiah is uncertain. Verses 11-14 refer to an invasion of Jerusalem in which foreigners entered Jerusalem, took away its wealth, and cast lots for the city, after which Edomites slaughtered and captured fugitive Jews (probably as they fled from Jerusalem). Without complete certainty, most scholars interpret these verses as describing the fall of Jerusalem in 586 BC and date Obadiah to sometime after that (in support of this theory, notice the similarity between Obadiah 11-14 and Psalm 137:7, which was written about the Jewish exiles after the 586 BC fall of Jerusalem). According to the Nabonidus Chronicle from ancient Babylon, Edom was conquered by the Babylonians in 553 BC. Obadiah, then, was probably written between 586 and 553 BC.*

1 — Obadiah's "vision" brings a message from the Lord about the nation of _____. What judgment is God preparing to send against this nation?

2-4 — For what sin will God "make [them] small among the nations"?

List the sins of Edom mentioned in these verses:

- verse 10 — _____ against his brother Jacob (Israel/Judah)
- verse 11 — standing _____ while strangers carried off his wealth and foreigners entered his _____ and cast lots for _____—making the watcher like one of those committing these atrocities
- verse 12 — three things the Edomites did in the day of Judah's misfortune, destruction, and trouble: _____, _____, and _____

13-14 — List a few of the 5 atrocities mentioned here, which the Edomites committed against the Jews:

15-18 — What will happen to Edom (also called Esau)?

17-21 — What will God do for the Jews (called Jacob, Joseph, people from the Negev, etc.)?