

Hope Amidst Destruction

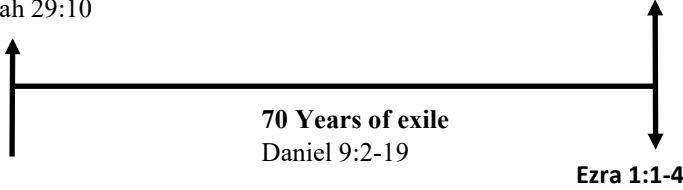
July 14, 2024 | *Ezra 1:1-4*

Unfaithfulness and Destruction

2 Chronicles 36:14-21, Jeremiah 25:11-12, and Jeremiah 29:10

Hope and The Proclamation of Cyrus

2 Chronicles 36:22-24



Unfaithfulness and Destruction

2 Chronicles 36:14–21

- Unfaithfulness of the priests and the people (v14)
- Messengers sent, messengers rejected (v15-16)
- The destruction of the temple and the wall (v19)¹
- This occurred to fulfill the prophecy of Jeremiah: The 70 year exile. (v21)
- Hope despite destruction (22-24)
- See the Jeremiah (additional) verses.



Hope and The Proclamation of Cyrus

2 Chronicles 36:22-24 and **Ezra 1:1-4**

- God **anointed** Cyrus to fulfill the Jeremiah prophecies. (v1)
- God “**stirred** / made awake” the heart of Cyrus (v1).
- Where 2 Chronicles ends, Ezra begins. (v1-3)
- The call for God’s people to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple. (v3)
- The community should help the **survivors** to accomplish God’s work. (V4)

The 70 Year Exile

- **Jeremiah 25:11-12:** This verse speaks of the 70 year exile and reign of the Babylonian King.
- **Jeremiah 29:10:** This verse speaks of the return of God’s people to Jerusalem.

Daniel the Prophet

- **Daniel 1:1-2:** Daniel was an exile.
- **Daniel 5:30-31:** The Fall of Babylon which marks the fulfillment of prophecy.
- **Daniel 9:2-19:** Daniel realizes the 70 year prophecy of Jeremiah & prays for restoration.
- **Daniel 6:28:** Daniel lived under the rule of **Cyrus** the Persian.

Cyrus, The Persian King

- **Isaiah 44:28:** This speaks of Cyrus being a shepherd, shall fulfill God’s purpose and build the Temple.
- **Isaiah 45:1:** Cyrus was anointed by God (a Christ-like pre-figuration). Read all of Isaiah 45:1-13 to see Cyrus in the Word.

Ontario Community Church: **Encouraging, Equipping and Engaging lives for Christ.**

John 6:47 (ESV) “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever **believes** has eternal life”

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What can we learn from all of this?

- **Our God is faithful.** God keeps all of his promises. From 70-year exiles and return, to Cyrus playing a significant part in the rebuilding of the temple.
- **Respond to God's Call:** Despite decline of culture and the darkness of sin, God calls for us to listen and respond to him. Be ready. Listen attentively.
- **God can use anyone:** God can use anyone for his purpose, from the Christian to the neighbor, to the stranger. God can work in anyone as he sees fit.
- **Scripture is connected.** From 2 Chronicles, to the prophecies of Isaiah and Jeremiah, and even the prophet Daniel, context and connection provide clarity for our lives.
- **Trust in God:** Let us trust in the God who keeps his promises, who calls all to him and go from darkness to light.

How can we apply this to our lives today?

- **Reflect on how God has worked in your life.** As you pray, be mindful of how God answers prayers / how God speaks to you. Share in your spiritual walk with Christ.
- **Respond to God's Call for your life:** Consider your life.
 - Are you responding to God's call for your life?
 - Have you received the free gift of salvation?
 - Have you been baptized?
 - Have you been ignoring God's specific plan / purpose for your life?
 - Pray to God for clarity, direction and courage for you to trust and follow the Lord.

¹ 2 Chronicles 36:19 (ESV): "And they [*burned the house of God*] and [*broke down the wall of Jerusalem*] and burned all its palaces with fire and destroyed all its precious vessels."

Both the **Temple** and the **Wall** were destroyed. God saw to it that these were rebuilt.

The Book of Ezra is about the rebuilding the Temple, the **House of God**.

The Book of Nehemiah is about the rebuilding of the **wall of Jerusalem**.

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