

Exile

“By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion... How shall we sing the Lord’s song in a foreign land? If I forget you, O Jerusalem, let my right hand whither!” Psalm 137:1, 4-5

The Curse of Exile

The children of Israel have been separated into two kingdoms of Israel and Judah, which was once known as Canaan, the Promised Land, the land God had promised to Abraham’s descendants—the children of Israel. The people were seeking salvation in earthly rulers, earthly judges, and earthly kings, all of whom can do nothing without the Lord. They were not obeying the laws of Moses, they were worshiping other gods, and were keeping their blessings to themselves.

- Daniel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel were called by God to be prophets to the people. They warned the kings and the people that if they continued to worship other gods, ignore the needs of the poor, and take customs of different nations, they would be weak and fall. The prophets reminded the people that the minute they turned back to God, God would not abandon them. God made a covenant that promised the people life and hope.
- Out of greediness and power, the king of Assyria invaded Israel. He took many of God’s people away from their land to Assyria. He brought many of his own people to live in Israel where they worshiped many other idols. Israel, the Northern Kingdom, the land that was given to the ten tribes under Joshua’s time, was gone.
- After the fall of the Northern Kingdom, the powerful Babylonian empire faced Judah. The Babylonians started to take over Judah and started with destroying Jerusalem. They destroyed the temple, the most important place for the people of Judah. The people of Judah were weak and captured and sent into exile in Babylon. Due to their unfaithfulness and idolizing other gods, God allowed them to undergo the curse of the exile at the hands of the Babylonians.
- The prophet Jeremiah was a witness to the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple. He prophesied that the exile will last 70 years. He wrote to the exiles in Babylon, encouraging them with a prophecy of restoration.

There will be a time when God will make a new covenant with his people. The new covenant will be written “upon their hearts” enabling righteousness and fidelity to the Lord. All will “know” the Lord because the Lord will forgive their sins.

Living our Faith Together

Family Fun: Choose an activity that brings us closer to God.

Praying Hand Connect the dot- [Click Here](#)

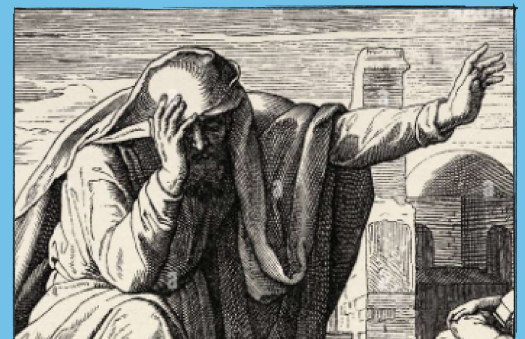
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The Curse of Exile

Baby Blue: Judah singing the Blues in Babylon



Did You Know

Prophet Jeremiah wrote:

“When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you, says God, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. They will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me with all your heart, I will be found by you, says God, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations...and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.” Jer 29:10-14

Questions

What were the names of the two kingdoms?

What did the prophets warn the king and the people?

What is a covenant?

Why were the people of Judah sent into exile?

How long does the prophet Jeremiah say that the exile will last?

What could we do not to stray from God and to remain faithful?

When can you pray to God?

Family Prayer

Dear Lord,
Thank You for listening to me when I talk to You. I love how open and caring You are. You always listen to every prayer I say and think. Help me learn that talking with You is a very important thing to do so I can have a close relationship with You.

Amen

Ask Fr. Sean

After reading The Curse of Exile, do you have a question to ask Fr. Sean?

Email Fr. Sean at dbq005@dbqarch.org