

## **Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel**

### **Lamentations**

- The Hebrew title of the book is *'ekah* ("How . . . !"), the first word not only in 1:1 but also in 2:1; 4:1.
- Lamentations is anonymous, although ancient Jewish and early Christian traditions ascribe it to Jeremiah.
- Jeremiah was an eyewitness to the divine judgment on Jerusalem in 586 B.C.

### **Purposes For Lamentations**

- To express grief over the fall of Jerusalem because of her sin
- To remind the readers that "sin, in spite of all its allurements and excitement, carries with it heavy weights of sorrow, grief, misery, barrenness, and pain
- God's faithfulness and compassion never fail
- In God there is always "hope" even in the midst of dire circumstances--3:19-30

### **The Book Of Ezekiel**

- The Prophet Ezekiel is the author of the Book (Ez. 1:3). He was a contemporary of both Jeremiah and Daniel.
- The Book of Ezekiel was likely written between 593 and 565 B.C. during the Babylonian captivity of the Jews.
- Ezekiel was taken captive to Babylon in 597 B.C.
- Used symbolic actions and visions to communicate his message

### **Purposes For the Book of Ezekiel**

- God holds individual generations responsible for their sin
- Even in defeat and despair God's people need to affirm God's sovereignty
- God's Word never fails
- God is present and can be worshiped anywhere
- The people of Israel will be reborn
- God will return again to dwell with His people

### **Key Themes in Ezekiel**

- The "glory of the Lord" (16x)
- "they shall know" that I, the LORD, have spoken (80x)
- **My holy name I will make known** among my people Israel; and I will **not let my holy name be profaned--39:7** (12x)

### **"Daniel In The Critics Den"**

- Critics Believe Daniel is too accurate a Book of history to have been written by Daniel during his time
- Josephus writing in the early part of the first century believed Daniel to be accurate.
- "From the days of Artaxerxes to our own times every event has indeed been recorded...every Jew, from the day of his birth, to consider these Scriptures as the teaching of God, and to abide by them, and if need be, cheerfully to lay down his life in their behalf"--Halley's Bible Handbook

**It is interesting as we sit on the cusp of World History that the wars that we are waging today are not wars fought on the grounds of ideology, economics, or land but are wars of religious fervor.**

### **ISRAEL' S CAPTIVITY INTO BABYLON:**

- Israel' s seeks foreign gods---Deut. 29:14-28;31:14-21
- Hezekiah takes pride for god' s victory over the Assyrians---Is. 36-37
- Manassah' s sins against Jerusalem II kings 21
- Prophecy concerning Daniel and his three friends----Is. 39:6-8

### **A Chronology Of The Times**

- 639** - Josiah institutes revival in the land of Judah(2 Kings 23)
- 627** - Jeremiah called of God. Judah under tribute to Assyria
- 612** - Nineveh capital of Assyria falls
- 609** - King Josiah killed at Megiddo by Neco of Egypt(2 Kings 23:29-30)

**609** -Jehoahaz ruled Judah for 3 months rebelled against Neco deported to Egypt in chains(2 Kings 23:32-33; Jer 22:10)

**609-598** - Jehoiakim reigned over Judah 11years as Egyptian subject

**605** - Nabopolassar sends Nebuchadnezzar to stomp on the Egyptians. On the way back from a massive victory, they attack Judah which had aligned itself with Egypt. First deportation takes place Daniel and friends taken(2 Kings 24)

**597** - Nebuchadnezzar attacks Judah; 2nd deportation is very extensive (2Kgs 24:8-16). King Jehoiakim dies. Jehoiachin reigns 3 months but is brought captive to Babylon and kept for 37 years. Ezekiel is also brought to Babylon at this time.

**586** - Nebuchadnezzar occupied Jerusalem because Zedekiah (11 yrs) allies with Egypt. Temple is destroyed; 3rd deportation takes place. All the rest go to Babylon(2Kgs 25:1-12)

### **Begins the 70 year Servitude of Israel**

"10 For thus says the LORD: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place.  
11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."

Jer 29:10-11

### **The Times of the Gentiles began with Babylon and Nebuchadnezzar**

- Nebuchadnezzar was chosen by God (Jer. 27:5-7)
- "5 'I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are on the ground, by My great power and by My outstretched arm, and have given it to whom it seemed proper to Me. 6 **And now I have given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar** the king of Babylon, My servant; and the beasts of the field I have also given him to serve him. 7 So all nations shall serve him and his son and his son's son, until the time of his land comes; and then many nations and great kings shall make him serve them."

### **"....I have given..."**

- **Nebuchadnezzar is a divinely chosen instrument of God**
- **God is in control of history, and chooses his vessels for government**
- **Rom. 13**
- **Jesus to Pilate: 19:11**
- **Does God order events? If so how does free will play in to this?**

### **The Times of the Gentiles started with the fall of the Independent Kingdom**

- Israel and it's city Jerusalem were promised that they would have a king sit on the throne of David forever and ever. (2 Sam. 7:8-16; ps 89:3-4,35-37; Luke 1:32-33)
- It was the only time in Israel's history that the Jews had been independent in their land that God had given them and Jerusalem as their God given capital.

### **"Times of the Gentiles"**

- The phrase, "times of the gentiles" is not used in the book of Daniel, but is mentioned by Jesus in Luke 21:24
- Luke 21:24  
"And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the **times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.**"

When Nebuchadnezzar began the period known as the "Times of the Gentiles". No king from the line of David has ruled over Israel since Babylonian captivity. (Lk 21:24; Jer 25:9; Dan 2:21)

### **Problem In The Royal Line Of David**

- God pronounces a blood curse on the royal line through Jehoiakim to Jehoiachin in Jeremiah (22:28-30;36)
- Jeremiah writes a scroll containing the judgments of God towards Israel
- Jehoiakim burns the scroll bringing a curse on the royal blood line
- Problem is God made an everlasting covenant with David and his Royal line

### **Solution: Is 7:14 and Virgin birth**

- **Two genealogies:**
- **Matthew:** as a Levite, focuses on the Kingship of Jesus; he traces the legal line from Abraham through David, then Solomon and the royal line to Joseph, the legal father of Jesus.
- **Luke:** as a physician focuses on the humanity of Jesus and the blood line from Adam through David, then through Nathan (another son of David) to Mary the mother of Jesus.

**Hebrew Names:**

- Daniel = “God is my judge”
- Hananiah = “beloved of the Lord”
- Mishel= “who is as God”
- Azariah = “the Lord is my help

**Babylonian Names:**

- Beltashazzar: “prince of bel”
- Shadrach: “illuminated by the sun god”
- Mishech: “who is like the moon god”
- Abednego: “servant of nego, a shining fire”

- By changing their names the Babylonians were hoping to blot out the memory of the children of their God.
- Names mean a lot to the middle eastern culture.
- These children were born and raised under the reformations of Josiah and their traditions would not be erased from their minds
- Indoctrination through submission

**DANIEL IS A MAN  
DEDICATED TO GOD, IN THE  
MIDST OF A CULTURE THAT  
IS AGAINST GOD, YET  
DANIEL IS USED FOR THE  
CORRECTION OF THAT  
GODLESS CULTURE!**



## **The Plain of Dura**



- This statue teaches us that the Times of the Gentiles will be characterized by idolatry and the deification of man.
- The image represents man, but man will have his ultimate expression in the man of sin---2 Thess. 2
- Laodicea the last church in the book of Revelation is a compound word: "Laos" = people and "dike" = rights or put together:  
People's rights

**"....our God whom we serve is able to deliver us....But if not let it be known to you..."**

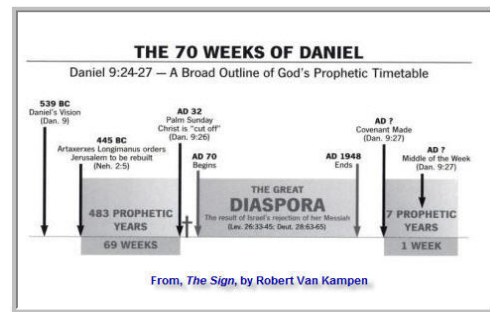
- Job 13:15
- "Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.
- Even so, I will defend my own ways before Him."
- Acts 4:19
- John 6:66-69

**The three Hebrews have a clear grasp of God's omnipotence (our god whom we serve is able), and his sovereignty (he will deliver us...but if not); they are an example of both faith and submission.**

## **We Need More Of This In Our Lives Today:**

- A faith that confirms the reality of God in our heart
- A submission to his will in all things
- A humility that recognizes all goodness comes from God
- A love of His ways and of Him so deep that all else is a shadow.
- These men recognized that God's will might be different than their desires

## **Daniel's Seventy Week Prophecy In Daniel 9**



## **Week**

- Hebrew word "Shubim" meaning 7 year period similar to our word decade which is a 10 year period. So the word week is week of years. (See Gen. 29:27)
- "Shubua" is the word for a 7 day period

## **Six Things Listed Are Yet To Be Fulfilled From Daniel 9**

- To finish transgression
- To put an end to sin
- To atone for wickedness
- To bring everlasting righteousness
- To seal up vision and prophecy
- To anoint the most holy
- Focus of prophecy is on "Your people and Your holy city" Dan 9:24, is not about the Gentile world.