

A Study of the Prophets

O.T. Survey Lesson 168--Introduction to the Exilic Period

Introduction: The historical period between the Babylonian invasion of Jerusalem and the return of the Israelites from captivity is often called the exilic period. Ezekiel and Daniel lived and prophesied during this seventy-year period. In this lesson we review some of the historical facts that serve as a backdrop of their prophecies.

Lesson aim: To become more familiar with the history of the times during which Ezekiel and Daniel lived.

Historical setting of the exile--2 Kg. 24-25

1. Previously, we studied about the captivity of Israel. What king was used by God to take the Israelites into exile? (2 Kg. 17:6) Where were they settled?
2. Now, many years later we see the beginning of the captivity of Judah (606 b.c.). Read 2 Kg. 23:36-24:1 and Daniel 1:1-7 In whose reign did the period of the captivity begin? In what year of his reign? What Babylonian king was responsible for the exile of the people of Judah? Who was among the first captives taken to Babylon? (Dan. 1:1) What prophecy had God made to Hezekiah many years before? (2 Kg. 20:17-18)
3. Where did Daniel live during the period of the exile? What was his occupation during this period? For how long did Daniel serve in this capacity? (Dan. 1:21)
4. During whose reign did the Babylonians once again return to take captives to Babylon (598 b.c.)? (2 Kg. 24:8-16) What happened to Jehoiachin and his court officials? This was in what year of King Nebuchadnezzar? (v. 12) What else was taken to Babylon? Who else?

5. Read Ezekiel 1:2-3. God began to reveal messages to Ezekiel when? Where did Ezekiel live at the time? Of what occupation was he? What is the latest revealed date of Ezekiel's prophecies? (Eze. 29:17) At least how long did he prophesy?
6. Is there any evidence that Ezekiel and Daniel might have known about one another? (Eze. 14:12-14)
7. Nebuchadnezzar led his armies to Jerusalem a third time (586 b.c.) in whose reign? (2 Kg. 25:1-10) What happened to the city this time? What happened to the people who survived the battle? (v. 11-12)
8. What did Jeremiah, writing to the captives from Jerusalem, urge the people to do during the period of exile? (Jer. 29:1-14) For how long did he reveal the Israelites would be in captivity?
9. We are about to study the message of both Ezekiel and Daniel. Do you have any previous knowledge as to whom they primarily spoke and what the purpose of their messages might have been? Scan the books for clues and discuss this in class.