

HARDLY KNOWN BIBLE EVENTS II: ISRAEL'S CAPTIVITY

A STUDY IN ISRAEL'S RISE, DIVISION, FALL, CAPTIVITY & RETURN

"But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.

~ 2 Chronicles 36:16

1. Introduction

- a. Israel's captivity (exile) is oft overlooked but important to understanding the NT
- b. Israel's prophecies and fulfillment must be read in the light of exile and return
- c. It is not the first time for Israel to reject God, fall, be removed among Gentiles
- d. Israel has been "not God's people" before, and there is hope that remains
- e. Israel's past is a shadow of what will happen – Col 2:17, Micah 7:14

2. Prophets of the Exile

- a. God sent prophets to warn them of their fall / punishment (as always)
- b. Pre-Israel Exile = **Isaiah**, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum
 - i. Some sent to Gentiles (Jonah) faith among Gentiles not Israel - Luke 7:1-9
 - ii. "this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel" – Acts 2:16
- c. Pre-Judah Exile = **Jeremiah**, Habakkuk, Zephaniah → Jerusalem fallen, lament
 - i. Before their fall you find the new covenant in Jer 31, likewise in Matt 26:28
- d. Exile prophets = **Ezekiel, Daniel** → Among Gentiles, return to the land, kingdom
 - i. Their captivity was God sent, but they endured to the end – Mark 13:13
 - ii. They need of patience while in bonds out of the city – Heb 10:32-35, 13:14
- e. Post-exile = Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi → Future judgment/kingdom
 - i. Malachi foretells the coming of John the Baptist, Zechariah the crucifixion

3. Israel Fallen

- a. Israel is fallen today (politically and spiritually) Romans 11:11,12
- b. Is this God's final and ultimate rejection of Israel? No, it happened before Ro 11:25-26
- c. Their captivity (exile) was prophesied - Lev 26:26+ (see also Lev 26:40 and 1Jo 1:9)
- d. God sent prophets, they were killed and God's wrath revealed - 2 Chron 36:15-16
- e. Stephen not the first martyr, but like the prophets of Israel – 2Ch 24:19, Matt 23:35
- f. Jesus spoke of the "time of the Gentiles" – Luke 21:20-24 - which happened before

4. Not God's People, but..

- a. Israel would become "not my people" acc. to Hosea 1:6-9
- b. Where it was said, "not my people" (Israel) they will be gathered with Judah Hos 1:11
- c. Peter speaks about a people who were not a people - 1 Peter 2:9-10
- d. There remains a hope for Israel – Rom 11:29
- e. What happened before will happen again, because God keeps his promises – Heb 11:40, 12:28, 13:14