

## Kings and Kingdoms: An Example for Exiles

### **God’s Instructions for the Israelite Exiles**

- Should we revolt against the King and Kingdom of Babylon?
- Should we compromise with the King and Kingdom of Babylon?
- Or is there a third option?

#### **Jeremiah 29:1 - 7**

1 These are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders of the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

2 This was after King Jeconiah and the queen mother, the eunuchs, the officials of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftsmen, and the metal workers had departed from Jerusalem.

3 The letter was sent by the hand of Elasah the son of Shaphan and Gemariah the son of Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to Babylon to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. It said:

4 “Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon:

5 Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce.

6 Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease.

7 But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

### **Layout and Languages of the Book**

- **Chapters 1 – 6** are largely narrative – events in the courts of earthly kings and kingdoms
  - **Chapters 7 – 12** are largely visions – the working of the true king and his kingdom
- **Chapters 1, and 8 – 12** are written in Hebrew
  - **Chapters 2 – 7** are written in Aramaic

### **Chronology**

- **Verse 1** – “In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah” – 605 BC
- **Verse 21** – “Daniel was there (Babylon) until the first year of King Cyrus” – 539 BC

### **How shall we sing the LORD's song in a foreign land?**

#### **Psalm 137:1 – 4**

1 By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion.

2 On the willows there we hung up our lyres.

3 For there our captors required of us songs, and our tormentors, mirth, saying, “Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”

4 How shall we sing the LORD's song in a foreign land?



### World History – Shaped by Divine Providence

- **Verse 1** – the secular version of history recording the actions of men
- **Verse 2** – the spiritual explanation showing the working of God

### The City of Babylon and the Land of Shinar

#### **Genesis 11:1 – 9**

**1** Now the whole earth had one language and the same words.

**2** And as people migrated from the east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there.

**3** And they said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.” And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar.

**4** Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth.”

**5** And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built.

**6** And the LORD said, “Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them.

**7** Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech.”

**8** So the LORD dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city.

**9** Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth. And from there the LORD dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

### The Battle of Carchemish



#### **Jeremiah 46:1 – 2**

**1** The word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah the prophet concerning the nations.

**2** About Egypt. Concerning the army of Pharaoh Neco, king of Egypt, which was by the river Euphrates at Carchemish and which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon defeated in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah

#### **Isaiah 39:5 - 7**

**5** Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, “Hear the word of the LORD of hosts:

**6** Behold, the days are coming, when all that is in your house, and that which your fathers have stored up till this day, shall be carried to Babylon. Nothing shall be left, says the LORD.

**7** And some of your own sons, who will come from you, whom you will father, shall be taken away, and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.”



## Kings and Kingdoms: An Example for Exiles

### The Hanging Gardens of Babylon



- One of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World
- Constructed alongside the grand palace known as “The Marvel of Mankind,” by Nebuchadnezzar.
- Built for his Median wife, Queen Amytis, because she missed her homeland's green hills and valleys.

### What’s in a Name?

- The name Daniel (God is my judge)
  - Was changed to Belteshazzar (Bel protect the king).
- The name Hannaniah (Yahweh is gracious)
  - Was changed to Shadrach (under the command of Aku, the moon god).
- The name Mishael (Who is as God?)
  - Was changed to Meshach (Who is like Aku?).
- The name Azariah (Yahweh is my help)
  - Was changed to Abed-Nego (Servant of Nebo, the shining one).
- The founder of Babylon was Nabopolassar.
  - He was the father of Nebuchadnezzar (Nabu protect my son)
  - Nabu was one of their chief deities, the Babylonian god of wisdom and prophecy.

### God Gave

**Verse 1** - the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand

**Verse 9** - God gave Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs

**Verse 17** - God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

Though the nations rage, kingdoms rise and fall  
There is still one King reigning over all

