

Celebration Services (Sept 13 & 14, 2008)  
**"Experiencing Exile"**

**"Returning from Exile" (Pt. 1)**

**INTRO** to the Exile Section of Scripture

MAJOR TIME FRAMES of the O.T.

- ▶ **The Patriarchs** (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph) ... Genesis
- ▶ **The Exodus** (Israel in Egypt, Deliverance from Egypt, Moses)
- ▶ **The Wilderness Wanderings** (Nu, Deut)
- ▶ **Period of the Judges**
- ▶ **Period of the Kings** (Saul, David, Solomon, ... the Divided Kingdom)
- ▶ **The Exile**

**The EXILE** (in Babylon)(The "Consequence Event")

- **Begins in 605 BC and runs for 70 years**
- **Much of the Prophetic Writings**
- **The RETURN from Exile**

## WHAT IS "EXILE"?

**EXILE** = from L. exilium "banishment," from exul "banished person," from ex- "away" + PIE root \*al- "to wander"

### (1) EXILE IS PEOPLE LIVING OUTSIDE OF THEIR PURPOSE

.... **God had a PLAN/PURPOSE for Israel** that involved: WHERE they would live ... HOW they would live ... How they would WORSHIP — BABYLON Was NOT That Plan (Babylon was a major interruption of the patterns of worship associated with the Temple)

**Ex 3:7-8** Then the LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey,

**Jer 3:12-14, 19-21** ....

**Jer 25:1-14** .... (605 BC — the Exile Begins)

**Lam 1:1-4**

## (2) EXILE IS PART OF THE EFFECTS OF LIFE IN A FALLEN WORLD

- **The FALL of Man begins with an EXILE** (Banishment & Wandering)
  - Adam & Eve were "Exiled from Life and from Eden"
  - Cain became a "fugitive and wanderer upon the earth" (Gen 4:12) after killing Abel
- **The Exile of the Israelites included components of Sin Now Present amongst man:**
  - Their own Disobedience (70 years of letting the land rest);
  - the Sinful Aggression of Others (Nebuchadnezzar— who was God's vassal but was also doing exactly what he wanted);
  - the Righteous Suffering alongside the sinful— Jeremiah lives in the consequences of the exile

## (3) EXILE IS THE COMMON, DOMINATING THEME OF HUMANITY

- **Those in Adam** are living a life "EXILED" from a relationship with God
  - This is the BASIC PREMISE of Christianity— Man NEEDS to be Restored to His Creator....

*How many people are assuming they are somehow automatically restored & OK w/ God?*

- **Be MINDFUL of WAYWARDNESS**— it is in the Fabric of Our Flesh

## (4) EXILE IS BEING MANAGED BY A SOVEREIGN GOD

- God is Sovereignly Managing the conditions of Exile
  - **Gen 3** ... the promise of a day of redemption
  - **Dan 9** ... reading in the books the days that were ordained for the exile

**Ezra 1:1-3** In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also put it in writing: 2 "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. 3 Whoever is among you of all his people, may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and rebuild the house of the LORD, the God of Israel

**Is 44:28 - 45:7**

## (5) EXILE IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

**Jer 18:1-4** .... God's Actions of Exile were Actions of REFORMATION

- ***The Exile of Israel ends in God's Glorious Triumph over Assyria & Babylon and the Continuation of His Purpose in HIS ELECT***
- ***The Exile of Humanity Ends in God's Glorious Triumph of the Cross and the Return of the Presence of God to the Heart of Man***

## APPLICATION

- ***As a Church we've experienced a bit of an exile***
- ***Relationships can go into exile—***
- ***Lives can go into exile—*** Waywardness ("backsliding") that caused your life to be lived outside of the land of promise
- ***Exile as OPPORTUNITY*** ... Whether it is man's exile from the presence of God... Israel's Exile from the Land of Promise... or the Exile of Katrina ... or of Your WALK ... or of Your MARRIAGE— All are Opportunities to See the TRIUMPH OF GOD

– Let Us Prepare to Embrace the Day of Return— the Day of Restoration

### APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

1. Considering the definition of "exile", in what ways has my walk with God been "wandering"?
2. What factors in me and what factors around me have contributed to me wandering in these areas?
3. How would you describe your "post-Katrina" walk with God and His church? Has weariness become an excuse for waywardness?
4. What relationships in your life are "living outside of God's intended purpose for them"?
5. Do you have a tangible and substantial hope for seeing a new season of restoration?