

EXILE: Introduction to Daniel

“Elect Exiles: Trusting in Daniel’s God”

various Scripture passages

Day 1 - Read Genesis 1:6 – 2:24

Ask the Lord to show you the usefulness of His Word in your life. Pray for the Spirit to teach you.

- 1) How would you describe the world in which the man and woman, created by God, lived?

- 2) How would you describe their relationship with God and each other?

- 3) What happens in Genesis 3:1 -6?

- 4) Read through Genesis 3: 8-21. How did the man and woman's world and relationships change?

- 5) According to Genesis 3:22-24, what is the outcome for Adam and Eve?

“Exile can be both a physical and/or spiritual reality. There are times when God’s people are physically in the land God has given them, but spiritually in exile because of their persistent rebellion against him. Conversely, even when God’s people are physically away from the place God has given them, they can be spiritually in a right relationship with him.”

“Throughout redemptive history, God works to restore His people from their exile into His glorious presence.”

(www.thegospelcoalition.org, *Exile*, an essay by Matthew Harmon)

- 6) What hope of restoration is given in Genesis 3:15?

Day 2 - Read Genesis 12:1-3

- 7) What did God call Abram to do?

What 3 things is Abram promised?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

For what reason is he blessed?

8) Read Galatians 3:29. What do we learn about those who put their faith in Jesus?

So, as believers, what is our promise?

How should that impact the way we live?

The Lord miraculously gives Abraham promised descendants, who later went down to Egypt, where they became enslaved and experienced a long period away from the land God had promised. It is during this exile that God's people grew and became a nation.

Through Moses, God delivered this nation, His people, from Egypt and brought them toward the promised land of Canaan. After settling in the promised land, God's people repeatedly turned away from Him through idolatry and disobedience. They did not heed the warnings from the prophets God sent. During this time, the kingdom divided, and Israel and Judah continued in rebellion, which eventually led to conquest and deportation. The northern kingdom, Israel, fell to Assyria, while Babylon conquered Judah.

The Babylonian exile became a defining moment in Israel's story. Jerusalem was destroyed, the temple was burned, and many of God's people were carried away from their homeland. This is where Daniel's story is inserted.

Exile represented more than physical displacement: it was spiritual - the consequence of covenant unfaithfulness. Yet amid the exile there was always hope that a covenant-keeping God would restore his people. Throughout Scripture, exile points to humanity's separation from God and to God's continuing promise to bring his people home.

(edited and adapted by Paula from a ChatGPT summary)

9) Read Leviticus 26:27-28. What does the Lord say He will do and why?

10) Read Hebrews 12:5-11. What do you learn about the Lord's discipline?

Day 3

11) Read 2 Kings 24:10-17 and list everything you observe about what happens to Judah.

If you were one of the young people taken from Jerusalem to Babylon, what might you have believed about God?

This is not the end of the story for God's people.

- 12) Jeremiah 29 is a letter from the heart of God through His prophet to the surviving exiles. Read the life-giving words in Jeremiah 29:4-14.

Who is speaking? What is significant about these references to who God is?

- 13) Summarize God's message in Jeremiah 29:5-9 about how the exiles should live.

14) In Jeremiah 29:10, what does the LORD say he will do for His people?

When will He do it?

15) How does the LORD expand on His promise in Jeremiah 29:11?

What do we learn about the heart of God for His people from this passage?

16) What does the LORD call His people to do in Jeremiah 29:12-13?

What does He promise in response? List the three "I will's."

I will _____

I will _____

I will _____

How are these promises comforting words to His people in exile?

Day 4

17) Read 1 Peter 1:1-2. What two identities does Peter put together to describe God's people?

Define these two words.

How does knowing this is your identity transform the way you think and live?

18) What four words or phrases are used to describe God's people in 1 Peter 2:9?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

What are God's people called to do in light of these truths?

19) What are God's people called to do in 1 Peter 2:11-12? Read these verses in several translations.

What might it look like to "keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable" or "live such good lives among the pagans?"

What two things can we expect to happen when our lives reflect the reality of our identity in Christ?

- 20) God sends the Serpent-crusher. He takes on the curses so that you and I can receive the blessings. His life, death, and resurrection bring redemption and restoration to His people. This was Daniel's hope, and this is our hope. How do the following verses remind us of what Jesus experienced so that we might be restored?

Scripture	What Jesus experienced for us
Isaiah 53:12; Luke 23:37	
Jeremiah 25:15-16; Matthew 26:39	
Mark 15:34	
Galatians 3:13	
2 Corinthians 5:21	
Hebrews 13:11-12	

21) Read John 14:1-3. What does Jesus promise to those who follow Him?

Read Revelation 21:1-4 and 22:1-4. What will that home be like?

“Through a series of promises and covenants, God sends His Son to obey where His people failed and take upon Himself the curse of exile away from God’s presence and rise from the dead to restore His people from their sin-induced exile away from his presence. All who trust in Christ are spiritually restored from their exile away from god’s glory as they await their physical restoration through a resurrected body in a new heavens and new earth.”

(www.thegospelcoalition.org, *Exile*, an essay by Matthew Harmon)

