

The Bible is not simply an interesting and informative ancient text, a source of miscellaneous information about the culture and beliefs of antiquity. It is nothing less than the Word of God, the only authoritative and infallible rule for our life and doctrine.

“I, Daniel, was overcome and lay sick for some days. Then I rose and went about the king’s business, but I was appalled by the vision and did not understand it” (Daniel 8:27).

“For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope” (Jeremiah 25:10-11).

Questions:

1. Why does Daniel not condemn the Babylonians for taking Judah into exile?
2. Does the evening news explain the truths of Scripture, or do current events have no correlation with Scripture?
3. What is your response to the people of Judah having a false sense of security in the temple being in Jerusalem?
4. When you come to difficult passages in the Bible do you skip them, ignore them, or dispute them?
5. Does your prayer life reflect that you are addressing an awesome and gracious God?
6. God says to his people that there wasn’t a remedy left for their spiritual sickness. Do these words scare you?

Sermon Notes

A LETTER TO THE EXILES

Daniel 9:1-4

NO REMEDY

Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. He did what was evil in the sight of the LORD his God. He did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet, who spoke from the mouth of the LORD. He also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God. He stiffened his neck and hardened his heart against turning to the LORD, the God of Israel. All the officers of the priests and the people likewise were exceedingly unfaithful, following all the abominations of the nations. And they polluted the house of the LORD that he had made holy in Jerusalem. The LORD, the God of their fathers, sent persistently to them by his messengers, because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place. But they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising his words and scoffing at his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD rose against his people, until there was no remedy (2 Chronicles 36:11-16).

“Return to me, says the LORD of hosts, and I will return to you, says the LORD of host” (Zechariah 1:3).

This is what the Lord says: “Your injury is incurable—a terrible wound. There is no one to help you or to bind up your injury. No medicine can heal you” (Jeremiah 30:12-13 NLT).

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GIVE THE LAND A REST

Therefore he brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans, who killed their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary and had no compassion on young man or virgin, old man or aged. He gave them all into his hand (2 Chronicles 36:17).

And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king and of his princes, all these he brought to Babylon. And they burned the house of God and broke down the wall of Jerusalem and burned all its palaces with fire and destroyed all its precious vessels (2 Chronicles 36:18-19).

He took into exile in Babylon those who had escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and to his sons until the establishment of the kingdom of Persia (2 Chronicles 36:20).

(The people were exiled) to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths. All the days that it lay desolate it kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years (2 Chronicles 36:21).

“When you come into the land that I give you, the land shall keep a Sabbath to the LORD. For six years you shall sow your field, and for six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather in its fruits, but in the seventh year there shall be a Sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a Sabbath to the LORD. You shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard” (Leviticus 25:2-4).

A MAN OF WORD AND PRAYER

“For 2,300 evenings and mornings. Then the sanctuary shall be restored to its rightful state” (Daniel 8:14).

In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, by descent a Mede, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans—in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years that, according to the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years. Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. I prayed to the LORD my God and made confession, saying. . . . (Daniel 9:1-4).

Skip them.
Ignore them.
Deny them.

We can read Scripture with our mind made up, or we can study Scripture and let it make up our mind.

“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken” (Matthew 24:29).

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