

### **C. The Message of the Exilic Prophets (Ezekiel and Daniel)**

1. The great theme of the exilic prophets is that God has not forgotten his covenant with their fathers despite exile, but will bring about restoration at the appointed time.
2. Moreover, the restoration will far exceed what the Israelites were given in the past (e.g., temple, glory of God, rule, etc.).
3. Despite the apparent authority that other nations possess, God promises that he will in fact restore his people, bring about his kingdom, and crush all other global powers.
4. One day, Israel will be restored and exalted and the glory of the Lord will return to his people.

#### **Ezekiel**

1. Ezekiel primarily speaks about the glory of the Lord leaving his people (Ezek 10:4; 10:19; 11:23; cf., 8:1-11:25; Psa 137). Just as much as the glory of the Lord leaving is a major theme in Ezekiel, so is his return (Ezek 11:14-25).
  - a. God will be a shepherd to them and Israel will be a branch in which every kind of bird will find nesting. God will appoint his servant David to care for them (Ezek 17:22-24; 34:11-31).
  - b. God will enact a new covenant and restore the people (Ezek 36:22-38, 37:1-28; 38:1-39:29).
    - i. The restoration of God's people will be characterized by the giving of the Spirit (Ezek 36:26-27; 37:14; 39:29; cf., 11:19).
    - ii. God will reunite Israel and Judah as one (Ezek 37:15-23).
    - iii. With the restoration of God's people and the giving of the Spirit will come the establishment of David's throne forever (Ezek 37:24-28).

- iv. God will set his sanctuary in their midst and dwell with them forever (Ezek 37:24-28).
  - v. God will destroy his enemies as characterized by Gog and the land of Magog (Ezek 38:1-39:29).
- c. God will rebuild the temple and his glory will return (Ezek 40-48; cf., 28:13; 31:8). The temple represented several things.
- i. It represented God's presence with his people, but this time with all people, not merely in the holy of holies (Ezek 43:2-7; 44:4; 48:35).
  - ii. It represented life from God (Ezek 47:1-12).
2. God will perform another exodus. He will bring them from a foreign land, he will give them a new covenant, and he will dwell with them.

## **Daniel**

1. The book of Daniel is predominately about God's sovereign rule over the nations and his establishment of his forever king and kingdom.
2. In Daniel two, seven, and nine we find a symbolic representation of the world's superpowers and their eventual demise to one final king and kingdom.
  - a. The Image (Dan 2:31-45).
  - b. The Beasts (Dan 7:1-14).
  - c. The Messiah (Dan 9:24-27).

3. Daniel 9:24-27 is divided up into four sections.
  - a. Daniel 9:24: An overview of the entire period (70 weeks).
  - b. Daniel 9:25: A division of the 69 sevens.
  - c. Daniel 9:26: A description of the final seven in indefinite terms.
  - d. Daniel 9:27: A description of the final seven in more definite terms.
4. Several things will take place at the end of the seventy weeks.
  - a. Finish transgression.
  - b. Make an end to sin.
  - c. Make atonement for iniquity.
  - d. Bring in everlasting righteousness.
  - e. Seal up the vision and prophecy.
  - f. f.) Anoint the most holy.
5. At the end of the 70<sup>th</sup> week these things will be accomplished and the day of the Lord will come.
6. For Daniel the end of the 70 years of captivity is the end of exile, but an introduction to a new exile, an exile which will only end with the coming of God's anointed.

7. God, in this passage, is not trying to convey a strict literal time pattern, but a theological and redemptive point that the end of all things comes with his anointed one.
  
8. As the Israelites were preparing to return to the land, God reminded them that he was in control and was going to establish his forever king and kingdom. He assured them that despite the various nations that would rise up, his plans will not be disturbed.