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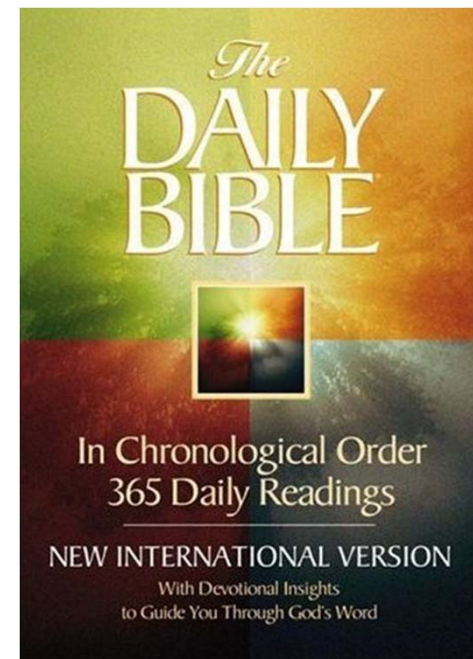
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The Exile Begins Lesson 33

August 15, 2010

This Week

- ▶ We'll cover readings for August 8-14
- ▶ Portions of Daniel, Jeremiah, 2 Kings, 2 Chronicles
 - ▶ Daniel's Faithfulness, Nebuchadnezzar's Dream, Jehoiakim's Last Years
 - ▶ The Great Deportation (597 B.C.)
 - ▶ Reign of Zedekiah
 - ▶ Jeremiah's Prophecies Under Zedekiah

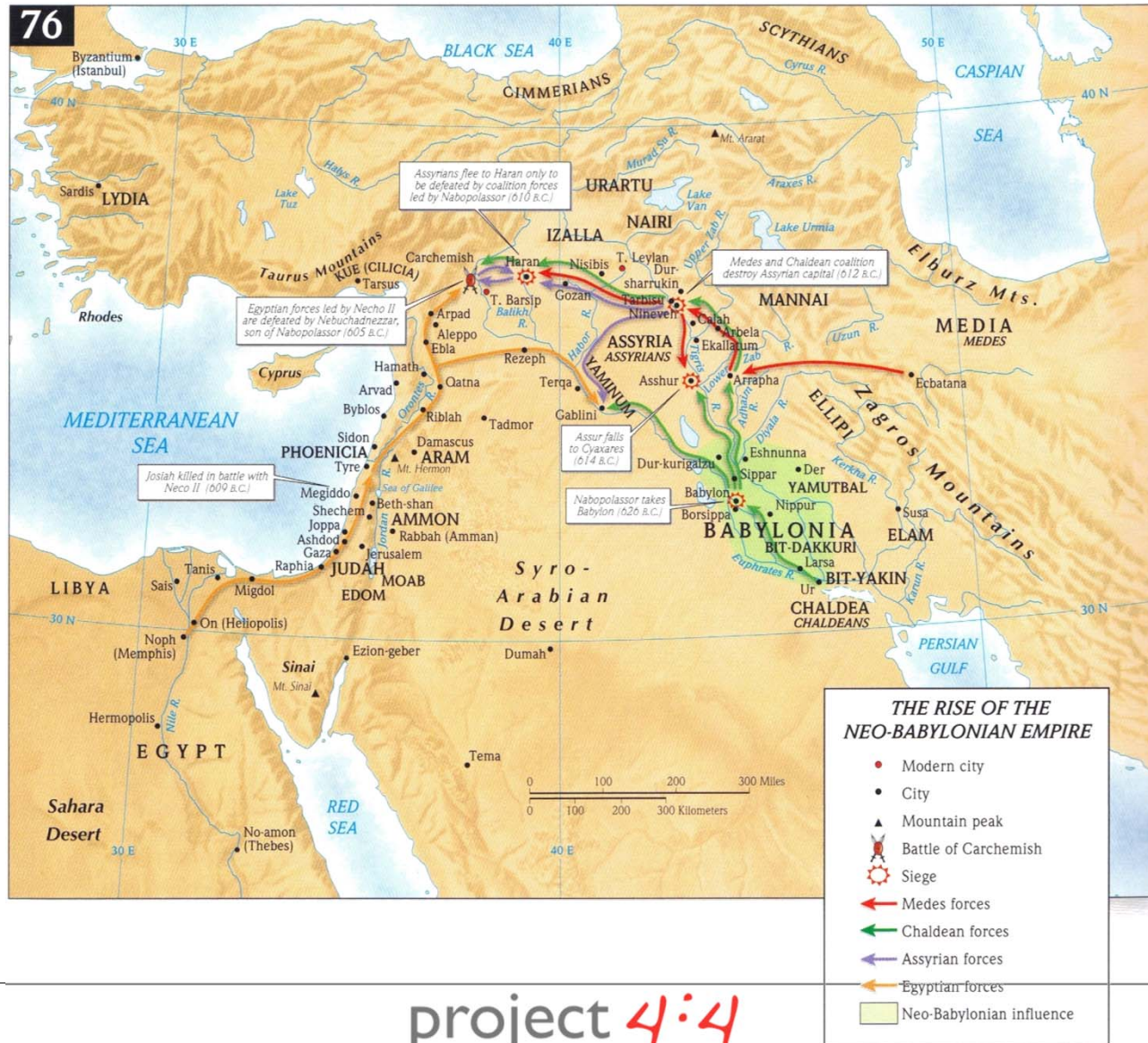


Last Kings of Judah

King	Period of Reign	Notoriety
Josiah	640-609 BC	Sweeping reforms throughout Judah; Brought repentance and restoration
Jehoahaz (Shallum)	609 BC	Son of Josiah; Evil; Reigned three months; Imprisoned by Pharaoh Neco of Egypt
Jehoiakim (Eliakim)	609-597 BC	Son of Josiah; Evil; Puppet king to Pharaoh Neco, then to Nebuchadnezzar; First deportation of Judahites to Babylon; Imprisoned in Babylon
Jehoiachin	597	Son of Jehoiakim; Evil; Reigned three months; Captured by Nebuchadnezzar and carried off to Babylon
Zedekiah (Mattaniah)	597-586 BC	Jehoiachin's Uncle; Son of Josiah; Puppet king to Nebuchadnezzar; King at the time of the fall of Jerusalem



Rise of the Babylonian Empire



Nebuchadrezzar's Campaigns



Exiles to Babylon



Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

▶ Daniel 2:1-3

▶ ¹In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his mind was troubled and he could not sleep. ²So the king summoned the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers and astrologers to tell him what he had dreamed. When they came in and stood before the king, ³he said to them, "I have had a dream that troubles me and I want to know what it means."

- ▶ What does Nebuchadnezzar ask of his wise men?
- ▶ What is their response?
- ▶ Is his request reasonable?



Daniel Responds

▶ Daniel 2:27-30

- ▶ ²⁷Daniel replied, “No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, ²⁸but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come. Your dream and the visions that passed through your mind as you lay on your bed are these: ²⁹“As you were lying there, O king, your mind turned to things to come, and the revealer of mysteries showed you what is going to happen. ³⁰**As for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because I have greater wisdom than other living men, but so that you, O king, may know the interpretation and that you may understand what went through your mind.**”



For Discussion

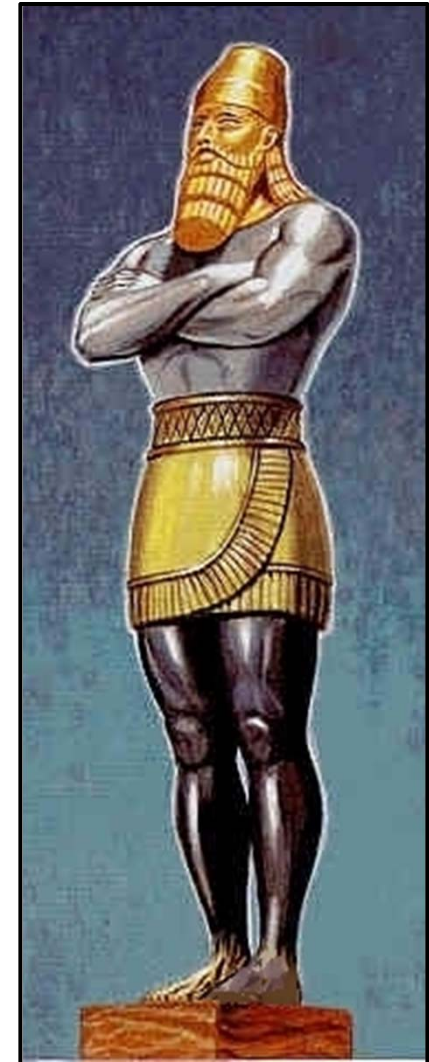
- ▶ Why would Daniel respond this way?
- ▶ Why would God want Nebuchadnezzar to know these things about the future?
 - ▶ What purpose would it serve?



The Dream

▶ Daniel 2:31-35

- ▶ ³¹“You looked, O king, and there before you stood a large statue - an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. ³²The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, ³³its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay.



The Dream

▶ Daniel 2:31-35

- ▶ ³⁴While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. ³⁵Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken to pieces at the same time and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.



The Interpretation

- ▶ Daniel 2:36-38

- ▶ ³⁶“This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king. ³⁷You, O king, are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; ³⁸in your hands he has placed mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds of the air. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. You are that head of gold.

- ▶ Does Nebuchadnezzar truly have dominion over the animals?

- ▶ In what way?



The Interpretation (2)

▶ Daniel 2:29-43

- ▶ ³⁹“After you, another kingdom will rise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth. ⁴⁰Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron - for iron breaks and smashes everything - and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others. ⁴¹Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay. ⁴²As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. ⁴³And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay.



The Interpretation (3)

▶ Daniel 2:44-45

- ▶ ⁴⁴“In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. ⁴⁵This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces. “The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and the interpretation is trustworthy.”



The Kingdoms of the Dream

<p><i>Babylonian Empire</i> 605-539 BC</p>	
<p><i>Medo-Persian Empire</i> 539-331 BC</p>	
<p><i>Grecian Empire</i> 331-168 BC</p>	
<p><i>Roman Empire</i> 168 BC-476 AD</p>	
<p><i>Holy Roman Empire</i> 476 AD-2nd Coming</p>	



Jehoiakim's Rebellion

▶ 2 Kings 24:1

- ▶ ¹During Jehoiakim's reign, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon invaded the land, and Jehoiakim became his vassal for three years. But then he changed his mind and rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar. ²The LORD sent Babylonian, Aramean, Moabite and Ammonite raiders against him. He sent them to destroy Judah, in accordance with the word of the LORD proclaimed by his servants the prophets. ³Surely these things happened to Judah according to the LORD'S command, in order to remove them from his presence because of the sins of Manasseh and all he had done, ⁴including the shedding of innocent blood. For he had filled Jerusalem with innocent blood, and the LORD was not willing to forgive.



Jeremiah's Prophecies

- ▶ Jeremiah prophesies about God's judgment on the nations which took advantage of Judah during this time
 - ▶ Moab, Ammon, Edom, Damascus, Kedar and Hazor
- ▶ What is the significance of Jeremiah's prophecies against Judah's neighbors?



The Great Deportation

▶ 2 Kings 24:10-14

- ▶ ¹⁰At that time the officers of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon advanced on Jerusalem and laid siege to it, ¹¹and Nebuchadnezzar himself came up to the city while his officers were besieging it. ¹²Jehoiachin king of Judah, his mother, his attendants, his nobles and his officials all surrendered to him. In the eighth year of the reign of the king of Babylon, he took Jehoiachin prisoner. ¹³As the LORD had declared, Nebuchadnezzar removed all the treasures from the temple of the LORD and from the royal palace, and took away all the gold articles that Solomon king of Israel had made for the temple of the LORD. ¹⁴He carried into exile all Jerusalem: all the officers and fighting men, and all the craftsmen and artisans—a total of ten thousand. Only the poorest people of the land were left.



For Discussion

- ▶ It should be obvious why Nebuchadnezzar would deport the fighting men, but ...
- ▶ Why would he deport the upper classes and leave only the poorest people in the land?



Settle Into Exile ...

▶ Jeremiah 29:4-9

- ▶ ⁴This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon:
⁵“Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. ⁶Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. ⁷Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.” ⁸Yes, this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: “Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. ⁹They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them,” declares the LORD.



Good Figs

▶ Jeremiah 24:4-7

- ▶ ⁴Then the word of the LORD came to me: ⁵“This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘Like these good figs, I regard as good the exiles from Judah, whom I sent away from this place to the land of the Babylonians. ⁶My eyes will watch over them for their good, and I will bring them back to this land. I will build them up and not tear them down; I will plant them and not uproot them. ⁷I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the LORD. They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me with all their heart.



Bad Figs

▶ Jeremiah 24:8-10

- ▶ ⁸“‘But like the poor figs, which are so bad they cannot be eaten,’ says the LORD, ‘so will I deal with Zedekiah king of Judah, his officials and the survivors from Jerusalem, whether they remain in this land or live in Egypt. ⁹I will make them abhorrent and an offense to all the kingdoms of the earth, a reproach and a byword, an object of ridicule and cursing, wherever I banish them. ¹⁰I will send the sword, famine and plague against them until they are destroyed from the land I gave to them and their fathers.’”



Consider This ...

- ▶ Why would God want the people to “settle in” in their exiled home?
- ▶ The Lord sent the “good figs” into exile and promises to protect and watch over them there, then bring them back to the land of promise
- ▶ It is the “bad figs” that remain in Jerusalem and will face even worse trials
- ▶ Have you ever considered that God sends us into situations of “exile” because that’s the safest or best place for us to be?



What The Future Holds ...

▶ Jeremiah 29:10-14

- ▶ ¹⁰This is what the LORD says: “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. ¹¹**For I know the plans I have for you,** declares the LORD, **“plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.** ¹²Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴**I will be found by you,** declares the LORD, “and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you,” declares the LORD, “and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.”



The Final Deal

▶ Jeremiah 50:18-20

- ▶ ¹⁸Therefore this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: “I will punish the king of Babylon and his land as I punished the king of Assyria. ¹⁹ But I will bring Israel back to his own pasture and he will graze on Carmel and Bashan; his appetite will be satisfied on the hills of Ephraim and Gilead. ²⁰ In those days, at that time,” declares the LORD, “search will be made for Israel’s guilt, but there will be none, and for the sins of Judah, but none will be found, for I will forgive the remnant I spare.



Your Turn ...

- ▶ What insights have you gained from this week's study?
- ▶ What did you find in these passages that you have never seen before?
- ▶ How did the Lord speak to your heart through the Word this week?
- ▶ How will your walk with Him be different as a result?



Next Week

- ▶ Readings for August 14-20
 - ▶ Signs and Visions from Ezekiel

Questions?

