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Exile: Historical Event and Doctrinal Summary

This summary is meant to be a helpful memory jogger for review as well as key points for training of families in the historical framework methodology of God's word. Refer to Lessons #94-100 in the Biblical Framework series for detailed analysis.

Scriptural Texts

Daniel; Jeremiah 22; Ezekiel 8-11; Esther

Historical Event of the Exile

As the nation Israel continued to rebel throughout the period of the Kingdoms in Decline the Lord's discipline of the nation increased in intensity until finally He sent them into Exile. Thus, the preliminary form of the kingdom of God was lost in history. How can one be sure that the Kingdom of God ended at the Exile? If the Kingdom of God had begun with great signs in the Exodus, surely there were definite historical signs pointing to its end. Dr. Alva McClain argues that three such signs did occur prior to the fall of Jerusalem and that by these signs one can know that the start of the Exile marked the loss of the early form of the Kingdom of God in history; (1) The transfer of political supremacy completely into the hands of pagan nations (Dan 2); (2) the end of the Davidic Dynasty through Solomon (Jer 22); and (3) the departure of the Shekinah Glory from Israel's Temple (Ezek 8-11).

With the temporary loss of Israel's kingdom of God from visible history we have the ascent of four temporary Gentile kingdom's of man which constitute the times of the Gentiles. These four kingdoms are imperial by nature and each makes a unique contribution as well as combining prior contributions with their own *en route* to the final form of the kingdom of man which will be totally destroyed and replaced by the final form of the kingdom of God.

Babylon contributed fractional reserve banking, that idea was inherited by Medo-Persia who contributed the idea of globalism, they worked hard in pursuing a one world system, they passed that on to the Greeks, the Greeks took it and ran with it and added autonomous rationalism, the idea that the human intellect is supreme, then comes Rome. She inherits all these other things and adds her own thing, military strength and this ever embellished

form of paganism continues and grows into its most brittle form, the Revived Roman Empire which is still to come. Inherent to this system is the inflation of the monetary system and the need for increased military control over larger and larger geography.

Despite the negatives of Israel having to live under the rule and oppression of these four pagan Gentile kingdoms, one positive effect of the Exile is the planting of the word of God in these pagan kingdoms. The Hebrew captives took the Scriptures with them and they had widespread influence. Within 100 years seven major world religions and philosophy were spawned. Scholars have never given an explanation for such rapid development in human religion and philosophy. The 6th century stands alone and indeed in contrast to every other century. The only explanation is that the Hebrew thought form carried by the exiles stimulated these developments. Although they all required the Scriptures to get started they twisted the truth and while differing in details these seven religions and philosophy all had one thing in common: they emphasized man as Savior.

Doctrinal Implications of the Exile

The first doctrine that falls out of this event is Sanctification, particularly stressing separation. Israel is injected into worldly culture but they were to remain separate from worldly, pagan culture. The second doctrine is revelation and inspiration of Scripture because at this point a new kind of literature arises for the first time in Biblical history called apocalyptic literature.

Doctrine of Sanctification

We are to live in the world but remain separate from the world. Christians have struggled with how to live separate lives and have given three basic answers. Accommodate to the surrounding culture, this is where you basically accept the value system of the surrounding culture and reinterpret the Bible to remain in tune with surrounding culture. Physical separation is the extreme approach where we take ourselves out of the world and build our own society. Monasticism is an example of this in Roman Catholicism and the Amish are an example in Protestantism. The idea is to preserve a culture and lock it up and freeze it in time. Counter attack is the strategy of going into every area of life and developing it in a distinctly Christian manner. As J. Gresham Machen said, "Instead of destroying the arts and sciences or being indifferent to them, let us cultivate them with all the enthusiasm of the veriest humanist, but at the same time consecrate them to the service of our God...Let us go forth joyfully, enthusiastically to make the world subject to God." This fourth strategy was used by both Daniel and Esther in their respective pagan nations. As a result they both had to commit civil disobedience where the Bible came into conflict with paganism. If you take on

this fourth strategy be prepared to accept the consequences of biblical civil disobedience.

Doctrine of Revelation and Inspiration

At this juncture in history God speaks in a unique literature to the nation Israel called apocalyptic. Apocalyptic is basically literature like Daniel, Ezekiel and Zechariah, it is highly visionary, has symbols and angelic interpreters. The purpose of this kind of literature is to assure believers, to give us hope when the world is dark.

The doctrine of separation addresses the issue of believers living in a pagan land, in that situation I need extra support. The extra support comes out of this apocalyptic literature. Apocalyptic literature cuts pagan power down to size. Apocalyptic literature says God has the final word in history. Pagan kingdoms are dark but at the end there is light. The kingdom of God will be restored. And that immediately brings peace of mind.

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