

THE **BIG** PICTURE



Download "Exile & Return" by Russell Johnson (5/19/13) free, or share it via email, Facebook or Twitter at hcbc.com/media. CD's may be purchased at the Lakeline Campus Media Center.

EXILE & RETURN



ERA/GENRE

Exile & Return

KEY FIGURES

Daniel & Ezra

LOCATION

Babylonia &
Jerusalem

STORYLINE

EXILE

Daniel gives _____ and encourages
_____ among the _____ for
the next seventy years.

"In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god." (Daniel 1:1-2)

EXPANSION

1. Prophecy: Warning of impending captivity (Jeremiah)
2. Prophets: Encouraging faithfulness of exiles (Ezekiel and Daniel)
3. Exiles: Assimilated into the culture (Daniel)
4. Power Change: Persian empire expands (Daniel)

RETURN

Ezra _____ the people back from
_____ to rebuild _____.

"When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed. Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy." (Psalm 126:1-2)

EXPANSION

1. Despair: Destruction from war and neglect (Nehemiah 1:1-3)
2. Temple: Rebuilding the temple (Ezra 1-6)
3. People: Spiritual rebuilding (Ezra 7-10)
4. Walls: Restoration Complete (Nehemiah)

SIGNIFICANCE

MY APPLICATION

Use the following questions this week to reflect on what it would mean to align yourself with the truths taught in Scripture. Each question is meant for both personal reflection and as a catalyst for discussion with your family, friends, or small group.

- 1) The consequence of the nation of Israel's sin was a 70-year exile in Babylon. Jeremiah sums up their sin in Jeremiah 2:13. In what ways have you dug your own cisterns and forsaken the living water of God?
- 2) Psalm 137 is a psalm that reflects the morale of the people in exile. When was a time that you felt far from God in exile? What does it take to push through those hard times?
- 3) When the people returned to the land and rebuilt the temple and the walls, Nehemiah records a beautiful worship experience in Nehemiah 8. As you read the chapter, what stands out about the response to God and His Word?
- 4) Read Psalm 136. Write your own psalm replaying God's enduring love in your life through the good times and the bad.



Memory Verse

"When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed. Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy."

Psalm 126:1-2