FROM EXILE TO FULFILLMENT

How God Brings Israel's Story to Its Climax in Jesus

1. ISRAEL GOES INTO EXILE

- 605 BC — Daniel is taken to Babylon.
- 597 BC — Ezekiel is taken to Babylon.
- 593 BC — Ezekiel receives his first vision.
- 592 BC — Ezekiel sees God's glory depart the temple.
- 586 BC — Jerusalem and the temple are destroyed.
- 539 BC — Babylon falls to Persia.

Daniel and Ezekiel are living during the same period of Israel's exile.

2. GOD'S GLORY LEAVES THE TEMPLE

- Before Jerusalem is destroyed, Ezekiel sees God's glory leaving the temple and departing the city.

READ:

EZEKIEL 10:18-19

Then the glory of the Lord went out from the threshold of the house, and stood over the cherubim. 19 And the cherubim lifted up their wings and mounted up from the earth before my eyes as they went out, with the wheels beside them. And they stood at the entrance of the east gate of the house of the Lord, and the glory of the God of Israel was over them.

EZEKIEL 11:22-23

Then the cherubim lifted up their wings, with the wheels beside them, and the glory of the God of Israel was over them. 23 And the glory of the Lord went up from the midst of the city and stood on the mountain that is on the east side of the city.

Israel's exile was the consequence of its sin and unfaithfulness. But while Ezekiel sees God's glory departing, Danielsees what God has promised for the future.

3. GOD PROMISES A KINGDOM THAT WILL NEVER END

KING NEBUCHANEZZAR HAS A DREAM THAT TROUBLES HIM.

READ:

DANIEL 2:31–44

“You saw, O king, and behold, a great image. This image, mighty and of exceeding brightness, stood before you, and its appearance was frightening. 32 The head of this image was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its middle and thighs of bronze, 33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. 34 As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. 35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

36 “This was the dream. Now we will tell the king its interpretation. 37 You, O king, the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, and the might, and the glory, 38 and into whose hand he has given, wherever they dwell, the children of man, the beasts of the field, and the birds of the heavens, making you rule over them all—you are the head of gold. 39 Another kingdom inferior to you shall arise after you, and yet a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. 40 And there shall be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron, because iron breaks to pieces and shatters all things. And like iron that crushes, it shall break and crush all these. 41 And as you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it shall be a divided kingdom, but some of the firmness of iron shall be in it, just as you saw iron mixed with the soft clay. 42 And as the toes of the feet were partly iron and partly clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly brittle. 43 As you saw the iron mixed with soft clay, so they will mix with one another in marriage, but they will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay.44 And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever,

In Daniel 2, earthly kingdoms look impressive, like a magnificent statue. But in Daniel 7, those same kingdoms are pictured as destructive beasts. These kingdoms will come to an end, but Daniel sees one like a Son of Man who receives a kingdom that will never end.

READ:

DANIEL 7:13–14

I saw in the night visions,

and behold, with the clouds of heaven

there came one like a son of man,

and he came to the Ancient of Days

and was presented before him.

14 And to him was given dominion

and glory and a kingdom,

that all peoples, nations, and languages

should serve him;

his dominion is an everlasting dominion,

which shall not pass away,

and his kingdom one

that shall not be destroyed.

4. JESUS ANNOUNCES THE ARRIVAL OF GOD'S KINGDOM

CENTURIES LATER, JESUS BEGINS HIS MINISTRY WITH AN ANNOUNCEMENT.

MARK 1:14–15

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, 15 and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent (turn around, Change Direction) and believe in the gospel.”

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

THE GOSPEL — THE GOOD NEWS

1. God is fulfilling His promises. What He promised to Israel through Abraham and the prophets is being fulfilled through Jesus. (Genesis 12:3; Luke 24:44)

2. The Kingdom of God has arrived. Jesus is the promised King, and God's reign is breaking into the world in a new and decisive way. (Mark 1:14–15; Daniel 7:13–14)

3. God has come to dwell with His people and rescue them. Through Jesus, God is delivering people from the power of sin and death and bringing them together as one people. (Matthew 1:21–23; Romans 6:14; Ephesians 2:13–22)

4. God is restoring His creation. What began through Jesus' death and resurrection will be completed when He returns and makes all things new. (Romans 8:19–23; Revelation 21:1–5)

THE GOSPEL IS THE GOOD NEWS THAT GOD IS DOING WHAT HE PROMISED, AND HE'S DOING IT THROUGH JESUS.

Jesus is announcing that the time for these things to be fulfilled is now happening and he is inviting people to be a part of it. He also describes how this kingdom grows.

READ:

MATTHEW 13:31–33

He put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. 32 It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

33 He told them another parable. “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.”

WHAT’S THE BIG IDEA? The kingdom starts small but grows. Sounds a lot like the rock in Daniel 2. AND in Mathew Jesus Identifies himself with Daniels Son of Man.

READ: MATTHEW 26:62-64

And the high priest stood up and said, “Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?” 63 But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, “I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.” 64 Jesus said to him, “You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

5. EZEKIEL SEES GOD'S GLORY RETURN

EZEKIEL DOESN'T ONLY SEE GOD'S GLORY LEAVE THE TEMPLE. HE ALSO SEES A VISION OF ITS RETURN.

READ: EZEKIEL 43:1–7

Then he led me to the gate, the gate facing east. 2 And behold, the glory of the God of Israel was coming from the east. And the sound of his coming was like the sound of many waters, and the earth shone with his glory. 3 And the vision I saw was just like the vision that I had seen when he came to destroy the city, and just like the vision that I had seen by the Chebar canal. And I fell on my face. 4 As the glory of the Lord entered the temple by the gate facing east, 5 the Spirit lifted me up and brought me into the inner court; and behold, the glory of the Lord filled the temple.

6 While the man was standing beside me, I heard one speaking to me out of the temple, 7 and he said to me, “Son of man, this is the place of my throne and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the people of Israel forever. And the house of Israel shall no more defile my holy name, neither they, nor their kings, by their whoring and by the dead bodies of their kings at their high places

God's glory returns from the east and fills the temple. God promises to dwell among his people.

NOW HERE IS WHAT IS SUPRISING, WHEN THE EXILES RETURN TO REBUILD THE TEMPLE IN EZRA. WE NEVER SEE THE GLORY OF THE LORD FILL THE TEMPLE. SO, WHAT IS IT EZEKIEL IS SEEING?

6. JESUS IS THE TEMPLE — GOD WITH US

READ: JOHN 2:18–22

So the Jews said to him, “What sign do you show us for doing these things?” 19 Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” 20 The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?” 21 But he was speaking about the temple of his body. 22 When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

WHAT SCRIPTURE? What we have as our old testament!

Jesus identifies his body as the temple. Now listen to how John describes Jesus coming into the world.

READ: JOHN 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of theonly Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

READ: MATTHEW 1:18–23

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

23 “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us).

DID YOU SEE IT? Gods promise to be with His people and bring an end to their exile is fulfilled in Jesus. God who became man to dwell with His people.

BUT NOTICE WHAT ELSE MATTHEW TELLS US: Jesus came to save His people from their sins.

THE PROBLEM WAS BIGGER THAN BABYLON OR ANY OTHER EMPIRE THAT THEY LIVED UNDER.

Israel's exile was a consequence of sin. But the problem of sin goes all the way back to Eden.

Israel needed more than freedom from Babylon. They needed freedom from the sin that led them into exile in the first place.

And remember what God promised in Daniel 9. His plan went beyond simply bringing Israel home from Babylon.

READ: DANIEL 9:24

“Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place.

God promised to deal with transgression, put an end to sin, atone for iniquity, and bring everlasting righteousness.

SO HOW DOES GOD ACCOMPLISH THIS? THROUGH JESUS!

Through His death and resurrection, Jesus dealt with our sins, broke sin's power over us, conquered death and was exalted as the worlds rightful King.

READ: ROMANS 6:6–11

We know that our old self[was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. (freedom from exile) 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin. 8 Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. 13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. 14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

Notice what Paul is saying. Jesus didn't just die so our sins could be forgiven. Through Him, we can be set free from sin's mastery over our lives.

READ: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:20–22

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.21 For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:54–57

When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

55 “O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?”

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus' resurrection is the beginning of the victory over death that God has promised to His people.

THINK ABOUT WHAT THIS MEANS!

Through Jesus, God has returned to dwell with His people, brought His Kingdom, defeated the power of sin, conquered death, and begun the work of making all things new.

WATCH THIS

8. FROM THE TEMPLE FLOWS LIFE

Ezekiel sees another vision of the restored temple, with water flowing from it and bringing life wherever it goes. We've already seen that Jesus identifies Himself as the true temple. Now watch what John records at His crucifixion.

READ: EZEKIEL 47:1-2

Then he brought me back to the door of the temple, and behold, water was issuing from below the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was flowing down from below the south end of the threshold of the temple, south of the altar. 2 Then he brought me out by way of the north gate and led me around on the outside to the outer gate that faces toward the east; and behold, the water was trickling out on the south side.

EZEKIEL 47:8–9

And he said to me, “This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, and enters the sea; when the water flows into the sea, the water will become fresh.[c] 9 And wherever the river goes, every living creature that swarms will live, and there will be very many fish. For this water goes there, that the waters of the sea may become fresh; so everything will live where the river goes. 10 Fishermen will stand beside the sea. From Engedi to Eneglaim it will be a place for the spreading of nets. Its fish will be of very many kinds, like the fish of the Great Sea.

Jesus identified his body as the temple. At his crucifixion, John records something flowing from his side.

READ: JOHN 19:34

But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water.

- From Eden flowed a river that watered the garden. (Genesis 2:10)
- From the temple flowed a river that brought life wherever it went. (Ezekiel 47:1–12)
- From the pierced side of Jesus flowed blood and water. Jesus is the true temple and the source of living water. (John 2:21; 7:37–39; 19:34)

- From Adam's side came his bride, Eve. From Jesus' death comes a redeemed people, His bride, the church. (Genesis 2:21–23; Ephesians 5:25–32)

9. A NEW COMMUNITY IS FORMED

READ: EPHESIANS 2:13–22

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off (GENTILES) have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility 15 by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. 17 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. 18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

JEWS AND GENTILES ARE BEING BUILT TOGETHER INTO A DWELLING PLACE FOR GOD BY THE SPIRIT.

10. IN JOEL WE SEE GOD PROMISES TO POUR OUT HIS SPIRIT

- God promised this through Joel.

READ: JOEL 2:28–29

“And it shall come to pass afterward,

that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh;

your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

your old men shall dream dreams,

and your young men shall see visions.

29 Even on the male and female servants

in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

READ: JOHN 7:37–39

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’” 39 Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

11. THIS WAS FULFILLED ON PENTECOST

After Jesus' resurrection and ascension, the Holy Spirit is poure out on his followers.

READ: ACTS 2:1–4

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. (NEXT WEEK WHAT ARE TONGUES?)

THE SAME TYPE OF THING WE SEE WHEN THE SPIRIT OF GOD FILLED THE TABERNANCLE, WE ARE NOW SEEING HAPPEN TO PEOPLE. WHY? Because we are being built together into a dwelling place for God.

- Peter explains what is happening.

READ: ACTS 2:16–17

But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. 15 For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. 16 But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

17 “‘And in the last days it shall be, God declares,

that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,

and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

and your young men shall see visions,

READ: ACTS 2:32–36

This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.33 Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.34 For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

“‘The Lord said to my Lord,

“Sit at my right hand,

35 until I make your enemies your footstool.”’

36 Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him (JESUS) both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”