



The Babylon Posture Pt 1: Scriptural Captivity

March 12, 2023

Holy Text: Jeremiah 29:1-14

The Context of Jeremiah

The Book of Jeremiah was written by Jeremiah from Anathoth, with the likely assistance of his scribe Baruch. Anathoth was a small town a few miles northeast of Jerusalem.

Before he was summoned by God to prophetic service, Jeremiah was brought up as the son of a priest. His father's name was Hilkiyah.

Jeremiah's main focus was to prophesy God's impending judgment upon apostate Judah. This judgement was to come in the form of the invading Babylonians, who would destroy Jerusalem and carry Judah away captive. Jeremiah was to proclaim this message of "doom and gloom" despite the words of other "prophets" who prophesied "peace, peace, when there was to be no peace." (Jer 6:14)

His Call

Jeremiah 1:4-19

The Babylonian Captivity

God's people were carried away to Babylon in stages, from approx. 607-586 B.C. The reason was their disobedience, particularly their idolatry. For example:

- 2 Kings 21:1-18

Even after a good King named Josiah had instituted godly reforms in Judah, God was still angry at his predecessor Manasseh...

***2 Kings 23:26-27 (KJV)** Notwithstanding the LORD turned not from the fierceness of his great wrath, wherewith his anger was kindled against Judah, because of all the provocations that Manasseh had provoked him withal. **27** And the LORD said, I will remove Judah also out of my sight, as I have removed Israel, and will cast off this city Jerusalem which I have chosen, and the house of which I said, My name shall be there.*

Of course, our LORD is always true to His Word. When Zedekiah was King in Judah...

***2 Chronicles 36:11-21 (KJV)** Zedekiah was one and twenty years old when he began to reign, and reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. **12** And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD his God, and humbled not himself before Jeremiah the prophet speaking from the mouth of the LORD. **13** And he also rebelled against king Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God: but he stiffened his neck, and hardened his heart from turning unto the LORD God of Israel. **14** Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and polluted the house of the LORD which he had hallowed in Jerusalem. **15** And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place: **16** But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his*

prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy. **17** Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand. **18** And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king, and of his princes; all these he brought to Babylon. **19** And they burnt the house of God, and brake down the wall of Jerusalem, and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof. **20** And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon; where they were servants to him and his sons until the reign of the kingdom of Persia: **21** To fulfil the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her sabbaths: for as long as she lay desolate she kept sabbath, to fulfil threescore and ten years.

Why this Series

1. Because we live in spiritual Babylon!
 - All around us we find the celebrations of idolatry and pagan worship.
 - There is gross and perverted sexual immorality and the worship of death.
 - There is institutionalized pressure to bow down and worship Nebuchadnezzar's Golden Image (the cultural false ideas, use of certain unbiblical words, and the reception and acceptance the demons of the day).
 - We can all hear the satanic siren call:

Daniel 3:4-7 (KJV) Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages, **5** That at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up: **6** And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. **7** Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of musick, all the people, the nations, and the languages, fell down and worshipped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.

2. Those who do not conform are cast into the cultural fiery furnace! (Dan 3:8-30)

Daniel 3:16-20 (KJV) Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. **17** If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. **18** But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up. **19** Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated. **20** And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

3. In the New Testament, “Babylon” is symbolic of unholy nations that fight against God (“Sodom” and “Egypt” as well)...

1 Peter 5:13 (KJV) The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you; and so doth Marcus my son.

Revelation 17:3-6 (KJV) So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. **4** And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: **5** And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. **6** And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

Revelation 11:8 (KJV) And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

4. Although we are The Church, which is ultimately triumphant in Christ, for now...

1 Peter 4:12-14 (KJV) Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: **13** But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. **14** If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

John 16:33 (KJV) These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Acts 14:22 (KJV) Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

5. Despite where we live, CRC, we want you to thrive!
The Psalmist wrote:

Psalms 137:1-4 (KJV) By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. **2** We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof. **3** For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion. **4** How shall we sing the LORD'S song in a strange land?

Our answer is...we can sing because of Christ!

Isaiah 43:14-15 (KJV) Thus saith the LORD, your redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; For your sake I have sent to Babylon, and have brought down all their nobles, and the Chaldeans, whose cry is in the ships. **15** I am the LORD, your Holy One, the creator of Israel, your King.

1 Corinthians 15:57-58 (KJV) But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. **58** Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable,

always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Romans 8:35-39 (KJV) *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Revelation 17:14 (KJV) *These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.*

Note: this message was originally much longer, but we cut it short and took our time to attempt to explain the spiritual parallels between Judah's captivity and Babylon and our own spiritual "cultural captivity."

May the LORD open our eyes to the spiritual environment, and help us "Keep Building..."

More next week LORD willing!
Amen