

THE SECOND EXODUS
Follow Christ
Klenovec, 10th June 2023

Jer 31:2-14 Thus says the LORD: "The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, ³ the LORD appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. ⁴ Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall adorn yourself with tambourines and shall go forth in the dance of the merry-makers. ⁵ Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant and shall enjoy the fruit. ⁶ For there shall be a day when watchmen will call in the hill country of Ephraim: 'Arise, and let us go up to Zion, to the LORD our God.'" ⁷ For thus says the LORD: "Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, 'O LORD, save your people, the remnant of Israel.' ⁸ Behold, I will bring them from the north country and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, the pregnant woman and her who is in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹ With weeping they shall come, and with pleas for mercy I will lead them back, I will make them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble, for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. ¹⁰ "Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.' ¹¹ For the LORD has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall be like a watered garden, and they shall languish no more. ¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. ¹⁴ I will feast the soul of the priests with abundance, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, declares the LORD."

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0. INTRODUCTION

0.1. THE "EXODUS" SYMBOLISM

- Egypt → the Promised Land
- from this world → to the Kingdom of God

0.2. THE "SECOND EXODUS"

- Babylon → return
- from worldliness → to holiness
- **Isa 11:16** And there will be a highway from Assyria for the remnant that remains of his people, as there was for Israel when they came up from the land of Egypt.
- [Identity of the LORD] **Jer 16:14-15** "Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when it shall no longer be said, 'As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt,'¹⁵ but 'As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven them.' For I will bring them back to their own land that I gave to their fathers.
- **Zech 10:10-12** I will bring them home from the land of Egypt, and gather them from Assyria, and I will bring them to the land of Gilead and to Lebanon, till there is no room for them.¹¹ He shall pass through the sea of troubles and strike down the waves of the sea, and all the depths of the Nile shall be dried up. The pride of Assyria shall be laid low, and the scepter of Egypt shall depart. I will make them strong in the LORD, and they shall walk in his name," declares the LORD.

0.3. COMPARING TWO EXODI

- numbers
 - If to the 600,000 men, the women and children are added, the total number of persons probably would be about two millions. . .
 - *around 50,000 Jews* returned to the Land of Judah following the decree of Cyrus as described in Ezra, whereas most remained in Babylon
- procedure
 - Exodus 14:8 (וּבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל יֵצְאוּ בְיַד רָמָה) the people of Israel while the people of Israel were going out defiantly.
 - 1st return → Zerubbabel (Cyrus) ; 2nd return → Ezra (Artaxerxes);
 - **Ezra 8:21-23** Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from him a safe journey for ourselves, our children, and all our goods.²² For I was ashamed to ask the king for a band of soldiers and horsemen to protect us against the enemy on our way, since we had told the king, "The hand of our God is for good on all who seek him, and the power of his wrath is against all who forsake him."²³ So we fasted and implored our God for this, and he listened to our entreaty.
- identities
 - names of the leaders → plus rabble from Egypt
 - names of families → genealogies (thorough check up)
- results
 - Joshua → land conquered
 - Zerubbabel; Ezra; Nehemiah → Temple finished; the wall around Jerusalem repaired...
- **Ezra 3:11-12** And all the people shouted with a great shout when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid.¹² But many of the priests and Levites and heads of fathers' houses, old men who had seen the first house, wept with a loud voice when they saw the foundation of this house being laid

- **Zech 4:9-10** "The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of **this house**, and his hands will finish *it*. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you.¹⁰ "For who has despised the day of small things?"
- **Jer 31:2-14...**
- [BEAVIS 1981] "It is interesting to note that the return of the exiles in Jer 31:2—14 (LXX:38:2—14) resembles the triumphal procession accompanying the transfer of the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem under the leadership of David (2 Sam 6:1—15; I Chr 15-16) more than the wanderings of the wilderness generation."
- **Heb 12:18-24** For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them.²⁰ For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned."²¹ Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear."²² **But you have come to Mount Zion** and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

1. THE SPIRITUAL EXILE

1.1. 2COR 6:14-7:1

- **2Cor 6:13** In return (I speak as to children) widen your hearts also. →
- → **2Cor 7:2** Make room in your hearts for us. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, we have taken advantage of no one.

1.2. WHY THE "INTERMEZZO?"

- a "fragment?"
- leaving Babylon (worldliness) → the first condition of sincere relationship!

2. RETURN

2.1. SEPARATE

- from the Babylonians
- from the Israelites that did not return (Daniel? Esther?)
 - [SWINDOLL]¹ The events in the book of Esther occurred from **483 BC to 473 BC**, during the first half of the reign of King Xerxes, who chose Esther as his queen. During this time period, the first remnant of Jews who had returned to Judah were struggling to reestablish temple worship according to the Law of Moses.
- **2Cor 6:14 - 7:1** Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?¹⁵ What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever?¹⁶ What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."¹⁷ Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you,¹⁸ and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty." **7:1** Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing **holiness to completion** in the fear of God.

¹ <https://insight.org/resources/bible/the-historical-books/esther>

2.2. FOCUS

- **Ezra 3:6** From the first day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt offerings to the LORD. But the foundation of the temple of the LORD was not yet laid.

3. THE “REMNANT”

- Haggai; Zechariah; Malachi

3.1. A RENEWED IDENTITY

- a “new history” → self-understanding
- The Book of Chronicles → the old and the new (leaving out negatives)

3.2. A MORE GLORIOUS TEMPLE

- Hg 2:9 The glory of this last House shall be greater than the first one, said the Lord of Hosts. And in this place I will grant peace, says the Lord of Hosts.
 - “The Second Temple was not only awe inspiring because of its religious significance, but also for its physical dimensions, its grandeur and its beauty.”²
- Mal 3:1 And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.

3.3. A MORE INTENSE SPIRITUALITY

- **Mal 3:15-17** And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.¹⁶ Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another (אִז נִדְבְּרוּ יְרֵאֵי יְהוָה אִישׁ אֶת־רֵעֵהוּ) The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name.¹⁷ “They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him.”

4. TO REMEMBER

- Spiritual renewal is more difficult than the first turning to the Lord.
- Less spectacular outward events do not mean lesser significance – the opposite is true.
- Separation from worldliness may mean also separation from some believers.

² <https://judaism.stackexchange.com/questions/71594/haggais-glory-of-the-second-temple-greater-than-the-first>