

# You Have A Mighty Source

## The Exile

Psalms 91:1-2 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. <sup>2</sup> I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

### I. A Nation Divided

A. Israel, the Northern Kingdom

B. Judah, the Southern Kingdom

### II. Tragedy

A. Israel conquered, 721 BCE by Assyrians

2 Kings 17:3-6 (NIV)

<sup>3</sup> Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up to attack Hoshea (King of Israel), who had been Shalmaneser's vassal and had paid him tribute. <sup>4</sup> But the king of Assyria discovered that Hoshea was a traitor, for he had sent envoys to So king of Egypt, and he no longer paid tribute to the king of Assyria, as he had done year by year. Therefore Shalmaneser seized him and put him in prison. <sup>5</sup> The king of Assyria invaded the entire land, marched against Samaria and laid siege to it for three years. <sup>6</sup> In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and deported the Israelites to Assyria.

B. Judah conquered, 587 BCE by Babylonians

2 Kings 25:1-5 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> So in the ninth year of Zedekiah's reign, on the tenth day of the tenth month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon marched against Jerusalem with his whole army. He encamped outside the city and built siege works all around it. <sup>2</sup> The city was kept under siege until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah. <sup>3</sup> By the ninth day of the [fourth] month the famine in the city had become so severe that there was no food for the people to eat. <sup>4</sup> Then the city wall was broken through, and the whole army fled at night through the gate between the two walls near the king's garden, though the Babylonians were surrounding the city. They fled toward the Arabah, <sup>5</sup> but the Babylonian army pursued the king and overtook him in the plains of Jericho.

2 Kings 25:8-12 (NIV)

<sup>8</sup> On the seventh day of the fifth month, in the nineteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan commander of the imperial guard, an official of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. <sup>9</sup> He set fire to the temple of the Lord, the royal palace and all the houses of Jerusalem. Every important building he burned down. <sup>10</sup> The whole Babylonian army, under the commander of the imperial guard, broke down the walls around Jerusalem. <sup>11</sup> Nebuzaradan the commander of the guard carried into exile the people who remained in the city, along with the rest of the populace and those who had gone over to the king of Babylon. <sup>12</sup> But the commander left behind some of the poorest people of the land to work the vineyards and fields.

1. Solomon's Temple destroyed

2. People taken as slaves

### III. The Exile

Jeremiah 25:8-11 (NIV)

<sup>8</sup> Therefore the Lord Almighty says this: "Because you have not listened to my words, <sup>9</sup> I will summon all the peoples of the north and my servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon," declares the Lord, ". . ." <sup>11</sup> This whole country will become a desolate wasteland, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

A. God's Promise

Jeremiah 31:10-13 (NIV)

<sup>10</sup> "Hear the word of the Lord, O nations; proclaim it in distant coastlands: 'He who scattered Israel will gather them and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.' <sup>11</sup> For the Lord will ransom Jacob and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they. <sup>12</sup> They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion; they will rejoice in the bounty of the Lord-- the grain, the new wine and the oil, the young of the flocks and herds. They will be like a well-watered garden, and they

will sorrow no more. <sup>13</sup> Then maidens will dance and be glad, young men and old as well. I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow.

## B. God's Presence, Power & Provision

### 1. Daniel

Daniel 1:3-7 (NIV)

<sup>3</sup> Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring in some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility-- <sup>4</sup> young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. <sup>5</sup> The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service. <sup>6</sup> Among these were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. <sup>7</sup> The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

Daniel 1:17 (NIV)

<sup>17</sup> To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.

#### a. Ambassadors

Daniel 6:4 (NIV)

<sup>4</sup> At this, the administrators and the satraps tried to find grounds for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs, but they were unable to do so. They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent.

Daniel 6:21-28 (NIV)

<sup>21</sup> Daniel answered, "O king, live forever! <sup>22</sup> My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king." . . . <sup>26</sup> "I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. "For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. <sup>27</sup> He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions." <sup>28</sup> So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

### 2. Esther

Esther 2:17-18 (NIV)

<sup>17</sup> Now the king was attracted to Esther more than to any of the other women, and she won his favor and approval more than any of the other virgins. So he set a royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti. <sup>18</sup> And the king gave a great banquet, Esther's banquet, for all his nobles and officials. He proclaimed a holiday throughout the provinces and distributed gifts with royal liberality.

#### a. Privilege & Purpose

Esther 4:12-16 (NIV)

<sup>12</sup> When Esther's words were reported to Mordecai, <sup>13</sup> he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. <sup>14</sup> For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?" <sup>15</sup> Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai: <sup>16</sup> "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."

### Prayer

Heavenly Father, We pray today for the peace of Jerusalem. We come as watchmen on the walls to cry out on behalf of Israel and your people throughout the earth. Be merciful to those who are enduring. May those who oppose Your purposes be confused and ineffective. Raise up men and women of strength and courage to lead Your people. Send Your angels to intervene on our behalf. Allow our lives to bring glory and honor to our Lord Jesus. In His name we pray, amen.