

The Hebrew Prophets

The Second Temple

Creation ---Abraham---Exodus---Judges---
Monarchy---Nation Divided---Prophets---
the Exile---the Second Temple---Gospels---
the Church---Jesus' return

I. In a Foreign Land (the Exile)

A. Daniel's Insight

Daniel 9:1-6 (NIV)

¹In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom-- ²in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the Lord given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years. ³So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes. ⁴I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed: "O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with all who love him and obey his commands, ⁵we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws. ⁶We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.

B. Information Available

Matthew 1:20-22 (NASB)

an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of 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**Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet:**

II. Return & Rebuilding

A. Temple Rebuilt --- Zerubbabel

Ezra 3:10-11 (NIV)

¹⁰When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests in their vestments and with trumpets, and the Levites (the sons of Asaph) with cymbals, took their places to praise the Lord, as prescribed by David king of Israel.

B. Ezra Returns

Ezra 7:8-10 (NIV)

⁸Ezra arrived in Jerusalem in the fifth month of the seventh year of the king. ⁹He had begun his journey from Babylon on the first day of the first month, and he arrived in Jerusalem on the first day of the fifth month, for the gracious hand of his God was on him. ¹⁰For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel.

C. The Walls of Jerusalem; Nehemiah

Nehemiah 4:9-14 (NIV)

⁹But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.

¹⁰Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, "The strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall."

¹¹ Also our enemies said, "Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work."

¹² Then the Jews who lived near them came and told us ten times over, "Wherever you turn, they will attack us."

¹³ Therefore I stationed some of the people behind the lowest points of the wall at the exposed places, posting them by families, with their swords, spears and bows.

¹⁴ After I looked things over, I stood up and said to the nobles, the officials and the rest of the people, "Don't be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, who is great and awesome, and fight for your brothers, your sons and your daughters, your wives and your homes."

1. Prayed & stood guard, v.9

James 5:16 (NIV)

The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

2. Wrestled with weariness, v.10

Psalms 73:2-3 (NIV)

² But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold. ³ For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

3. Threats, v.11

Matthew 4:3 (NIV)

³ The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

4. Antagonists, v.12

5. Attention to Defense, v.13

Ephesians 6:10-11 (NIV)

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

6. The Lord is Great & Awesome, v.14 ---REMEMBER

D. Restored: physically & spiritually

Nehemiah 8:1-6 (NIV)

¹ all the people assembled as one man in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded for Israel. ² So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. ³ He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. ⁴ Ezra the scribe stood on a high wooden platform built for the occasion. . . ⁵ Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. ⁶ Ezra praised the Lord, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, you are a God who restores and redeems. I rejoice in Jesus, my Lord and my redeemer. Your provision for my life is complete and without equal. I worship you for your great mercy and compassion. You are a God who forgives and renews, thank you. Holy Spirit give me an understanding heart to know the fullness of my salvation. May the praises of Jesus, my Lord and King, fill the earth. Amen.