

THE KING IS COMING

Survey of Judah Alone, Captivity, Return, and Years of Silence

LESSON 1: JUDAH ALONE THROUGH YEARS OF SILENCE,
REVIEW AND PREVIEW

MEMORY. Memorize (or review) the time periods through the Years of Silence: Before the Flood, the Flood, the Scattering of the People, the Patriarchs, the Exodus, the Wandering in the Wilderness, Invasion and Conquest, Judges, United Kingdom, Divided Kingdom, Judah Alone, Captivity, Return, and Years of Silence (+ Life of Christ, Early Church, and Letters to Christians).

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READING. In preparation for our study this quarter, you may want to begin a reading plan that incorporates 2 Kgs 18-25, 2 Chron 29-36, Ezra-Esther, Isaiah-Daniel, and Nahum-Malachi. (If you want to learn more about the history of the Years of Silence, you can also read 1-2 Maccabees.)

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DISCUSSION.

1. *United Kingdom.* Who were the three kings of Israel during the United Kingdom? Briefly describe their successes and failures. List several ways in which these kings prefigure the coming king Jesus?

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- Judah Alone.* What had happened to the northern kingdom of Israel in 722 BC, and why? (2 Kgs 17:6-18) Which of the kings of Judah are typically designated "good kings," and which king specifically effected the exile of Judah? (18:3; 21:2; 22:2; cf. 2 Chron 33:12-13)

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3. *Captivity.* Which king of Babylon took Judah into captivity? (2 Kgs 25:1-2, 8-12) The king of Babylon carried away which prophet in 605 BC? (Dan 1:1-7) Which prophet prophesied in 597 BC? (Ezek 1:1-3) Which prophet was in Judah in 586 BC? (Jer 40:1-6)

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4. *Return.* Which king of Persia permitted the Jews to return to Judah, and what were the people to rebuild there? (Ezra 1:1-4) Who were Zerubbabel and Joshua? (2:1-2; 3:1-2, 8-9) Since Zerubbabel and Joshua failed to complete the building project, God sent which prophets to rebuke and encourage them? (5:1-2) Who were Esther, Ezra, and Nehemiah?

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5. *Years of Silence.* List several changes (e.g., political, religious, cultural)—as many as you can recall without doing extensive research—that occurred in the time between the Old and New Testaments. Explain why these changes demonstrate that God, though silent, was not inactive during the so-called Years of Silence.

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- 6. Fullness of Time.* Read Gal 4:4 and Eph 1:10. What does “the fullness of time(s)” mean in these contexts? (Cf. Mark 1:15; Heb 9:26.) In what way(s) was the time of Christ the “the fullness of time”?

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CONNECTION. The Old Testament (OT) points forward to Christ and the New Testament (NT). As we study the periods of Judah Alone through the Years of Silence, I want to pay close attention to the underlying theme that “the king (Jesus) is coming.”

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APPLICATION. Read again 2 Kgs 17:1-18. The people of Israel sinned publicly and privately. Just as God judged them for their wickedness, so will he do to us, if we reject him. If you are struggling with sin (private or public), do not follow the course of Israel. Call or text a trusted member of the church (e.g., elder), confess, and repent. If you do not have sin to confess at present, pray for those who do and/or for our rebellious nation.