

LESSON 34

Name _____

The Exile: A Nation Destroyed, A Nation Reborn

Directions: Use your knowledge of the early books of the Bible and read the cited scripture passages and related biblical footnotes to help you to fill in the blanks for each item.

1. In the year 586 B.C.E, the Babylonians first attacked Jerusalem. They began deporting Israelites to Babylon as slaves. In 587 B.C.E., the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple and took the entire nation into exile. The Chosen People did not know if they would ever _____.
2. Many biblical scholars will say that the story of the ancient Jews can be written around two major events in their history:
 - A. The first is the greatest event of the Torah in which the Jews come to their homeland. It is called the _____.
 - B. The second is the Exile in which the Jews are ripped from their _____.
3. These two events, the Exodus and the Exile, are the two extremes in Jewish history:
 - A. In the Exodus, the Jews won their freedom and were no longer _____.
In the Exile, the Jews lost their freedom and again became _____.
 - B. In the Exodus, we read about the beginnings of the Jewish _____.
In the Exile, we read about the destruction of the Jewish _____.
 - C. In the Exodus, we read about the Jews coming to the Promised _____.
In the Exile, we read about how the Jews lost the Promised _____.
4. Most of the people of Judah were taken to Babylon and forced to live in exile away from their homeland. During their time in exile, two important developments took place among the Jews. First, since the Temple had been destroyed and they were far from Jerusalem, the Jews had no place in which to _____.
5. The Jews began to gather weekly to worship and pray. They would gather, of course, on the day of the week set aside for the worship of God known as the _____. (Lv 23)
6. For the Jews, from this time on, a new place called the synagogue became a center of _____.
7. The second great development came in the area of the scriptures. Some of the scriptures had been written down, but it was all in pieces: a section here, a story there. A great deal of it had also been committed to _____.
8. Now, in the face of what could have been their extinction as a people, the Jews decided to begin in earnest the preserving of their story by writing down the story of their relationship with _____.
9. These newly written sections were joined with previously written sections of the scriptures to form the assembled writings which today are included in the _____.

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10. Before the Exile, the prophets warned the people of what might happen if they did not change their ways and repent. Now that what they had foretold had actually happened, the prophets changed their message from doom and gloom to _____.
11. For instance, in Ezekiel 36:13, 26-28, the prophet Ezekiel says that the Lord will restore the people to _____. The Lord also promises a conversion for the people by saying that they shall receive a new _____ and a new _____.
12. In Ezekiel 43:1-7, the prophet then speaks of the Lord's intent to restore the _____.
13. The terrible nightmare of the Exile finally came to an end in the year 537 B.C.E. It was not Babylon, however, who freed the enslaved Jews. Read Ezra 1:1-4. The liberator of the Jews was _____ who ruled _____.
14. Read Ezra 1:6-7. What were Cyrus' parting gifts to the Jews?

15. The Exile will forever change the Jewish people. Now they will regain what they _____, rebuild what was _____, and continue in the salvation plan of _____.