



THE EXILE

Part 3 of The Savior King
2 Kings 21:1-16

A Kingdom Divided

931 BC:
Solomon
Dies

Israel

Judah

Rehoboam took the throne and fractured the kingdom. Over the centuries, a few kings led with wisdom, but most were godless. They led Judah into a steady decline of idolatry, injustice, and immorality, culminating in the reign of Manasseh.

Three Generations. Three Directions.

Ahaz
(732 BC)

Shut down the Temple entirely. Built pagan altars at every corner of the city and set up idols in the Temple courtyards.

Hezekiah
(715 BC)

Remained faithful during the Assyrian invasion. Reopened and purified the Temple. Removed the pagan shrines. Headed the right direction.

Manasseh
(Reigned 55 years)

Took the throne at age 12. Reversed everything. Rebuilt high places, reestablished altars for Baal, and worshipped the stars in the sky.

Corruption at the Core

*“Worse evil than the nations
the Lord had destroyed...”*
(2 Kings 21:9)

Built altars to the stars in both
Temple courtyards.

Set up a carved Asherah image
inside the Temple itself—where God
had placed His name.

Sacrificed his own son in the fire.

Practiced witchcraft, divination, and
shed innocent blood from one end
of Jerusalem to the other.



The Verdict

“I will stretch over Jerusalem the measuring line used on Samaria... and I will wipe Jerusalem clean as one wipes a bowl — wiping it and turning it upside down.”

(2 Kings 21:13)



600 years of patience ends.
Because they gave themselves to
idols, God abandoned the remnant
of his inheritance to their enemies.

586 BC: The Reality of Exile

God's covenant warnings from Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28-30 are executed.

Nebuzaradan, captain of the Babylonian guards, enters Jerusalem.

The Temple, the king's palace, and all great houses are burned to the ground.

The walls are torn down, and the population is deported, leaving only the poorest vinedressers and farmers.



70 Years Later

A Shadow of Former Glory

Judah's exile in Babylon lasts 70 years. Eventually, 60,000 to 70,000 Jews return to the Land to rebuild the Temple and the walls.

The physical return was incomplete. The vast majority remained in prosperous Babylon. The true spiritual exile was not over.

The Promises Kept Waiting

Ezekiel 37 — Dry bones living & God's Presence dwelling

Isaiah 40 — A New Exodus

Jeremiah 33 — A New Covenant

Ezekiel 36 — A new heart and the indwelling Spirit

Ezekiel 34 / Jeremiah 23 — A New King David to shepherd the people

Isaiah 49 & 56 — Salvation extending to the nations

God Returns to His People

Jesus fulfills the prophetic blueprint,
demonstrating the Kingdom of God in real time

The Shepherd

The promised Son of
Man and King David's
successor.

The Temple

He becomes the place
where God manifests
His glory.

30 AD

The Mercy Seat

The cross replaces the
ark of the covenant,
sprinkling atoning blood.

The Spirit

Provider of living water,
new life, and forgiven sins

The Faithful Israelite

Israel's Failure



Jesus' Triumph



The Exilic Paradox

Already

Christ's First Coming. The New Covenant is mediated. Sins are forgiven.

**We are
still exiles.**
(1 Peter 1:1)

**We live in the
tension between
the promises
secured and the
promises fully
realized.**

Not Yet

Christ's Return.
The new heavens
and new earth.
Full restoration.

The End of Exile

“Look, God’s dwelling is with humanity, and he will live with them... He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more.”
(Revelation 21:3-4)

The former troubles will be forgotten. God creates a new Jerusalem to be a joy, and its people a delight (Isaiah 65). The maximum fulfillment of every promise.





Eyes Fixed on the End of Exile

How we live faithfully in the tension of the Already / Not Yet.

The Exile Survival Guide

	Present	Future
Mindset	Thankfulness. We are already a new creation in Christ; the old has passed away. (2 Cor 5:17)	Striving. Live a new-creation lifestyle in righteousness and purity, resisting the idolatry around us. (Eph 4:22-24)
Action	Detachment. Hold this world lightly. Our true citizenship is in heaven. (Phil 3:20)	Cultivate Hope. Watch for the sign of the Son of Man coming on the clouds with great power. (Matt 24:30)

The Best is Yet to Come

Jesus will return in glory. We will be with him forever
on the greatest, most glorious day ever.