

EXILE

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

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. September 27, 2026.

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THE BACKGROUND TO 2 KINGS 21

This will help us understand what is called Exile theology.

- King Solomon died in 931 BC. His son Rehoboam took the throne and he led Judah into evil idolatry.
- A series of kings reigned in Judah for 200 years, and most of them were idolaters and did evil in the Lord's sight.
- King Hezekiah took the throne in 715 BC, and he returned the nation to God, reopened the Temple, and destroyed the pagan shrines.
- His son Manasseh became king and reversed his father's reforms. He was possibly the worst, most godless ruler in Judah's history.

2 KINGS 21:1-16; 25:1-12

Read the passages in your Bible.

THE EXILE AND HOPE

Judah went into exile for 70 years. Then, 60-70,000 returned.

The prophets envisioned a time of restoration:

- Return from exile - dry bones living (Ezekiel 37).
- New Exodus (Isaiah 40, 43, 52).
- New Covenant (Jeremiah 33).
- New heart and his indwelling Spirit (Ezekiel 36).

- New King David - a good shepherd to faithfully lead his people back to God (Jeremiah 23; Ezekiel 34, 37).
- His Presence would dwell with his people (Ezekiel 37, 43).
- Salvation for the nations would come from Judah (Isaiah 49, 56).

Most of these were not fulfilled when the exiles returned.

- But God is always faithful. When would he keep his word?

JESUS

Jesus Christ fulfilled the promises.

- He was God returning (Isaiah 40; Matthew 3:1-3).
- He was the Son of Man, Messiah, Good Shepherd, new King David.
- He was the Temple, where God's Presence dwells and sins are forgiven.

Jesus re-lived Israel's story, but faithfully:

- Jesus went to Egypt, then returned to the Land. He was faithful in the desert and overcame satan's temptations. He was a light to the nations.
- He was the mediator of the promised New Covenant (Luke 22:20).
- The cross was the mercy seat where atoning blood was sprinkled.
- Jesus offered the indwelling Spirit, living water, new life, forgiven sins, and restoration to God and his covenant blessings.

But still, the Bible calls God's people exiles (1 Peter 1:1).

THE END OF EXILE IN THE NEW PROMISED LAND

The Exile will finally end when heaven comes to earth.

- We will enter into the new creation, God's new promised land.

Isaiah 65:16-19 (CSB) For the former troubles will be forgotten and hidden from my sight. 17 "For I will create new heavens and a new earth; the past events will not be remembered or come to mind. 18 Then be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I will create Jerusalem to be a joy and its people to be a delight. 19 I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people. The sound of weeping and crying will no longer be heard in her.

Revelation 21:2-5 (CSB) I also saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband. 3 Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: Look, God's dwelling is with humanity, and he will live with them. They will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and will be their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things have passed away. 5 Then the one seated on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new."

EYES FIXED ON THE END OF EXILE

We can apply the lessons of the Exile and its aftermath in several ways:

- **Gratitude:** We're already part of the new creation in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17).
- **Holiness:** Strive, with the Holy Spirit's help, to live a new-creation lifestyle.

Ephesians 4:22-24 (CSB) ... (you were taught) to take off your former way of life, the old self that is corrupted by deceitful desires, 23 to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, the one created according to God's likeness in righteousness and purity of the truth.

- **Detachment:** Our home is the eternal Promised Land (Philippians 3:20-21).
- **Attitude:** Confidence, optimism. (Matthew 24:30-31).

Matthew 24:30-31 (CSB) ... They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 (angels) ... they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the sky to the other.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Use any or all of the following questions to guide your group's conversation about Sunday's sermon.

Observation

As you look at 2 Kings 21:1–9, what specific actions and patterns describe Manasseh's leadership and its effect on Judah?

In verses 10–16, what reasons does God give for the coming disaster on Jerusalem and Judah? Which words or images stand out to you?

Are there any signs of hope in 2 Kings 21:1-16?

Interpretation

What does 2 Kings 21 reveal about the seriousness of sin and God's patience (think how long it was between the Exodus and the Exile - 600 years of mostly idolatry)?

Jesus is presented as the one who faithfully relives Israel's story. How does that framework change the way you understand Jesus' life and mission?

The sermon says Christians are already part of God's new creation in Christ, while still waiting for its complete fulfillment. What should we expect as we live in that "already, but not yet" reality?

Application

What are the signs that we are still in exile, that the fullness of God's promises is yet to come? How can faithful Christians respond during this time of waiting?

Review the sermon's application section: Eyes on the End of Exile. Which of the four applications seemed most relevant for your life? How would you integrate that application into your lifestyle?