



God's Grand Story, Pt. 6: Captivity and The Coming Kingdom

For centuries, God sent his prophets to warn his people that unless they repented and walked in obedience to him that he would judge them. Though they had seasons of revival, the southern Kingdom of Judah would continue to rebel against God. Therefore, God used pagan nations to deliver judgment against his people. They were conquered, Jerusalem leveled, and the majority of people exiled in a foreign land, many as slaves. Ahead of time, God sent prophets to say that their exile would be limited and they would ultimately return. These same prophets would also foretell of a coming Messiah and of a kingdom that would never end, where righteousness would dwell.

Bottom Line: God is the source and sovereign of all things and with him there is always hope.

Discussion Questions:

1. Describe a time when you were somewhere you felt like you didn't belong.
2. Over a period of 70 years, Daniel served a series of foreign kings in a foreign land yet he maintained his devotion to God (see **Daniel 7:1-10**). How do you think he maintained his faith and his identity?
3. In what ways is the situation with Daniel and the exiles — trying to remain faithful to God in a foreign land — a picture of our lives today? What challenges does our world present to those who want to live to honor God? How can we overcome those challenges? Why is it hard to stand up for your Christian convictions? Where do you find it most challenging?
4. **Read Isaiah 9:2, 6-7.** How might have this prophecy have impacted the people living in exile? How does this prophecy affect you?
5. **Read 2 Peter 3:3-13.** God's timetable is different than our own. From the beginning, he has been driving history toward a victorious end where his righteous rule will endure throughout all eternity. How does this reality give you strength and hope? What can you do to maintain this perspective?
6. **Read Hebrews 1:1-2.** How has God been speaking to you recently? What, if anything, have you been hearing from him? How are you responding to him?
7. ~What was the most challenging idea/thought to you from the message? ~What was the most helpful/encouraging thought or idea from the message this week? How did it help you? ~How can the group encourage you this week?

For resources that will help you better understand God's Grand Story, please visit this link:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PaziqJT1TQlpNQTL14EH2UUvzcao0vM0OAdPs2DketA/edit?usp=sharing>

*If time doesn't allow for you to discuss all of these questions, use only the ones you feel would be most helpful for your group.