

Spiritual Growth Questions for March 5th, 2023

Opening Questions:

- A) What sermon points stood out to you today?

- B) Do have an event in your life that sounds like the “Babylonian Cure?” What happened? What did you learn?

- C) Can you think of other cases in modern history where a serious setback or crisis resulted in good things happening?

For Deeper Study:

Read Romans 8:18-21. There are two vital ideas that relate to the “Babylonian Cure”: Why things are the way they are, and God’s ultimate plan for us. What comfort in these ideas can you find? Also, you can consider Romans 8:28.

Read Hebrews 11. This is the famous “faith chapter.” Read it and then meditate specifically upon verses 39 & 40. How does the concluding verses compare and contrast with the rest of the chapter? Do you find the conclusion sobering? Liberating?

Read 1 John 3:1-3. How does this passage integrate with the idea of a Babylonian Cure?

Prayer: Lord, help me to accept what comes into my life and learn to work with it for Your purposes. Help me to trust You and praise You through difficult times so that I can become your servant all the more.

THE BABYLONIAN CURE

March 5th, 2023, Pastor Paul Sellman

Today we are taking a side trip from Pastor John’s series on Daniel, and exploring how the background to that book – The Exile of Judah to Babylon – holds lessons for the Christian faith for us today.

A) INTRODUCTION

The Babylonian Cure is when God’s solution seems

B) THE HISTORY

1. The Warnings

Even before Israel entered the Promised Land, God

Deuteronomy 28:64-65: (1300 B.C.)

Furthermore, the LORD will scatter you among all the peoples, from one end of the earth to the other; and there you will serve other gods, made of wood and stone, which you and your fathers have not known. Among those nations you will find no peace, and there will be no resting place for the sole of your foot; but there the LORD will give you a trembling heart, failing of eyes, and despair of soul.

Amos 5:25-27: (750 B.C.)

“Did you present Me with sacrifices and grain offerings in the wilderness for forty years, house of Israel? You also carried along Sikkuth your king and Kiyyun, your images, the star of your gods which you made for yourselves. Therefore I will make you go into exile beyond Damascus,” says the LORD, whose name is the God of armies.

Notes

Jeremiah 25:8-11: (620 B.C.)

“Therefore, this is what the LORD of armies says: ‘Because you have not obeyed My words, behold, I will send and take all the families of the north,’ declares the LORD, ‘and I will send to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land and against its inhabitants and against all these surrounding nations; and I will completely destroy them and make them an object of horror and hissing, and an everlasting place of ruins. Moreover, I will eliminate from them the voice of jubilation and the voice of joy, the voice of the groom and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones and the light of the lamp. This entire land will be a place of ruins and an object of horror, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon for seventy years.

Habakkuk 1:1-12

1 The oracle which Habakkuk the prophet saw. 2 How long, O Lord, will I call for help, And You will not hear? I cry out to You, “Violence!” Yet You do not save. 3 Why do You make me see iniquity, and cause me to look on wickedness? Yes, destruction and violence are before me; Strife exists and contention arises. 4 Therefore the law is ignored and justice is never upheld. For the wicked surround the righteous; therefore, justice comes out perverted.

5 “Look among the nations! Observe! Be astonished! Wonder! Because I am doing something in your days—You would not believe if you were told. 6 “For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, that fierce and impetuous people Who march throughout the earth to seize dwelling places which are not theirs. 7 “They are dreaded and feared; Their justice and authority originate with themselves. 8 “Their horses are swifter than leopards and keener than wolves in the evening. Their horsemen come galloping, their horsemen come from afar; They fly like an eagle swooping down to devour.

9 “All of them come for violence. Their horde of faces moves forward. They collect captives like sand. 10 “They mock at kings and rulers are a laughing matter to them. They laugh at every fortress and heap up rubble to capture it. 11 “Then they will sweep through like the wind and pass on. But they will be held guilty, they whose strength is their god.”

12 Are You not from everlasting, O Lord, my God, my Holy One? We will not die. You, O Lord, have appointed them to judge; And You, O Rock, have established them to correct. 13 Your eyes are too pure to approve evil, And You cannot look on wickedness with favor. Why do You look with favor on those who deal treacherously? Why are You silent when the wicked swallow up Those more righteous than they?

2. The Exile Experience

This was a case of the cure _____.

The end result was _____.

Notes _____

C) APPLICATION

1. In the History of Israel

2. Personal Application

3. What We Learn About God

Notes:

