

# POP QUIZ

- What caused the exile/captivity?
- Why would they pursue other gods?
- Is the God of the Bible all-knowing?
- Is the God of the Bible all-powerful?
- Is the God of the Bible all-wise?

*Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures. (Luke 24:27)*





# *God Keeps His Promises*

*Esther*

# The Story of Esther

- The king of Persia deposes his wife
- A replacement is sought
- The king chooses Esther as queen
- Mordecai saves the king's life
- Mordecai snubs Haman
- Haman schemes to kill all Jews

# The Story of Esther

- Mordecai tells Esther of Haman's plot
- Esther finally tells the king
- Haman is killed
- Mordecai plots to save the Jews
- The Jews are saved
- The Jews institute *Purim*

# *A Brief Timeline*

ISAIAH & JEREMIAH

DEPORTATION 606 BC

CAPTIVITY – 70 YRS

FIRST  
RETURN  
536 BC

ALTER  
REBUILT,  
TEMPLE  
STARTED &  
STOPPED

HAGGAI & ZECHARIAH

TEMPLE FINISHED 520 BC

ESTHER 483-473 BC

SECOND  
RETURN  
458 BC

EZRA  
TAUGHT  
THE LAW

THIRD  
RETURN  
444 BC

NEHEMIAH  
REBUILT  
THE WALL

MANY JEWS STAYED

# Isaiah & Jeremiah

- God's *vineyard* will be laid waste; the people will be exiled (Isa. 5:1-7, 13)
- “When seventy years have been completed...” (Jer. 29:10)
- “Go forth from Babylon! Flee from the Chaldeans!” (Isa. 48:20a)

# *God Promised...*

- To drive Israel out of the land if they disobeyed (Deut. 28:36, 58-68)
- To bring them back (Deut. 30:1-5; Jer. 29:10; cf. 2 Chron. 6:36-39)
  - But not all came back
- To bring *all* back (Ezek. 37)



# Observations on Esther

- Out of all Israel in captivity, a little over 50,000 returned
- If all had obeyed and returned, would the story of Esther have happened?

# Observations on Esther

- No messianic prophecies
- No *Angel of the LORD*
- No mention of God, Jerusalem, the temple, sacrifices, prayer, or the law
- No commendable role models

# Observations on Esther

- Esther was willing to disobey God
  - Diet (2:9; cf. Daniel 1:8)
  - Relations* (2:14-16; cf. Ex. 20:14)
  - Marriage (2:17; cf. Deut. 7:1-4)
  - Vengeance (9:13; cf. Deut. 32:35)

# *Expositor's Bible Commentary*

“The disturbing ethical practices of Esther and Mordecai resulted in the deliverance of the Jewish people from a terrible pogrom, but their success does not prove that the means used were good or pleasing to God.”

# Observations on Esther

- With some exceptions, the spiritual condition of Israel was poor
  - They did not keep the covenant
  - They did not obey (return)
  - They kept repeating the same sins (e.g. – Ezra 9:10-15; Neh. 13:23-29)

# *Where is Jesus?*

- Seen in *Providence*
  - *God's benevolent and wise rule, sovereignty, and governance over all His creation (Ps. 66:7; 103:19)*
  - See Acts 17:24-31
  - God is in control! (cf. Dan. 4)

# *Where is Jesus?*

- Just as Jesus providentially took care of the Nation in the wilderness, so He takes care of them in captivity
  - Even when they don't know it
  - Even when they don't seem to care about Him

# *Expositor's Bible Commentary*

- The *silent providence* of God “should be reexamined to see whether God’s silence should be interpreted as evidence that the people were working out their own affairs without consulting him.”



# *Where is Jesus?*

- Seen through the *Promises*
  - From Abraham thru Isaac & Jacob
  - Thru Judah
  - *Son of David*
- If all of Abraham's descendants were killed, there would be no Messiah

# *Where is Jesus?*

- Seen through the *Promises*
  - God promises to bring Israel back to the land, fully and finally (Ezek. 37:1-23; Hos. 3:5)
  - *David* will sit on the throne (37:24; Jer. 23:5-8; cf. Rev. 22:16)

# *So What?*

- The lessons of *Esther*:
  - God keeps His promises even when his people disobey
  - God will accomplish His purposes with or without us, or even in spite of us

# *So What?*

- The lessons of *Esther*:
  - God is sovereign over all human choices and actions
  - Human solutions are inherently flawed

# *So What?*

- What problems does mankind face?
  - What do we expect from sinners?
- What solutions does our world have to offer?
- What goals is our world working toward?

# *So What?*

- All of the problems we see in the world today stem from one root:

## **Rebellion**

- No matter how much we deal with the *symptoms*, the root remains

*So What?*

**“repent and believe  
in the gospel”**

**(Mark 1:15)**