

## Old Testament Overview Autumn 2021

### Session 6: Isaiah 40-66, Ezekiel, Daniel, Esther: A Covenant People in Exile

#### Psalm 129

"Greatly have they afflicted me from my youth"- let Israel now say-

**"Greatly have they afflicted me from my youth, yet they have not prevailed against me.**

The ploughers ploughed upon my back; they made long their furrows."

**The LORD is righteous; he has cut the cords of the wicked.**

May all who hate Zion be put to shame and turned backward!

**Let them be like the grass on the housetops, which withers before it grows up,**

with which the reaper does not fill his hand nor the binder of sheaves his arms,

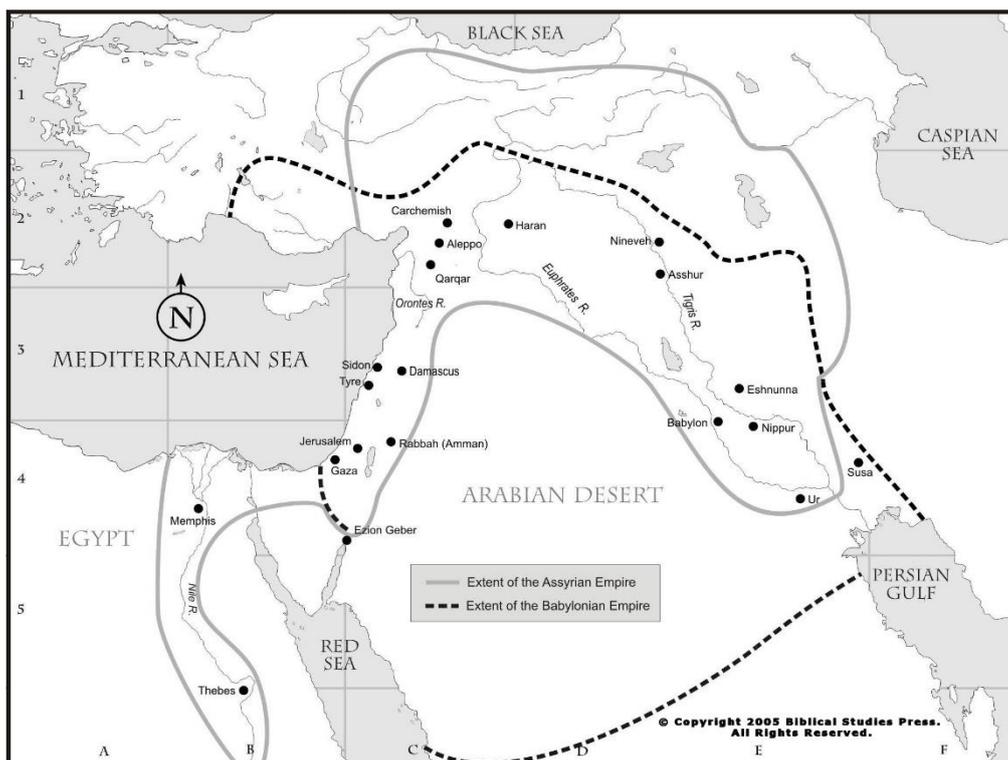
**nor do those who pass by say, "The blessing of the LORD be upon you! We bless you in the name of the LORD!"**

#### 6.1 Introduction and Historical Context

##### Historical Context:

612	Babylonians destroy Nineveh, effectively ending Assyrian power
605	Daniel and others go into exile
593	Beginning of Ezekiel's prophetic ministry
587	Destruction of Jerusalem after revolt of Zedekiah
571	Last recorded prophecy of Ezekiel
562	release of Jehoiachin from prison 2 Kings 25:27-30
539	Babylonian empire overthrown by Persians under Cyrus
539-515	Initial return from Exile (Ezra 1-6)
486-465	reign of Xerxes, setting for Esther.
458-433	Revitalization of Jerusalem under Ezra and Nehemiah (Ezra 7-Nehemiah 13)

#### The Assyrian and Babylonian Empires



## The Persian Empire c.500 BC



### Three questions:

Why are we in exile?

Will there ever be a return?

What are we to do in exile?

### 6.2 Isaiah 40-66

Isaiah 40-51:

Isaiah 51-55:

Isaiah 56-66

## 6.3 Ezekiel

Prophecies date from 593-571BC

### **Ezekiel 1-24: Judgement on Judah and Jerusalem**

Ezekiel 1-3

Ezekiel 3-5 - Sign acts

3:22-27

4:1-17

5:1-4

Ezekiel 10

Ezekiel 16 and 23

“They will know that I am the Lord!”

### **Ezekiel 25-32 Oracles against the foreign nations**

### **Ezekiel 33-48 Blessing for Judah and Jerusalem**

God will save and restore his people (34-39)

36:24-32

37:1-14

37:24-28

38-39

A New Temple, a new law, a new land, a new city (40-48)

## 6.4 Daniel

What shall we do in exile?

What about the future?

## 6.5 Esther

What shall we do in exile?

A future in exile – Esther 9-10

## 6.6 Prophet, Priest and King

## 6.7 Context – understanding prophecy: Fulfilment

Prophecy and Context

- Who is the prophet speaking to?
- What did this mean for them? / what is the immediate fulfilment?
- **How is this fulfilled in Christ?**
- What does this mean for us?

**In groups:**

Isaiah 61

Ezekiel 36:22-38

Daniel 7:1-14