

Ezra

God's judgment on His people.

- 722 B.C. Northern Kingdom falls at the conquest of Samaria by the Assyrian Sargon II
- 605 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar comes against Jerusalem and takes some residents into exile. Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah were among these. (Daniel 1:1-8)
- 597 B.C. Jehoiachin surrendered Jerusalem to Nebuchadnezzar. The king along with 10,000 captives into exile. The treasures in the temple and the temple vessels were taken.
- 587 B.C. The walls of Jerusalem breached. Zedekiah the king captured, blinded and taken into exile. The city along with the temple destroyed.

God's restoration of His people.

- 539 B.C Cyrus, founder of the Persian Empire, conquered Babylon and permitted the Jews who wished to do so to return to Judah and Jerusalem. (See Isaiah 45:1-13)
- 458 B.C. Ezra's mission under Artaxerxes I begins in Jerusalem.

Don't miss the grace in God's judgment

- Isaiah's ministry in Judah was approximately 735 to 700 B.C. God was calling His people to repentance at least 100 years before judgment came.
- Notice the two conquests of Jerusalem in 605 B.C. and 597 B.C. before the destruction in 587/86 B.C. Also note the intense ministry of Jeremiah during this period of time (627-586 B.C.). For example Jeremiah 18:1-11
- Note that the theme in Isaiah of a remnant who would return reveals the redemptive rather than purely punitive nature of this judgment. Isaiah 10:20-22; 11:11-16; 37:31-32

The Decree of Cyrus

- Compare 2 Chronicles 36:22-23
- The Word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah
 - Jeremiah 25:1-14 (2 Kings 24:1)
 - Jeremiah 29:1-14 (2 Kings 24:10-17)

The Decree of Cyrus

- Cyrus acknowledges God's hand in bringing him to power.
Isaiah 45:1-3
- Acknowledges God's charge for him to rebuild the temple.
Isaiah 45:13
- Directs provision for the building