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God's judgment on His people.

- 722 B.C. Northern Kingdom fell at the conquest of Samaria by the Assyrian Sargon II
- 605 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar came against Jerusalem and took some residents into exile. Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah were among these. (Daniel 1:1-8)

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God's judgment on His people.

- 597 B.C. Jehoiachin surrendered Jerusalem to Nebuchadnezzar. The king along with 10,000 captives were taken into exile. The treasures in the temple and the temple vessels were taken. Beginning of the 70-year exile. (Ezekiel 33:21)
- 586 B.C. The walls of Jerusalem breached. Zedekiah the king was captured, blinded and taken into exile. The city along with the temple destroyed.

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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.

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God's grace is always present in 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

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God's grace is always present in judgment.

- 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

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The Decree of Cyrus is another example of how God directs the affairs of the world. Ezra 1:1-4

- 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)

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The Decree of Cyrus is another example of how God directs the affairs of the world. Ezra 1:1-4

- 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

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