

## BEYOND LONELINESS AND DISPLACEMENT, PART 1

Jeremiah 29:10-14; John 14:23

STILL SEEKING TO MAKE A CONNECTION . . .

A YEARNING FOR "PLACE": A CENTRAL THEME OF THE OT

### A BIBLICAL THEOLOGY: ISRAEL'S JOURNEY

#### The history of Israel at a glance:

- From the birth of Abram to the death of Joseph = about 400 years [Family period]
- From the death of Joseph to the Exodus = about 400 years [Tribal period]
- From the Exodus to Saul, Israel's first King = about 400 years [Theocracy period]
- From king Saul to king Zedekiah, into exile = about 400 years [Monarchy period]
- Israel's time of exile in Babylon = about 50 years
- The Inter-Testamental period = about 400 years [Silent period]

#### What happened as a result of the exile?

- The OT writings, including the Psalms, were collected and canonized
- Israel's hopeless obsession with idolatry was replaced by honoring God and the Scriptures.
- Judaism officially became Israel's national religion.
- Synagogues were built all over the Mediterranean, wherever there was a population of Jews, for the purpose of learning God's Word and for worship.
- New religious leaders: Scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees (priests)

*"In short, exile represents the death of Israel. In losing her land, Israel apparently also loses her identity, history, and covenant relationship with Yahweh. Restoration from exile, then, is a resurrection from death to life." Kenneth J. Turner, "The Death of Death in the Death of Israel"*

### EXILE AND DISPLACEMENT IN THE HANDS OF A SOVEREIGN GOD

Jeremiah 29:10-14. <sup>10</sup>"When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. <sup>11</sup>For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. <sup>12</sup>Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. <sup>13</sup>You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. <sup>14</sup>I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile."

John 14:23 "Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."

John 15:4 (from the Message translation) "Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with me."