



HOMework FOR October 10

Exile: Curses of the Covenant

Deuteronomy 27-28; 30:15-20; 2 Kings 6:24-30; Lamentations 1:1-2, 16-21; 2:1-3, 11-17; 3:22-26; 4:1-16; 5:1-2, 16-18; Psalm 137; Ezekiel 24:14; 37:21-28; Jeremiah 31:27-34; 39:15-18; Galatians 3:10-29

QUESTIONS

- 1) Read Deuteronomy 27:1-13. What did God command them to do with the curses and blessings of the covenant? Why do you think He created this kind of ceremony? _____

Continue reading verses 14-26 and reflect on what it means for Israel that the people said "Amen" to each of these curses. Why did they do this just before they entered the Promised Land? _____

- 2) Read Deuteronomy 28:1-24 and compare and contrast the blessings and the curses. How are the blessings and the curses related to one another? _____

How are these blessings/curses connected to their daily lives? How are they natural consequences of not following God? _____

Continue reading verses 25-68. How do these curses connect to the Fall of Jerusalem to Babylon and the destruction of the Temple? _____

Why do you think God told them he would strike them with the plagues of Egypt? What does that tell us theologically? _____

3) Think back to the promises of Abraham. Why is their being exiled from the Promised Land such a big deal theologically? How is it connected to the promises? How is connected to their identity as the redeemed people of God? _____

- 4) Read Lamentations 3:22-26. Does it surprise you to know that these well-known verses are found in the middle of a book of psalms of lament about the fall of Jerusalem? Why is it important to remember the mercies of God in the middle of times of trial and suffering? _____

- 5) Read Ezekiel 37:21-28 and Jeremiah 31:27-34 and describe the promises that God made to His people in the New Covenant. How will the New Covenant be different than the Old Covenant? _____

How does this reflect a redemption from the curses of the covenant? _____

Why did the people have to go through the curses and the exile in order to get to the New Covenant? _____

APPLICATION

Read Lamentations 1:1-2, 16-21; 2:1-3, 11-17; 3:22-26; 4:1-16; 5:1-2, 16-18; and Psalm 137 and try to just experience the feelings that Jeremiah and the Psalmist felt when they wrote these words. Poetry is meant to be experienced, not just read. Spend some time meditating on these words, letting them soak deep into your soul, imagining what it would be like to be an Israelite living in Jerusalem during this time.

- How would it feel to be an Israelite going through the Fall of Jerusalem, the city you loved?
- How would it feel to watch the Temple be destroyed, the place of God's presence?
- What would it make you feel or think about God, the God you thought loved you and watched over you and was the King of the whole Universe?
- What would it make you think or feel about yourself as God's people? Remember that the prophets had been warning them about this for hundreds of years and they hadn't been listening.
- What questions, doubts, or fears might you have now that the Temple had been destroyed?
- How do these verses reflect both God's justice and His great mercy?
- Why does God have to punish sin? What would the world be like if He didn't?