



HOMEWORK FOR October 17

Exile: Faithfulness in Exile

Jeremiah 25:1-14, 29:1-14, 2 Chronicles 36:20-21; John 3:19-21; 15:18-25; 17:13-23; Matthew 5:10-16; Ephesians 6:10-12; Philippians 3:17-21; 2 Corinthians 5:16-20; Daniel 1-6; Esther

QUESTIONS

1) Read Jeremiah 25:1-14. Why did God say He was sending Judah into exile? _____

What would happen after 70 years? _____

2) Read 2 Chronicles 36:20-21. Why did the exile last for 70 years? _____

What does this tell us about God? What does it tell us about what God expects from us? _____

3) Read Jeremiah 29:1-3. [This was after the first and second waves of the exile, so a lot of Jews were in Babylon already, but Jerusalem hadn't fallen yet.] What did Jeremiah do as a response to the teachings of false prophets who said that they would go back to Judah soon? _____

4) Read Jeremiah 29:4-14. Why did God tell the exiles to settle in the land of Babylon? _____

Why did He tell them to seek the welfare of Babylon? What would that accomplish? _____

What does this tell us about God? His mission? His kingdom? His heart? _____

5) Read John 17:13-23. What does this prayer of Jesus tell us about our relationship to the world? _____

How can we be sanctified, even as we are in the world? _____

6) Read John 15:18-25 and 3:19-21. Why does the world hate Jesus? _____

7) Read Ephesians 6:10-12. How does this help us understand our relationship with the world better? _____

If our battle isn't against "flesh and blood," what does this tell us about how we should relate to those living in darkness around us? _____

8) Read Philippians 3:17-21 and 2 Corinthians 5:16-20 and reflect on our relationship with the world around us. What does it mean to be an ambassador for God's kingdom in this world? _____

How is that similar to Jeremiah telling the exiles to seek the welfare of Babylon?

COMPARE AND CONTRAST

Look at the stories of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and the story of Esther and Mordecai.

How were these characters, in each of their contexts, being tested in their faithfulness?

How did the characters show courage?

How was God glorified in each of their stories?

What can we learn from their stories and what it means to remain faithful to God in the midst of "hostile territory?"

What do we learn about God from these stories?