

- Ended last week with the Kingdom of Israel being destroyed by the Assyrian Empire in 722 ... And the Kingdom of Judah being destroyed by the Babylonian Empire in 587 ... Do you recognize the familiar cycles that are happening
- Adam and Eve – sin breaks fellowship, distorts image, sets man to build own kingdom ... God scatters the people and foils attempt to build a kingdom that exalts them ... God gathers a people for Himself thru which His Kingdom can be enjoyed ... Captivity in Egypt reminds people of the reality of sin and bondage ... Redemption from Egypt introduces how one enters God's Kingdom and lives as God's people ... Promised land foreshadows Kingdom ... But things are imperfect: sin's influence and power still hold onto people ... Continual cycle of rejection, repentance, renewal shows inability to live as God commands – no king, no law, no sacrifice is sufficient to redeem people from sin's captivity ... Something greater must occur ... And Someone greater must bring this about
- Message of the prophets: judgment and hope ... God warned the people from the beginning – failure to follow My commands will result in exile ... To be faithful to who He is, God must judge His people ... But realize, faithfulness to His word here proves faithfulness to His word elsewhere ... As judge of His people, He must also be justifier of His people – meaning with judgment comes assurance of salvation: **"I know the plans I have for you" declares the Lord** ... Basis of the prophetic message is God's commitment to His covenant with Abraham and with the Godhead
- **Jr29** points towards the hope and promise of the New Covenant which will make what God says here even possible ... **Vs12-14** come about because of surrender, not from "trying harder" and from making promises that can't be kept ... And even surrendering can't be done in our own effort and will power ... Surrender comes by God's enablement and supernatural power
 - Does one surrender to God by works or by faith ... Yes, we lay ourselves aside – will, sin, performance, pride ... But do we not lay these things aside because we believe in what God has said concerning who He is and what He provides ... Even though we may not fully understand, there lies within us a steadfast hope that says: you can trust your Heavenly Father to be good and faithful; He's with you and will see you thru
 - Common for Israelites to petition God by appealing to His covenant with Abraham – **Ps105, Ex32, Dn9** ... Appealed to Abraham, the one who received the promises ... Believers appeal to Christ, the one who fulfills the promises ... We pray, *In Jesus' Name* – appealing by faith to who Christ is, what He's accomplished for us, and all that's accomplished through Him ... **TABLE TALK: LOOKING TO CHRIST BY FAITH IN HIS NAME MEANS TRUSTING IN HIM TO SUPPLY WHAT HE HAS SECURED. WE PRAY IN CHRIST'S NAME AS AN ACT OF FAITH IN HIM AS THE ONLY MEDIATOR AND THE FULFILLER OF THE COVENANT PROMISES. ... CALVIN: ALL THAT THE LORD SO GENEROUSLY PROMISES US HE FAITHFULLY PERFORMS.**
- The God of the exile is the God of the exodus ... Your current situation is not your final destination ... Trust the very One who is sovereign over both realities ...

KINGS AND PROPHETS

