

Lecture 19 – Post-Exilic Revelation (Part 1)

“But if you return to me and obey my commands, then even if your exiled people are at the farthest horizon, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place I have chosen as a dwelling for my Name.” Nehemiah 1:9

Key Terms

Rebuilding, temple worship, covenant

Objective

To evaluate the events and prophets of the post-exilic era in the context of Israel’s covenant relationship with God

Post-Exilic Revelation (Part 1)

I. Introductory Comments

A. Time: 520 B.C. (Esther) to 420 B.C. (Malachi)

B. Events

1. Jewish communities in three areas – Palestine, Babylon/Persia, Egypt
2. Jerusalem and temple rebuilding

C. Literature

1. Biblical: Eight books written

II. The Historical Accounts

A. Prophets give some details (Haggai and Zechariah 1-8)

B. Esther

1. Divine sovereignty over Persia
2. Divine preservation of covenantal community/anti-parasite kingdom
3. Roles of unexpected kingdom agents: Xerxes, Haman, Esther, Mordecai
4. Three central concepts not explicitly developed, but implicitly controlling

C. Ezra

1. Two languages, two communities
2. His message
 - a. Return from exile (Ezra 1:1; 2:8, 64)
 - b. Rebuilding of altar, temple (Ezra 3; 4; 6:13ff)
 - c. Parasite kingdom opposition (Ezra 4-6:15)
 - d. Ezra’s role
 - i. Devoted to Torah (Ezra 7:10)
 - ii. Artaxerxes’ commission (Ezra 7:12)
 - iii. Temple worship (Ezra 7:6)
 - iv. Ethical matters and repentance (Ezra 8-10; Nehemiah 7:73-10:38)
 - v. Mediatorial role: Shepherd

D. Nehemiah

1. Administrator
 - a. Dealing with King Artaxerxes
 - b. Leader in rebuilding walls and defense
 - c. Awareness of people – builders, residents, priests
 - d. Community organizer, helper of poor (Nehemiah 5)
2. A man of prayer
 - a. Previous great prayers
 - b. Read (Nehemiah 1:5-11; 2:4; 4:4; 5:19; 6:9; 14; 9:5-37; 13:14, 22b, 29,

30c)

3. Aware of past
 - a. From Abraham to Moses to prophets (Nehemiah 9)
 - b. Instructions by Moses for priests and Levites (Nehemiah 12:44)
 - c. David's and Solomon's temple provisions (Nehemiah 10:35-39; 12:45)
4. Aware of Yahweh's covenant faithfulness
 - a. Creator (Nehemiah 9:6)
 - b. Righteous (Nehemiah 9:8)
 - c. Provider (Nehemiah 9:14)
 - d. Virtues (Nehemiah 9:17, 18, 32-34; 9:31)
 - e. Faithful to promises regarding land (Nehemiah 9:22-25)
5. Conclusion: Read Nehemiah 9:32-35