

**The Big Picture: From Exile to Emmanuel
Ezra–Malachi**

Jerusalem: Hometown of Israel’s Ancestors (Ezra–Nehemiah)

Ezra 1:1–4, *“The Lord moved the heart of Cyrus: ‘The God of heaven has given me all the kingdoms of the earth... go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the Lord.’”*

Babylon: Hometown of Israel’s Enemies (Esther–Daniel)

Jeremiah 29:7, *“Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”*

Bethlehem: Hometown of Israel’s God (Hosea–Malachi)

Micah 5:2, *“Bethlehem, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”*

ONE THING

*“You have made us for Yourself, O Lord,
and our hearts are restless until they rest in You”
(Augustine, Confessions).*

Listen to someone’s story this week, and give them your undivided attention.

At Home Study Guide

For the week of January 16, 2022

It can often be helpful to zoom out on an image to get the big picture. We want to help you to know God's Word better this month by giving you The Big Picture, a view of the whole story of God's Word, from Eden to Eternity. Over the five Sundays in January we will cover God's promises made in the Old Testament, and God's promises kept in the New Testament, in order to help you grow in your knowledge of God and his Word.

1. We don't often use the word exile, so it's foreign to us. What did exile mean for the Jewish people at the end of the Old Testament? What things characterize a person who is in exile?
2. What was the exile in Babylon? Why were the Jews sent there?
3. When the Jews were sent home, they still struggled. Why? Why didn't their return to Jerusalem give them the hope for which they searched?
4. We are in exile as well, how so? Read 1 Peter 2:9-12 and Heb. 11:13-16. How does God release us from exile?

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