

70 Years In Exile: Rabbinic Judaism

THE OLD TESTAMENT * Week 37 * Opening and Closing Collect: Proper 28, BCP 236

- I. Judah conquered in three steps, and exiled to Babylon in 3 waves (2 Kings 24-25, 2 Chronicles 36). 586 B.C. – Babylonians destroy Jerusalem and take third wave of captives into exile.
 - A. Only the very poorest people
 - B. No Land
 - C. No Temple
 - D. How do we serve God with no land, temple, sacrifices, or priests?
- II. Focus off the Temple, and onto “Keeping the LORD always before me” (Psalm 16:8).
 - A. The Synagogue = Greek for “the gathering/assembly” = also *ekklesia* = Greek for “called ones” = both can be translated as “the church.”
 - B. Exodus 19:5-6
 - C. No Ark of the Covenant, but still an Ark with the Covenant.
 - D. Sacrifices of a contrite heart (Psalm 51:17) and of praise (Psalm 96:8; 100:4), and of justice and mercy (Micah 6:6-8).
- III. Synagogue Liturgy (“work of the people”)
 - A. *Kiddush* and the *Shema* – Deuteronomy 6:4
 - B. Lectionary:
 - C. Sing Psalms
 - D. Commentary/Explanation/Teaching on the readings
 - E. Prayers for the world and for the Messiah to come
- IV. Personal Piety
 - A. Morning, Afternoon, and Evening prayers
 - B. Prayer shawl with tassels, *kippah*, Phylacteries/*Tefillin* (Deuteronomy 6:8)
 - C. *Mezuzah* Deuteronomy 6:9 & 11:13-21

- D. Kosher (dietary) laws Leviticus 11:1-23; Deuteronomy 14:3-20.
- V. Liturgical Year: five major feasts and fasts, and two minor ones.
- A. Passover in the early spring
 - B. Pentecost or Weeks 50 days later
 - C. Rosh Hashanah the New Year in the early fall
 - D. Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, (ten days after *Rosh Hashanah*)
 - E. Tabernacles/*Sukkoth* just after *Yom Kippur*
 - F. *Hanukkah* in the early winter (Maccabees)
 - G. *Purim* in the late winter, one month before Passover (Esther)
- VI. Talmud
- A. Commentary on Torah
 - B. 613 commandments
 - C. “Built a hedge” around Torah to ensure no one would break it
 - 1. Deuteronomy 14:21 –
 - 2. Deuteronomy 25:2-3 – (2 Corinthians 11:24).
 - 3. “LORD’s name in vain,” so they don’t use it at all.
 - a) Substitute *Adonai* (“Lord”) for *YHWH*
 - b) Vowels from *Adonai* to make *YaHoWaH*, “Jehovah.”
 - c) Best guess is “Yahweh,”
 - d) English translations use LORD for YHWH, and Lord for *Adonai*
- VII. Judaism today
- A. Three sects/denominations:
 - 1. Reform
 - 2. Conservative
 - 3. Orthodox
 - B. Still God’s people Romans 11:28-29 and to be respected (John 4:22).

Preparation for next week: Read Ezekiel

What we’ve read so far: Genesis - 2 Kings; 2 Chronicles 26-36; Job-Lamentations, Daniel - Habakkuk