



TEACHER NOTES FOR CHAPTER 9 GREAT EXPECTATIONS FROM THE RUBBLE

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THEME	THE DAWNING OF ISRAEL'S MESSIAH
HOMEWORK BIBLE READING	2 Kings 17; 2 Kings 24-25 & Jeremiah 29
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OVERVIEW

This chapter focuses on the exile that eventually was inflicted upon Israel by God for their constant rebellion against him over many centuries. The start of the chapter encourages students to go back to the covenant that God made with his people and see what God had initially said he would do if the nation was unfaithful to him.

As this is explored in this chapter two other important points must be constantly highlighted for the students: 1) The exile was a long time in coming. The event was not sprung on the nation after their first failure. It came after a long period of time where God was calling the nation back to himself through the prophets but they were unwilling to respond in faith and obedience.

2) It was not the end for the nation. In fact this period of the Bible is where we have the rich and clear prophecies about the coming messiah that are made to the nation during the time of their judgment. This is certainly not a high point for the nation but we want the students to really get a feel for where this is going and what it teaches us about God.

Sin is serious and it must be dealt with - God will do that but will also find a way that his broken and wounded people can be in a relationship with him again.

OUR TIPS

On P140 when students are being asked to reflect upon how Israel have fared in the covenant you may want to pull out some of the provocative passages from the prophets that speak of their idolatry using the metaphor of sexual immorality. The passages speak of Israel as being a wife to God her husband. You just need to be careful what age you are doing that with. Hosea 1-2 and Ezekiel 16 would be a good starting point. We want to see students analysing the story of Israel from the perspective of the covenant.

Character in action, p142, is a short but important exercise. What would it say about God if he did nothing? As teachers we know that students who rebel but are never given consequences often end up having a large influence on those around them. God's intervention in the exile is about his holy name but it is also about the nation of Israel, the light they are meant to be to the nations and what God is planning to do through them in the future. It should be a great opportunity for discussion with the students.

It is easy to miss the tragedy of the exile. The city of David in ruin and the temple destroyed. Not to mention the horror of the final assault on the city where the people were starved out for two years. The journal entry on p147 is a creative writing exercise where the students are asked to place themselves into that situation and imagine what it would be like. These people saw their city destroyed, many people murdered and then they were taken away to a foreign land where there was no temple for them to worship in. You may choose to make this into an assessment task and have them write it up in a way that can be put up on the wall of your room.

The second creative writing piece looks at the implications of the prophet's message on the mind-set of the exiles. Jeremiah's letter to the exiles injects hope into what is a depressing situation. This is a great opportunity to talk about studying the Bible in context. Many students will know the famous verse from chapter 29 but won't know who it was given to or why.

The final section of the chapter is important as it finishes off the Old Testament part of this course and looks in detail at this future figure that the prophets are pointing Israel toward. It is important that students have a chance to explore this before the next chapter about Jesus.

YOUR TIPS

We would love to hear what you have learnt after teaching this chapter. If you have tips that you are happy for us to freely share with other teachers using this course please let us know by emailing them through to us at admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au.

COMMON QUESTIONS STUDENTS ASK

- What did the people do while they were in exile?
- Where is Babylon?
- Did the prophets know who they were talking about?

We would love to hear what questions students are asking in response to the content of this chapter. Please let us know at admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au.

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU TEACH THIS CHAPTER

If you know of any websites or resources that would assist teachers with bringing this chapter to life please let us know at admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au.

ANSWERS FOR CHAPTER 9

Answers have been provided for questions where we believe clarification may be needed or where an activity requires the teacher to have the correct answer before the students commence the activity.

If you have any questions about an activity not written up in the following notes, please contact us at admin@biblicalturningpoints.com.au.