

Preservation and Preparation

2 Kings 23:29-37; 24:1-20; 25:1-11

Whenever a church comes to an end, the Lord raises up a new church. Before the old church dies, He preserves its truths and prepares the world to accept the church that will follow.

When Israel was captive in Assyria, the people mixed with the Assyrian culture and their religion was lost. This did not happen with Judah in Babylonia. The stories of the Prophets tell us how the culture and religion of Judah were preserved in Babylonia and to some degree in Judah as well. This allowed the Old Testament to be preserved.

1. What happened in the story of the captivity of Judah that would provide for the Old Testament to be preserved?

During the Babylonian captivity, the prophet Jeremiah sent a letter to the people who were carried away to Babylon. Find this letter in Jeremiah 29:4-14. Read it, and then answer the questions below.

2. What did the Lord tell the captive Jews to do?

3. What would happen if they did as the Lord commanded?

4. How might the Jews' obedience to the Lord help preserve His Word?

5. How might the Jews' obedience to the Lord prepare the way for a new church?

Seventy years after capturing Judah, Babylonia was invaded by the Persians. The Persians let the Jews return to Judah, to worship their God. They even helped them to rebuild the temple.

6. How might this have helped preserve the Old Testament?

7. How might this have helped prepare the people for a new church?

8. What do you think the new church will be called? Why?

Answers

Preservation and Preparation

1. The Word was found in the temple in Jerusalem.
2. The Lord told the people settle the land and have children.
3. After seventy years they would be gathered together and return to the land..
4. The Jews' obedience to the Lord would mean they would read the Word.
5. The Jews' would bring people into order so they could recognize the Lord.
6. People would have read the prophecies of the Lord's coming.
7. People would be expecting and looking for the Lord.
8. The Christian Church, the church that started when the Lord was born on earth.