



THE EVENT

THE EXILE - PART 3

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MARCH 14

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ISAIAH 39:5-7, ISAIAH 40:1-2, 12, 25-31,
JEREMIAH 29:4-11, EZEKIEL 36:24-28

Through scripture, conscience and community, God warns and warns us toward making good and wise decisions in life. But when we cross that line and pass the point when warnings are relevant, God instantly shifts to comfort. God finds no pleasure in saying “I told you so” or heaping on the weight of guilt and shame. Comfort comes instantly. But... relief does not. God often uses our time in “exile” to reshape, reform and renew. The overall message God is giving to those in exile is: there is hope!

NOTES:

REFLECTION:

ASK QUESTIONS:

- Are you naturally an optimistic, hopeful, glass-half-full person - or not? Explain.
- Can you relate to the concept of “exile” at all? Has there been a time in your life when you felt stuck somewhere emotionally, spiritually or physically? If so, what happened?
- Read Psalm 121:1-2. Is it helpful to be reminded how big God is in comparison to our struggles?
- Isaiah demonstrates that comfort is instant. Have you ever felt like God (or more likely his people) has thrown an “I told you so” prior to the comfort?
- Jeremiah demonstrates that relief is NOT instant. Can you think of a time when you were glad God did not restore you too quickly?
- Ezekiel demonstrates that radical transformation is required. Have you ever felt like your heart was restored? Do you long for the “new heart” that Ezekiel mentions?

RESOURCES:

- “Renovation of the Heart” by Dallas Willard
- “Bucket List” (2007 movie - Edward’s life needed to slow down to allow his hear to be restored)