

The Ultimate Exile – Sent Out of the Garden

- **Our Garden Home:** Genesis 2:7-17 – “⁷ then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. ⁸ And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹ And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. ¹⁰ A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. ¹¹ The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. ¹² And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. ¹³ The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. ¹⁴ And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates. ¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die...”
- **The Ultimate Exile:** Genesis 3:22-24 – “Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—” ²³ therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴ He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.”
 - We didn’t just lose a paradise life, but we lost the foundation of our life and joy—God himself. In banishment, we lost the one we lived for. We lost the significance and purpose of our life. We are anxious, fearful exiles in the cosmos “that was created to be our home with God.” – L. Michael Morales
 - “Paradise has been lost because of their sin, and now they must live as strangers in a land from which they have become alienated. Throughout the rest of the Bible, the state of God’s people is one of profound exile, of living in a world, to which they do not belong and looking for a world that is yet to come.” – Iain M. Duguid
- **Universal Exile:**
 - “Exile, in theological terms, is the experience of pain and suffering that results from the knowledge that there is a home where one belongs, yet for the present one is unable to return there. This existential sense of deep loss may be compounded by a sense of guilt or remorse stemming from the knowledge that the cause of exile is sin.” - Iain M. Duguid
 - “If I find in myself desires which nothing in this world can satisfy, the only logical explanation is that I was made for another world.” – C.S. Lewis
- **Hope of Return Home:**
 - “The triumph of the woman’s seed would suggest a return to the Edenic state, before the serpent had rot its damage.” – Stephen Dempster

Exile in Egypt and Return to the Promised Land

- **Abraham - Mini-Exiles-Return Story:**
 - **Home:** God promises to give him the Promised Land (Gen 12)
 - **Exile:** Genesis 12:10 Abraham goes into Egypt because of a famine
 - **Captivity:** Genesis 12:15 Sarah seized by Pharaoh
 - **Exodus:** Genesis 12:17–20 God delivers Sarah by Plagues
 - **God’s Deliverance:** Genesis 15:7 – “I am Yahweh, who brought you out...”
 - “Then the LORD said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred

years. ¹⁴ But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions.” - Genesis 15:13-14

- **Exile in Egypt:**
 - **Home:** They are in the Promised Land (Gen 42)
 - **Exile:** Israel goes into Egypt because of a famine (Gen 46)
 - **Captivity:** Israel is seized and enslaved by Pharaoh (Exodus 1)
 - **Exodus:** God delivers Israel by Plagues (Exodus 7-12)
 - **God’s Deliverance:** “I am Yahweh, who brought you out...” (Exodus 20:2)
- **Wilderness Sojourning:**
 - Exodus 6:7-8 – “I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the LORD your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. ⁸ I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the LORD.”
- **Edge of the Promised Land - Deuteronomy:**
 - If you Obey – this place will be like Garden Paradise (Deut 28, Lev 26)
 - If you Rebel – go back into Exile (Lev 26:33, 44; Deut. 28:64; 30:3-4)
- **Return to the Promised Land:** Book of Joshua

Exile in Babylon and Return to the Promised Land

- **Israel live in utter Rebellion**
- **Prophetic Warning:** Jer 30-31, Isa 40-55, Zech 1-8
 - Exile Warning – You’ll lose the Land
 - Exile Warning – You’ll lose God’s presence
- **Babylonian Exile:** Jer 52
 - Lose the Land – Send into Exile in Babylon (Lam 3:42-49, Psalm 137)
 - Lose God’s Presence - Temple Destroyed (Jer 52, Ezekiel 10)
- **Prophetic Promises of Return:**
 - Jeremiah 29:10-14 – “For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. ¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.”
 - **Ultimate Return:** Is 2:1-4; 11:1-16; Jer. 31-32; Ezek 36-37; Hos 8:13; 9:3; Amos 9:11-15; Micah 5:2-4; Dan 9:24; Zech 14:16-20
 - Ultimate Return will bring: New Hearts, Everlasting Peace, Death would be removed, a Davidic King will Reigning forever, All Nations Streaming in to God’s Home, God’s Name is Spread through the Earth, and God will be with them.
- **Israel Return to the Promised Land:** 2 Chronicles 36:22-23 - “Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also put it in writing: ²³ “Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, ‘The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever is among you of all his people, may the LORD his God be with him. Let him go up.””
 - **Leader:** Zerubbabel
 - **Nehemiah:** Rebuilds City walls (Place)
 - **Ezra:** Rebuilding the Temple (God’s Presence)
 - They are back Home!...Right?

The Ultimate Return – New Heavens and New Earth

- Jesus and the Exodus:
 - Fled a Wicked King at Birth
 - He Goes into Egypt
 - He “returns” out of Egypt - *“This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.” – Matt 2:15*
 - Goes through the Waters (Baptism, Red Sea)
 - Goes into the Wilderness to be Tempted
 - Goes to a Mountain
 - Transfiguration: Luke 9:28-31 – *“Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. ³⁰And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, ³¹who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure (“Exodus”), which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.”*
 - Emmaus Road - Luke 24:27 – *“And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.”*
- **Jesus’ Teaching about Ultimate Return:**
 - Luke 4:17-21 – *“And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, ¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” ²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”*
 - *“In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.” – John 14:2-3*
 - *“Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” – John 14:6*
- **The Cross: He Experiences the Ultimate Exile**
 - *“The one who for all eternity had dwelt in the bosom of the Father was thereby exiled from his presence.” – Iain M. Duguid*
 - **He’s the Ultimate Passover Lamb:** *“The lamb shed blood was the only means of departure. The resurrection life of the new exodus is likewise found only through the new Passover lamb, for the crucifixion of Jesus.” - L. Michael Morales*
- **Revelation: The Ultimate Return to our Garden Home (Rev 21-22)**
 - Eden to New Eden: Parallels
 - Tree of Life (Rev 22:2)
 - Rivers of Life (Rev 22:1-2)
 - Rocks and Jewels (Rev 21:15-21)
 - Most Important: God is there (Rev 21:3)
 - BUT - No Sin! No Snake! No Enemies! No possibility of Exile
 - We will be Home forever, in the New Garden with God

Christians - The Elect Exiles

- **We live in the Now, Not Yet**
- **Our Identity and Citizenship:**
 - 1 Peter 1:1 – *“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion”*
 - Philippians 3:20 – *“But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ”*

- “Redeemed from sin, God made his people the temple of the Spirit (1 Cor 3:16), and we sojourn toward the new Jerusalem (Heb 12:22).” – James Hamilton
- “Christians are the true exiles, living in a world to which they do not belong and with which they are not to fall in love (1 John 2:15), while they long for a world which they do not yet see but to which they look forward in hope (Heb 11:1).” – Iain M. Duguid
- **Our Purpose:**
 - *“I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.”* – John 17:14-18
 - *“we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”* - 2 Corinthians 5:20
 - *“As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵ but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” ¹⁷ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.”* - 1 Peter 1:14-19

Resources:

- *Exodus Old and New* by L. Michael Morales
- *Rebels and Exiles* by Matthew Harmon
- *The Garden the Curtain and the Cross* by Carl Laferton (children’s book)
- *The Pilgrim’s Progress* by John Bunyan
- Pattern and Themes in the Bible: (like this and the serpent crusher)
 - *Typology: Understanding the Bible’s Promised-Shaped Patterns* by Jim Hamilton
 - *God’s Glory in Salvation through Judgment: A Biblical Theology* by Jim Hamilton
 - Podcast: Bible Talk (Highly Recommend!)