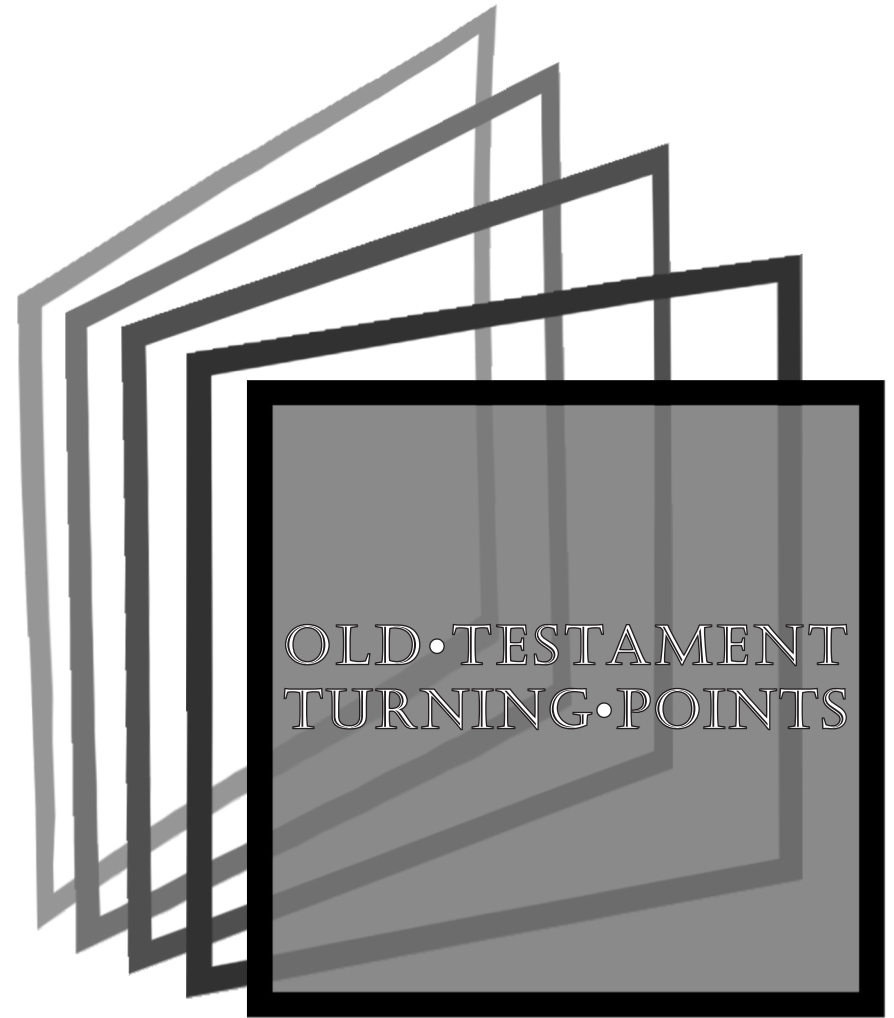


Turning Point #8

Cyrus is Raised
Up by God

Date: 538 BC
Place: Persia & Israel
Passage: Ezra 1-4
Key Verses:

This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: “The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth and He has appointed me to build a temple for Him at Jerusalem in Judah. Anyone of His people among you—may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem in Judah and build the temple of the LORD, the God of Israel, the God who is in Jerusalem. And the people of any place where survivors may now be living are to provide him with silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with freewill offerings for the temple of God in Jerusalem” (Ezra 1:2-4).



1) King of kings and the Return

A) Cyrus as Messiah (Isaiah 44:26-45:1)

B) King of kings (Daniel 2:37-44; Revelations 19:11-16)



Old Testament Turning Points:

Turning Points #6 - #8

The Exile and Return

Sunday, March 2, 2008

Turning Point #6

Israel Led Off into Captivity in Assyria

Date: 721 BC
Place: Israel (Northern Israel)
Passage: 2 Kings 17-18
Key Verses:

When he tore Israel away from the house of David, they made Jeroboam son of Nebat their king. Jeroboam enticed Israel away from following the LORD and caused them to commit a great sin. The Israelites persisted in all the sins of Jeroboam and did not turn away from them until the LORD removed them from His presence, as He had warned through all His servants the prophets. So the people of Israel were taken from their homeland into exile in Assyria, and they are still there (2 Kings 17:21-23).



1) Sin and Punishment

A) 2 Kings 17

B) Parallels Between Sinai and Bethel/Dan

C) Pattern of Warning (Isaiah 9:8-14)

Turning Point #7

Judah is Taken into Captivity by Babylon

Date: 587 BC
Place: Judah (Southern Israel)
Passage: 2 Kings 25 & 2 Chronicles 35
Key Verses:

The LORD, the God of their fathers, sent word to them through His messengers again and again, because He had pity on His people and on His dwelling place. But they mocked God's messengers, despised His words and scoffed at His prophets until the wrath of the LORD was aroused against His people and there was no remedy. He brought up against them the king of the Babylonians, who killed their young men with the sword in the sanctuary, and spared neither young man nor young woman, old man or aged. God handed all of them over to Nebuchadnezzar. He carried to Babylon all the articles from the temple of God, both large and small, and the treasures of the LORD's temple and the treasures of the king and His officials. They set fire to God's temple and broke down the wall of Jerusalem; they burned all the palaces and destroyed everything of value there.

He carried into exile to Babylon the remnant, who escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power (2 Chronicles 36:15-20).



1) Exile (2Chronicles 36:15-21)

A) The Concept of Exile

B) Dealing with Exile (Ezekiel 33:10-11; Jeremiah 42:3, 7-12; Hebrews 12:5-11)

C) Take Heed Lest You Fall (2 Chronicles 20:7-10; 1 Corinthians 10:1-12)