

Sermon Notes August 9, 2020  
**WELCOME TO BABYLON**  
I Kings 9:6-9    Matthew 11:27-28

IF...Big Little Word...Solomon...Walk Faithfully-Integrity

IF Not...1) Cut off-land...2) Temple rejected...3) Israel=byword, ridiculed

Come to Ruin...Sadly at the end of his life, Solomon's heart was drawn away from the Lord his God. Kingdom would Split...Israel=North (722) Judah=South (597)...Both forsook God...Both were sent into exile

Israel-Assyria    Judah-Babylonia-Jerusalem-utterly devastated

EXILE: Warned...Instructed...Gradually Drifted Away from God... CONSEQUENCES

Our Nation...Church...Instructed...Warned...Slowly Drifting in the direction of SECULARITY.  
"God on the Backburner!"

Community within Community...Distinct-Different-Holy

Cultural Values: Individuality...Self-Discover...Self-Ownership

THE CHURCH: Christ-identity...Christ-Values...Self-Denial...Servanthood

Regarding Exile: Not PUNISHMENT...so much as PURPOSE

- God sent
- God sustained
- God led Restoration

### WE BELIEVE

We Believe in a God who is always with us. We Believe in a God who never forsakes us. We Believe in a God who is revealed as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We Believe in a God who gives confidence to face everything which appears in this world as we await the fullness in the world that is to come. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray, Amen.

### WE CONFESS

We confess our slowness to believe in you completely. We confess our unwillingness to trust your word and follow the example of Christ. We confess that we are but weak flesh and can do nothing apart from you Lord. Forgive for all our sins of commission and omission. Forgive us not because we are deserving but because we trust in your Son Jesus Christ alone. Forgive us and empower us for the living of these days as faithful disciples. We receive your forgiveness in the name of Jesus Christ and by an act of our wills, we forgive ourselves. Amen.