

## **Section One: Kingdom of God on Earth (Past)**

### **Category C: Israel – Kingdom Intelligence Report #4**

Topic: Failure Upon Failure

There is no greater analysis of the rule and reign of the kings of Israel than the expression found in Matthew 1:17b – “. . . **from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations;**” The succession of kingly rule, with an occasional minor exception, was marked by ongoing and worsening failure, until God finally brought judgment upon the divided Kingdom through the Assyrians and the Babylonians. Only the deportation to Babylon is mentioned by Matthew, due to its impact upon the Southern Kingdom of Judah and the unconditional promise of God regarding the throne of David. Even as judgment is being pronounced, the irrevocable nature of the covenant God made with David is confirmed in Isaiah 11:1 – **“Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit.”**

In one sense, on a limited level, the Babylonian and Assyrian judgements of God upon Israel and Judah, served a similar purpose to that of the world-wide Flood of Noah’s generation. His chosen people had so corrupted their nation, and failed in their responsibility to mediate God’s Kingdom on earth; that God, in order to effectively continue Plan B, found it necessary to purge the nation, and cleanse the Promised Land by means of these deportations. The comparisons made by the prophets for this time of judgment are stunning in their similarity to Noah’s day. So we read the following about both the Northern and Southern Kingdoms, regarding the housecleaning that would be carried out, in Isaiah 28:1-2; as well as in Isaiah 28:14, 17 –

**“Woe to the proud crown of the drunkards of Ephraim, and to the fading flower of its glorious beauty, which is at the head of the fertile valley of those who are overcome with wine! Behold, the Lord has a strong and mighty agent; as a storm of hail, a tempest of destruction, like a storm of mighty overflowing waters, He has cast it down to the earth with His hand.”**

**“Therefore, hear the word of the Lord, O scoffers, who rule this people who are in Jerusalem . . . I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the level; then hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies and the waters will overflow the secret place.”**

These deportations would again allow for yet another fresh start in the furtherance of God’s Plan B. On the other hand, it would be a serious mistake for any of us to think that this would mark an end to God’s covenant relationship with His chosen people and nation. It would not. In spite of those purging judgments, God would remain faithful to the covenant with His people, as confirmed in Isaiah 54:9-10 –

**“For this is like the days of Noah to Me, when I swore that the waters of Noah would not flood the earth again; so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you nor will I rebuke you. For the mountains may be removed and the hills may shake, but My lovingkindness will not be removed from you, and My covenant of peace will not be shaken,’ says the Lord who has compassion on you.”**