

The Old Testament: Our Call to Faith and Justice

Chapter 8 Vocabulary

Cyrus The Persian king who allowed some of the Jews to return to Jerusalem after he conquered Babylonia in 539 BC.

Inarus Revolt An Egyptian revolt against the Persians in 460 BC that had Greek support. It may have influenced Cyrus's decision to allow the Jews to return to Palestine and rebuild Jerusalem, as it would have allowed for increased military presence on the western flank of the Persian Empire facing Greece.

Judea The Aramaic name for the region formerly called Judah. It was a name first used after the Babylonian Exile. Though the boundaries of Judea varied over the years, it always included the city of Jerusalem.

Lamentations The book of Hebrew poetry written by those who remained behind in Jerusalem after the conquest of 587 BC in response to the devastation of their city.

Marduk The main state god of the Babylonians during the reign of Nebuchadnezzar. It was to his temple in the city of Babylonia that the furnishings and vessels from the Temple of Solomon were carried following the destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem in 587–586 BC.

post-Exilic Referring to the time after the return of the exiles to Jerusalem in 539 BC.

remnant The exiles and former exiles who remained faithful to YHWH during the time of captivity and who were expected to restore Jerusalem.

Servant Songs Four poems in the Book of Isaiah (42:1–4; 49:1–6; 50:4–7; 52:13–53:12) which describe a person who is a servant of YHWH.

Vineyard Song An important passage of the Book of Isaiah depicting the Chosen People as the vine of God. This image recurs in the New Testament in the words of Jesus and the writings of the Apostle Paul.