



**BIG MOMENTS  
IN GOD'S  
STORY**

# EXILE: (2 Kings 17:1-23; Jer. 31:31-34)



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# 1. EXILE background

- Sinai Covenant:

*'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'* (Ex.19: 4-6)

- People:

*'Everything the LORD has said we will do.'* (Ex.24:3)

# 1. EXILE background

- Joshua:

*‘Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.’ (Jos.24:15)*

- People:

*‘We will serve the LORD our God and obey him.’ (Jos.24:24)*

## 2. Two Kingdoms and their Kings

### ISRAEL – the northern kingdom

**Jeroboam:** *'You have **done more evil than all who lived before you**. You have made for yourself other gods, idols made of metal; you have aroused my anger and turned your back on me.'* (1 Kings 14:9)

**Omri:** *'Omri did evil in the eyes of the LORD and sinned more than all those before him. He **followed completely the ways of Jeroboam** son of Nebat... so that they aroused the anger of the LORD, the God of Israel, by their worthless idols.'* (1 Kings 16:25,26)

## 2. Two Kingdoms and their Kings

### ISRAEL – the northern kingdom

**Ahab:** *'Ahab did more evil in the eyes of the LORD than any of those before him. He not only **considered it trivial** to commit the sins of Jeroboam... but he **also married Jezebel** daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and began to serve Baal and worship him. He **set up an altar for Baal** in the temple of Baal that he built in Samaria. Ahab also **made an Asherah pole** and did more to arouse the anger of the LORD, the God of Israel, than did all the kings of Israel before him.'* (1 Kings 16:30-33)

**ISRAEL:** *'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.**'* (2 Kings 17:22,23)

## 2. Two Kingdoms and their Kings

### JUDAH – the southern kingdom

**Rehoboam:** *“Judah did evil in the eyes of the LORD. By the sins they committed they stirred up his jealous anger more than those who were before them had done. They also set up for themselves high places, sacred stones and Asherah poles on every high hill and under every spreading tree. There were even male shrine prostitutes in the land; the people engaged in all the detestable practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites.”* (1 Kings 14:22-24)

**Asa:** *‘Asa did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, as his father David had done. He expelled the male shrine prostitutes from the land and got rid of all the idols his ancestors had made.’* (1 Kings 15:11,12)

## 2. Two Kingdoms and their Kings

### JUDAH – the southern kingdom

**Jehoram:** *'He followed the ways of the kings of Israel, as the house of Ahab had done, for he married a daughter of Ahab. He did evil in the eyes of the LORD.'* (2 Kings 8:18)

**Amaziah:** *'He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, but not wholeheartedly.'* (2 Chron. 25:2)

## 2. Two Kingdoms and their Kings

### JUDAH – the southern kingdom

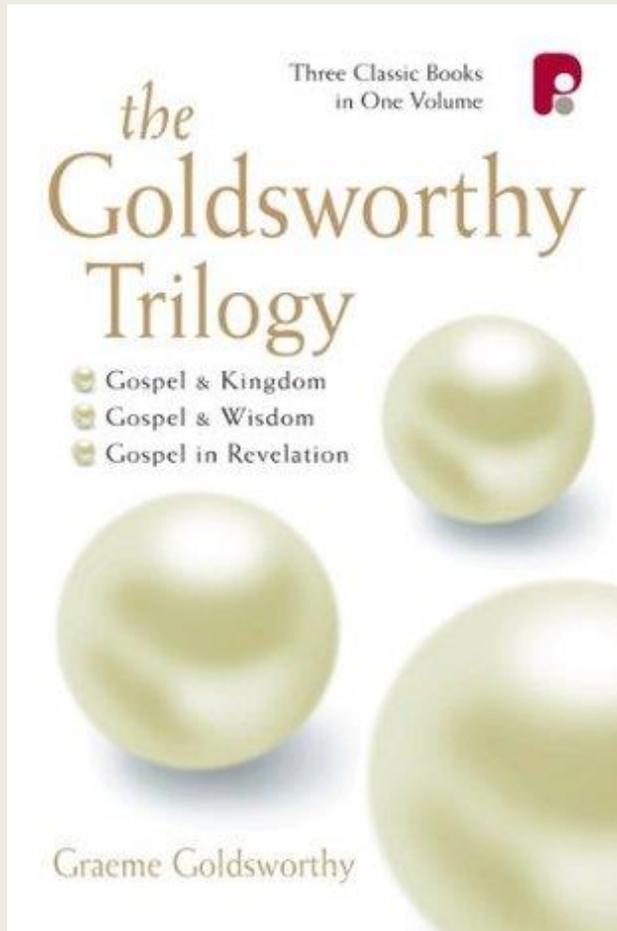
**Hezekiah:** *'He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father David had done. He removed the high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles... Hezekiah trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before him or after him. He held fast to the LORD and did not stop following him; he kept the commands the LORD had given Moses.'* (2 Kings 18:3-6)

## 2. Two Kingdoms and their Kings

### JUDAH – the southern kingdom

**Manasseh:** *'He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, following the detestable practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites. He rebuilt the high places his father Hezekiah had destroyed; he also erected altars to Baal and made an Asherah pole, as Ahab king of Israel had done. He bowed down to all the starry hosts and worshiped them. He built altars in the temple of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, "In Jerusalem I will put my Name.'* (2 Kings 21:3-4)

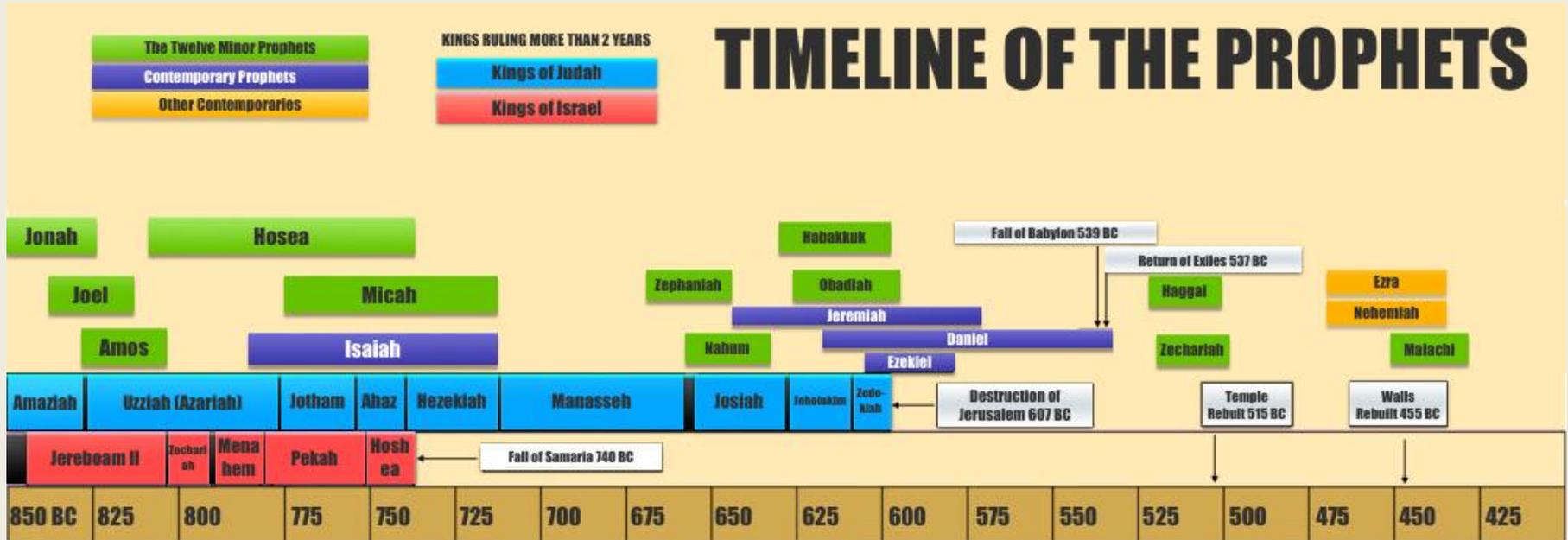
# 3. PROPHETS



“All the prophets after Moses stand as the watchdogs of the society of God’s people, working always within the framework of the covenant of Sinai. The prophets hold the law as a mirror so that individuals and the whole nation may see how they transgress. They call people back to faithful obedience to the covenant and, when necessary, denounce the unbelief and disobedience of their day.”

**Graeme Goldsworthy**

# 3. PROPHETS



Common sequence is God

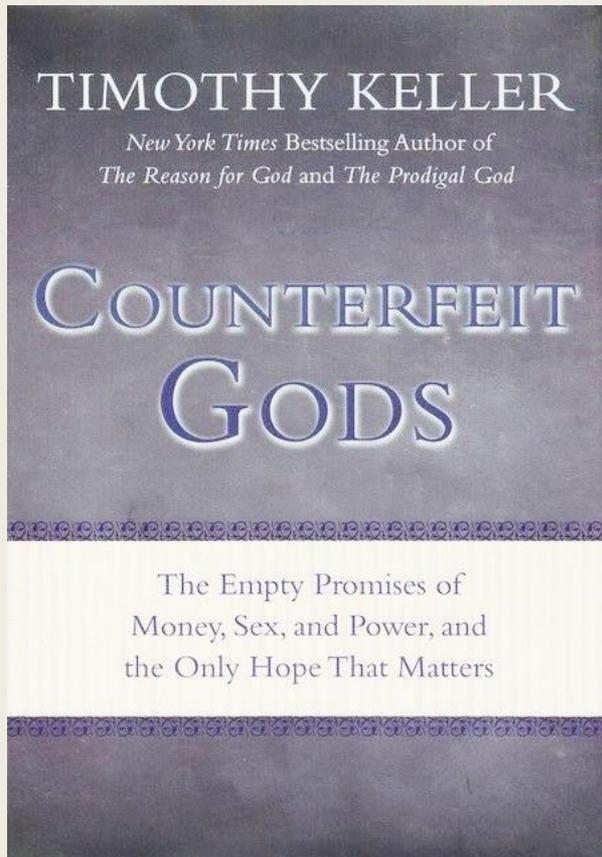
- (i) punishing and purifying his people through judgment
- (ii) consoling and comforting them in their exile and pain
- (iii) restoring them with promises of his lasting salvation

# 3. PROPHETS

*'I will turn my hand against you; I will thoroughly purge away your dross and remove all your impurities. I will restore your leaders as in days of old, your rulers as at the beginning. Afterward you will be called the City of Righteousness, the Faithful City.'* (Isa. 1:25,26)

*'I will give all Judah into the hands of the king of Babylon, who will carry them away to Babylon or put them to the sword. I will deliver all the wealth of this city into the hands of their enemies – all its products, all its valuables and all the treasures of the kings of Judah. They will take it away as plunder and carry it off to Babylon.'* (Jer. 20:4,5)

## 4. IDOLATRY



“An idol is whatever you look at and say, in your heart of hearts, ‘If I have that, then I’ll feel my life has meaning, then I’ll know I have value, then I’ll feel significant and secure.’”

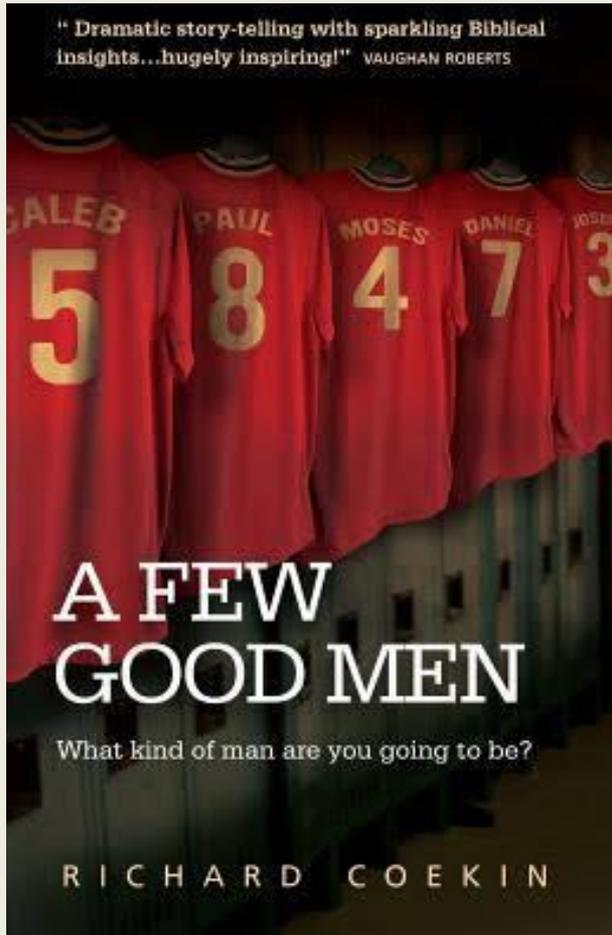
Timothy Keller – Counterfeit Gods

## 4. IDOLATRY

- Compromise
- Worldliness

*‘Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.’ (James 4:4)*

## 4. IDOLATRY



“At the heart of worldly thinking is the enthronement of material things – **people, pleasure, property** – as the objects of our worship in the place of God.”

Richard Coekin

## 4. IDOLATRY

*'both/and'*      OR      *'either/or'*

*'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'* (Matt.22:37)

## 4. IDOLATRY

*I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold;  
I'd rather be His than have riches untold;  
I'd rather have Jesus than houses or lands;  
I'd rather be led by His nail-pierced hand...*

*Than to be the king of a vast domain;  
Or be held in sin's dread sway;  
I'd rather have Jesus than anything,  
This world affords today.*

# 5. A New Covenant

Jeremiah 31:31-34

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord.’*

(Jer.29:11)

# 5. A New Covenant

## Old Covenant

- A two-party covenant with conditions (Isa.29:13)
- People didn't know God well
- Sin was not fully dealt with

## New Covenant

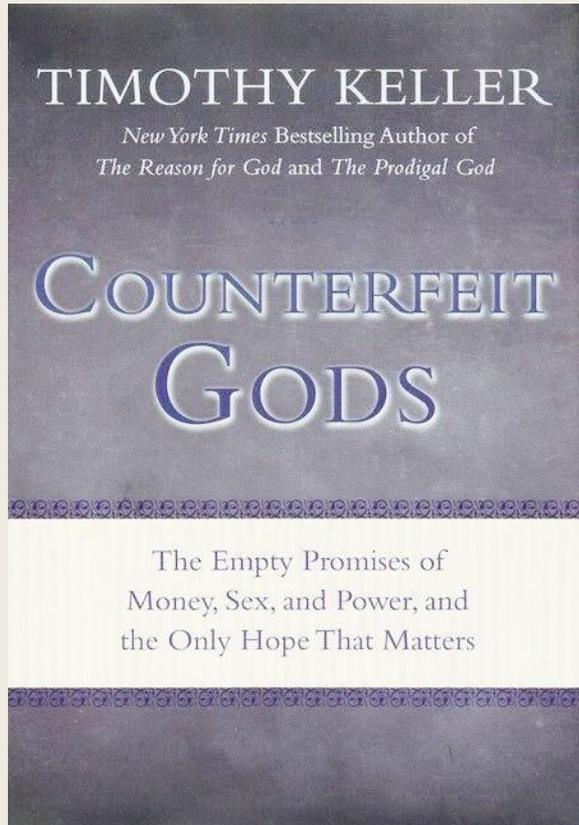
- Unconditional - God alone fulfills its requirements
- We receive a new nature (2 Pet.1:4; 2 Cor.5:17)
- We know God intimately (Jn.10:14)
- Sins are forgiven (Jer.31:34)

# 5. A New Covenant

Jesus:

*'Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets;  
I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.'* (Matt.5:17)

## 5. A New Covenant



“The only way to free ourselves from the destructive influence of counterfeit gods is to turn back to the true one. **The Living God**, who revealed himself both at Mount Sinai and on the Cross, **is the only Lord who, if you find him, can truly fulfill you, and, if you fail him, can truly forgive you.**”

Timothy Keller