

A HELPFUL METAPHOR AND MINDSET FOR CHRISTIANS LIVING IN MODERN AMERICA

Study # 6 “The Heart of an Exile”

**experience of
an exile . . .**



**temptations of
an exile . . .**

now . . . the heart of an exile

Given the nature of sponges . . .



frequent “squeezing” necessary

Jer. 29

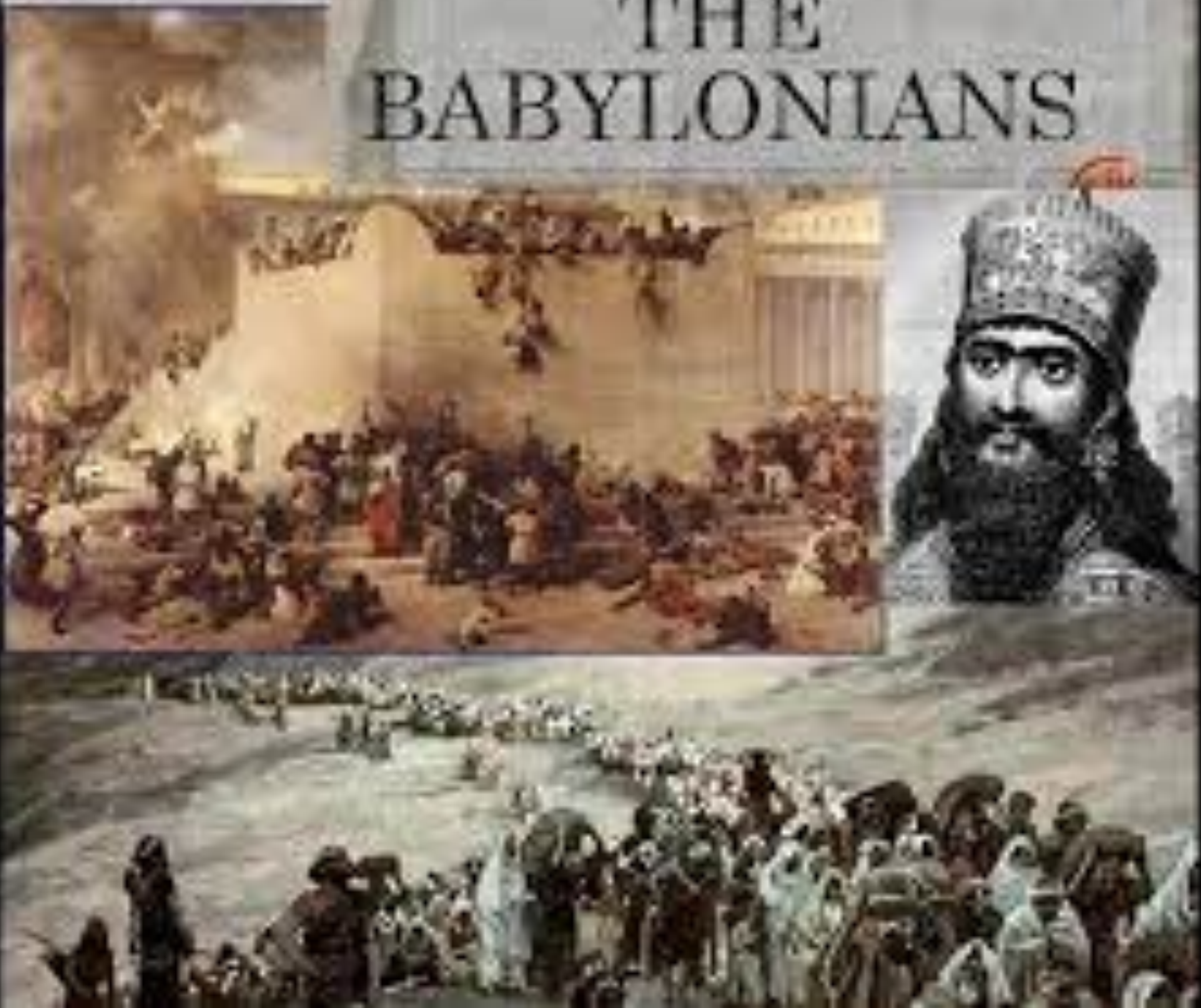


Psa. 137

Which is the Heart of an Exile ?

586 B.C.

THE BABYLONIANS



**The LORD used
Nebuchadnezer
as His tool in
His Hands to
accomplish His
purpose.**



**Because of His steadfast love and faithfulness
they have a future.**

wilderness . . .



exile . . .



times appointed by God to learn about their hearts and His heart



We want to “bloom” and bring glory to our Master Gardener in the place [exile] where He has planted us and keeps us.

The growth of a plant
towards a light source



phototropism

**As “flower-exiles” we turn toward, orient our life
toward, the Light,**



Prayers prayed **for** Babylon and **against** Babylon

Mene, Mene
measured

Tekel
weighed

Parsin
divided



You and your empire are going down tonight

Neo-Babylonian Empire goes down, conquered by the LORD's next "instrument," Cyrus



LORD uses Babylon to judge His people



**LORD judges His instrument [Babylon] that He used
to judge His people**



EXILE . . . part of God's purposes

Jer. 29

**settle, bloom, learn all
I have for you to learn from
exile until My purposes
and My plans and timing are
accomplished**

praying **for Babylon**

Psa. 137

**in despair facing hatred,
trusting in God's judgment
praying for Him to fulfill
His own words**

praying **against Babylon**

intolerant



judgmental



bigoted

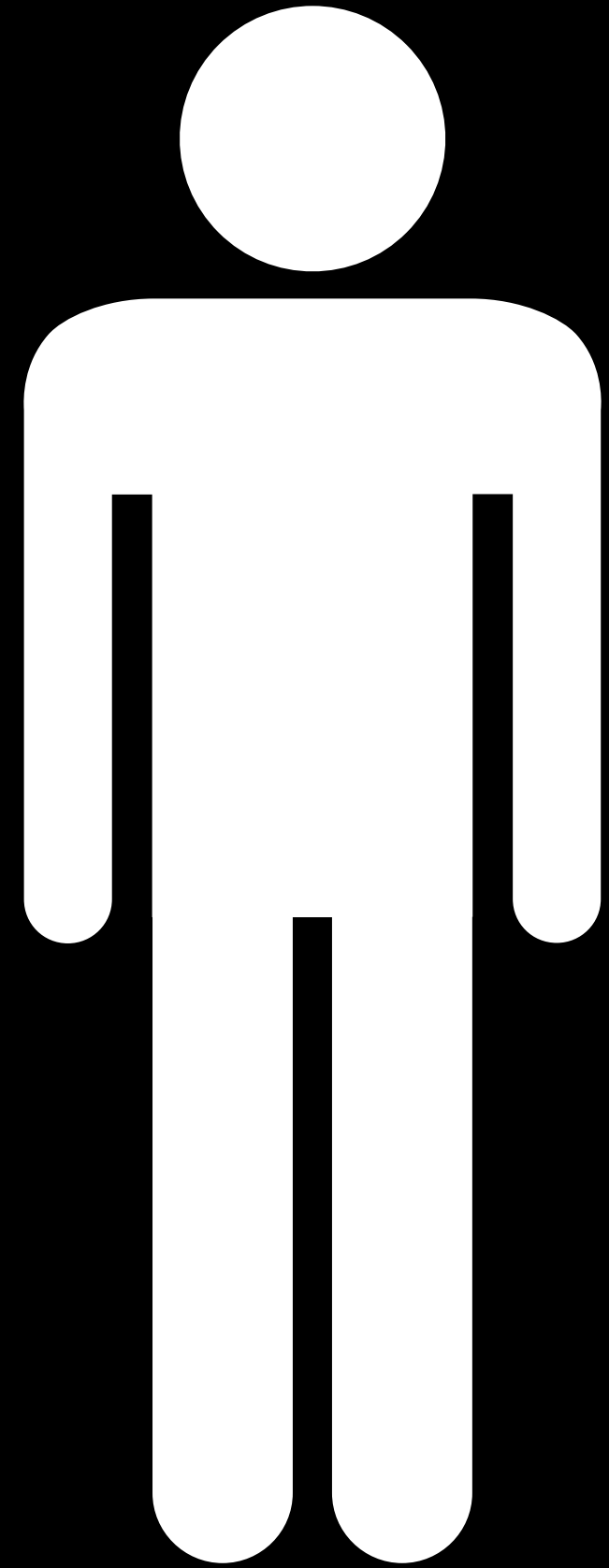




Relationship with our world is complicated

3 ways to be a Stranger . . .

Alien



Visitor

Ambassador

HOMEWORK/REFLECTION

Ask the LORD to help us see our heart in relation to our Babylon and all Babylonians and which of the 3 words fits us best ?

Please read Acts 17 and ask what kind of stranger Paul was in Athens ?