

Get Into the Act

Act 1: The Exodus; Scene 2: Formed through Disaster

The Discipline of Disaster

Psalm 137:1-4

By the rivers of Babylon – there we sat down and there we wept when we remembered Zion. On the willows there we hung up our harps. For there our captors asked us for songs, and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying, “Sing us one of the songs of Zion!” How could we sing the Lord’s song in a foreign land.

The love story of God and God’s people has collapsed.

Remember the Bible is a love story told in three Acts

Prologue – Creation; Adam and Eve; Garden of Eden

Act 1 – The Exodus

Scene 1: Formed through Deliverance

Scene 2: Formed through Disaster

Act 2 – The Exile

Act 3 – Jesus

Epilogue – Revelation

The Rest of the story of Act 1: Scene 1

Deliverance through the Red Sea

Formation in the Wilderness: Covenant and Law

Entry into the Promised Land

Story of Judges and Kings

A long history of people and nations trying to live life on their own terms apart from the God who loves them and who wants to share every part of their lives.

A story of a loving God who is faithful and a forgetful people who are unfaithful.

Act 1: Scene 2 are the events leading up to the Exile

The Prophet Jeremiah saw through a different lens

Jeremiah 2:4-13

⁴ *Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, all you clans of the house of Israel.*

⁵ *This is what the LORD says:
“What fault did your fathers find in me,
that they strayed so far from me?
They followed worthless idols
and became worthless themselves.*

⁶ *They did not ask, ‘Where is the LORD,
who brought us up out of Egypt
and led us through the barren wilderness,
through a land of deserts and rifts,
a land of drought and darkness,^[a]
a land where no one travels and no one lives?’*

⁷ *I brought you into a fertile land
to eat its fruit and rich produce.
But you came and defiled my land
and made my inheritance detestable.*

⁸ *The priests did not ask,
‘Where is the LORD?’
Those who deal with the law did not know me;
the leaders rebelled against me.
The prophets prophesied by Baal,
following worthless idols.*

⁹ *“Therefore I bring charges against you again,”
declares the LORD.
“And I will bring charges against your children's children.*

¹⁰ *Cross over to the coasts of Kittim^[b] and look,
send to Kedar^[c] and observe closely;
see if there has ever been anything like this:*

¹¹ *Has a nation ever changed its gods?
(Yet they are not gods at all.)
But my people have exchanged their^[d] Glory
for worthless idols.*

¹² *Be appalled at this, O heavens,
and shudder with great horror,”
declares the LORD.*

¹³ *“My people have committed two sins:
They have forsaken me,
the spring of living water,
and have dug their own cisterns,
broken cisterns that cannot hold water.*

Jeremiah 7:1-11

¹ This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD : ² "Stand at the gate of the LORD's house and there proclaim this message:

" Hear the word of the LORD, all you people of Judah who come through these gates to worship the LORD. ³ This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Reform your ways and your actions, and I will let you live in this place. ⁴ Do not trust in deceptive words and say, "This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD!" ⁵ If you really change your ways and your actions and deal with each other justly, ⁶ if you do not oppress the alien, the fatherless or the widow and do not shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not follow other gods to your own harm, ⁷ then I will let you live in this place, in the land I gave your forefathers for ever and ever. ⁸ But look, you are trusting in deceptive words that are worthless.

⁹ " Will you steal and murder, commit adultery and perjury, ^[u] burn incense to Baal and follow other gods you have not known, ¹⁰ and then come and stand before me in this house, which bears my Name, and say, "We are safe"-safe to do all these detestable things? ¹¹ Has this house, which bears my Name, become a den of robbers to you? But I have been watching! declares the LORD.

God teaches even through tragic events

Jeremiah 1:10

Today I appoint you to stand up against nations and kingdoms. You are to uproot some and tear them down, to destroy and overthrow them. You are to build others up and plant them.

God has been trying to get the people's attention for centuries and finally with the exile, God gets it.

They lost everything but gained an attentiveness to God

Disaster is what happens when we try to live on our own terms.

The Lord is faithful, merciful and full of grace. God is always calling us to hear his voice and live according to his love.

Does God have your attention?

Get into the Act ***The Bible as a Whole***

Act 1: The Exodus; ***Scene 2: Formed through Disaster***

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