

# Week Twenty-Eight

Days 190–196



**Exile** Narrative: 2 Kings 24–25; Isaiah 1–10 | Supplemental: 2 Chronicles 35–36; Tobit 1–12; Proverbs 8:22–10:12

## WHEN BOOKS OF THE BIBLE SIMPLY TEACH



The Tomb of King Cyrus in Iran

The fall of Judah to the Babylonians and the resulting Babylonian Exile, recorded at the end of 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles, does not bring the story of God's work with his people to a close. Second Chronicles ends with a note about the conqueror of the Babylonians, Cyrus of Persia, declaring that God instructed him to rebuild the Temple. The other readings this week take us to the period just after the fall of Israel to the Assyrians. The book of Tobit recounts the life of a faithful Israelite family living in Assyrian exile. Isaiah records the activities of a who warns about the destruction of Israel.

- A central theme from Proverbs is that the foolish are always disconnected from God, whereas the wise see and value things correctly; they can hear the voice of the Lord.
- Isaiah, a major prophet, preaches primarily to Judah, the Southern Kingdom. His ministry spans the lives of at least four kings.
- Of the Lord's universal kingdom, Isaiah writes, "The mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob'" (Isaiah 2:2–3). This will be fulfilled in Jesus through the Church he establishes.
- Tobit, from Israel, is faithful, performing corporal works of mercy, and continuing to worship even when Israel turns away from the Lord.
- Though Tobit is faithful to the Lord, he is exiled. Nonetheless, Tobit 1 and 2 says that no matter who or what surrounds us, we can always do what God asks us to do.
- We also read about the miraculous journey of Tobias with his angelic protector, Raphael. The angel helps Tobias find and secure his wife.
- Tobias and Sarah are an example of spouses who pray together. They praise God for his goodness, they treat each other well, and they grow old together in love.

