

## TO SCATTERED BELIEVERS IN A PERISHING WORLD

*“...to the chosen who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia...”*

*1 Peter 1:1b*

*“She [the Church] who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings...”*

*1 Peter 5:13*

Scholars debate the significance of ‘Babylon.’ While it could be one of several ancient cities named Babylon, it is more likely a metaphorical reference to Rome—where Peter was martyred—comparing it to the Mesopotamian city where the people of God were ‘scattered’ in the exile of the 6th century BC.



### Jewish Scattering

#### The Promise

*“[If you are disobedient] the LORD will scatter you among the peoples... [and after you are disciplined] you will return to the LORD your God...”* (Deuteronomy 4:27, 30, see also Leviticus 26:33)

#### The Fulfillment

In 722 BC, the Northern Kingdom, Israel, is destroyed by the Assyrian Empire because of its idolatry. The Southern Kingdom, Judah, is sent to Babylon in exile in 586 BC for several generations as a result of its disobedience. This is the event which the great prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah predicted, and which Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel endured. It ended with the joyous return of the faithful under the leadership of Ezra and Nehemiah in the 5<sup>th</sup> Century BC.

#### The Purpose

1. To discipline the disobedient people of God *in order to restore them.*
2. To demonstrate the Lord’s power and glory to the nations.

*“The LORD has bared His holy arm in the sight of all the nations, That all the ends of the earth may see the salvation of our God”* (Is 52:10).

### Christian Scattering

#### The Promise

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age”* (Mt 28:19-20)

*“...you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth”* (Acts 1:8)

#### The Fulfillment

The beginning of the fulfillment of this promise was at Pentecost when the Apostles received the Holy Spirit (Acts 2). The Feast of Pentecost celebrated the barley harvest which happened in late Spring. It celebrated the Lord’s provisions, but also helped the people anticipate the great Feast of Ingathering after the final harvest. So too, since the Feast of Pentecost has “fully come” (Acts 2:1), we look forward to—and work toward—the great harvest of souls at the end of the age.

#### The Purpose

*“I have placed you as a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the end of the earth”* (Acts 13:47)

The purpose of this scattering is that at the end of the age, peoples from every tongue and tribe and nation will be *gathered* around the throne of the Lord Jesus Christ as we forever “declare the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9).