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# Believing the Promise

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*Advent 2018*



exile



“There is one God, who made the entire universe, and this God is in covenant with Israel. He has chosen her for a purpose: she is to be a light to the world.” [The fact, then, that Israel was under Roman oppression meant that something was wrong: Israel had broken the covenant.] This meant that, “Yahweh, as the creator and covenant God, was irrevocably committed to further action of some sort in history, which would bring about the end of Israel’s desolation and the vindication of his true people.”

—N.T. Wright (*NTPG*)



good news: a King



response: belief?



“There is a kind of doubt that is the sign of a closed mind, and there is a kind of doubt that is the sign of an open mind. Some doubt seeks answers, and some doubt is a defense against the possibility of answers.”

—Tim Keller (*Hidden Christmas*)



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# Present Exile

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“Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and **exiles** to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.”

(1 Peter 2:11–12 ESV)