



## The Fall of Jerusalem and Its Aftermath; Jeremiah II.

Michelangelo's "Jeremiah," Sistine Chapel

Further sufferings of Jeremiah; rebellion of Zedekiah and the second siege of Jerusalem (587/6 B.C.); Gedaliah made governor in Mizpah; his assassination and the flight of refugees to Egypt; Jeremiah's laments and end; hope—Jehoachin released from prison.

2 Kings 25; 2 Chronicles 36:15–21; Jeremiah 30–31, 34–44; Lamentations 1–5.

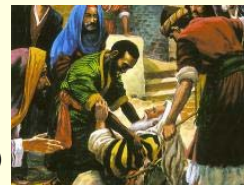
## Judah's Hope of Restoration

Undated prophecies—perhaps the time of Gedaliah after the destruction

- **The promise declared: restoration after tribulation (30:1–31:26)**
  - Restoration promised for Judah and Israel (30:1–24)
  - Joyful return of the exiles (31:1–26)
    - "A voice was heard in Ramah . . ." (detention center before Babylonian deportations; 31:15, [see Matt 2:18](#))
- **The New Covenant (31:27–40)**
  - "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that **I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah . . . I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.** And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord : for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." (31:33–34)
- Time of Zedekiah
  - [The promise illustrated: a field bought (32:1–44)]
  - [The promise reaffirmed: the Davidic covenant (33:1–26)]
    - **For the Branch of 33:15, cf. 23:5–6**

## Events Before the Fall of Jerusalem (34:1–38:28)

- Message to Zedekiah (34:1–7)
- Message to the people (34:8–22)
- Message concerning the Rechabites (35:1–19)
  - A group of nomadic, dedicated YHWHists, *contrast with the Judahites of chapter 34*
  - Compare them to Lehi and his family who give up city life to live in tents!
- <The scroll (36:1–32)> (time of Jehoiakim; covered in lecture 22)
- Zedekiah's Vain Hope (37:1–10)
- Jeremiah in Prison (37:11–38:28)
  - Jeremiah imprisoned (37:11–21)
  - Jeremiah in the cistern (38:1–6)
  - Jeremiah is rescued by Ebed-melech (38:7–13)
  - Zedekiah consults Jeremiah again (38:14–28)



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## The Fall of Jerusalem (2 Kings 25; 2 Chronicles 36:15–21; Jeremiah 39:1–18)

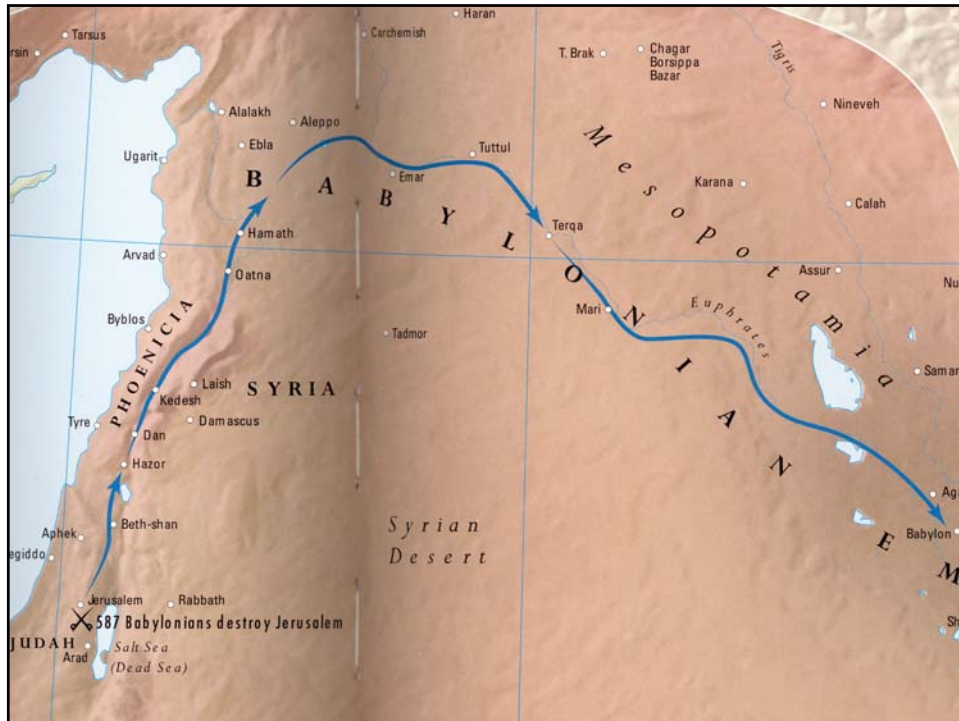
- The fate of the Jews (Jeremiah 39:1–10)
  - Jerusalem taken after a 2-year siege
  - Zedekiah tries to escape; he is captured and witnesses the deaths of his sons before he is blinded
  - City and temple burned, treasures are taken as booty, the populace deported
- The fate of Jeremiah (Jeremiah 39:11–18)
  - Released by **Nebuzar-adan** and given liberty



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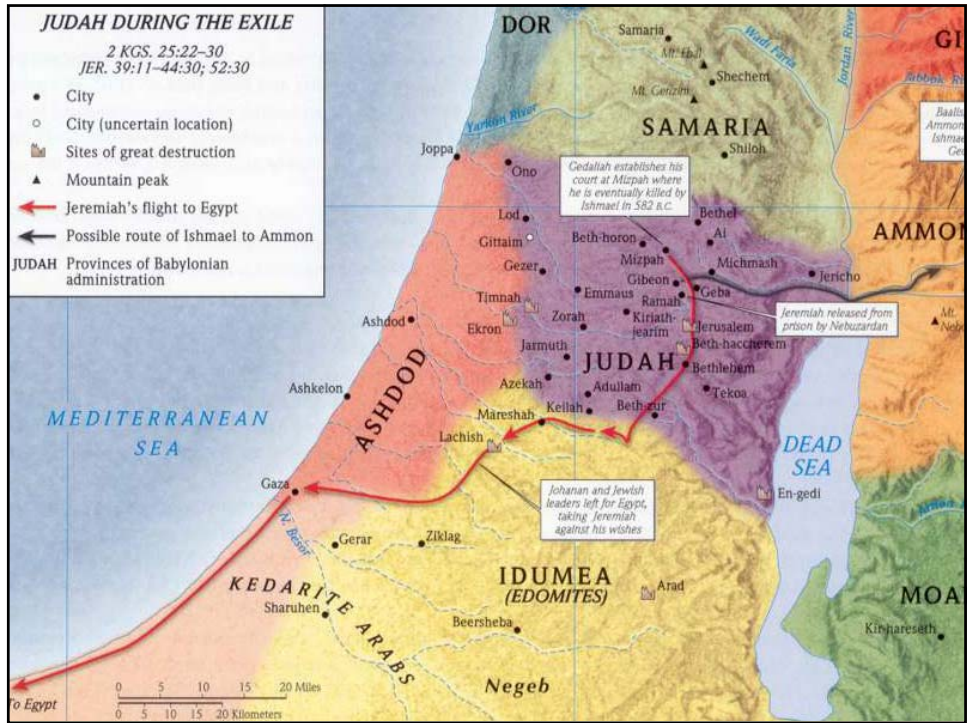
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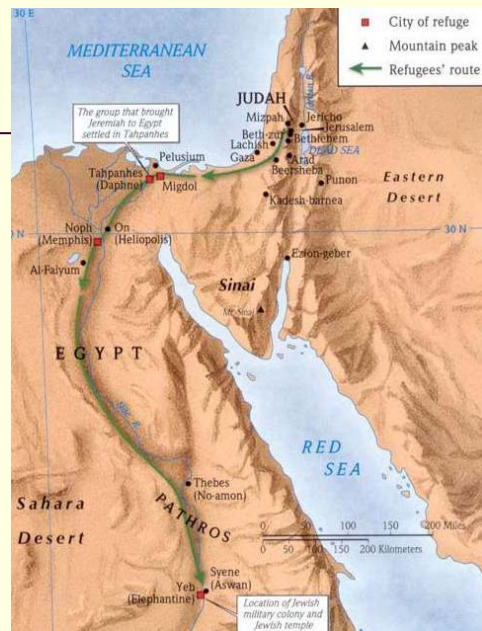
## Jeremiah ministers to Jews in Palestine (40:1–42:22)

- Jeremiah set at liberty (40:1–6)
- **Gedaliah** made governor (40:7–12)
- **Ishmael's** plot revealed (40:13–16)
- Ishmael kills Gedaliah and many others, even Samaritan pilgrims (41:1–10)
- **Johanan** frees Ishmael's prisoners (41:11–18)
- Johanan and the people ask Jeremiah to pray (42:1–6)
- The Lord counsels the people to stay in the land (42:7–43)



## Jeremiah ministers to Jews in Egypt (43:1-44:30)

- The people flee to Egypt (43:1-7)
- Prophecy against Egypt (43:8-13)
- Jews in Egypt will be punished for idolatry as they were in Jerusalem (44:1-30)
- [Jeremiah ministers to Baruch (45:1-5)]



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## Two Visions of Hope

- Kings ends with the exiled king Jehoichin being released from prison (2 Kings 25:27–30)
  - *Hope that a Davidic king would be restored to the throne, bringing about a restoration*
  - Unrealized? Still future?
- Chronicles ends with the Lord stirring up Cyrus the king of Persia to allow the exiles to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple
  - Historical first restoration
  - God works through a foreign “messiah” (see Isaiah 41:2, 44:28–45:4)

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## Lamentations

- **Five mournful poems or elegies**
  - Hebrew *‘Elkah* or “How! Alas!”; Greek *thrēnoi* or “lamentations”
  - 1–4 alphabetic acrostics (22 verses, one for each Hebrew letter, ch. 3 triples each letter for 66 verses); 1–5 not alphabetic but still 22 verses
  - Limping *qinah* (lament) meter: 3 beat line and then 2 beat line
- **Authorship**
  - Part of the **Five Scrolls of the Ketuvim**, read at the fast commemorating the destruction of the temple
  - **LXX attributed to Jeremiah and placed after his book**
    - Nothing in the text directly connects these poems to the prophet, although he was known to have composed a lamentation over Josiah (2 Chronicles 35:25)
- **Purposes**
  - Expressions of grief over loss of Temple and Jerusalem
  - Help survivors come to term with the calamity
  - **Illustrate judgment of God**
  - **Call to repentance**
  - **God’s wrath is limited but his mercy is unbounded**

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# Overview of Lamentations

- **The Desolation of Jerusalem (1:1–22)**
  - The Barrenness of the City (1:1–11)
  - The Anguish of the City (1:12–22)
- **The Destruction of Jerusalem (2:1–22)**
  - The Lord's Judgment (2:1–10)
  - The Author's Lament (2:11–22)
- **The Distaught Prophet (3:1–66)**
  - His Lament (3:1–18)
  - His Hope (3:19–42)
  - His Suffering (3:43–54)
  - His Prayer (3:55–66)
- **The Defeated People of Jerusalem (4:1–22)**
  - The Siege of the City (4:1–12)
  - The Reasons for the Siege (4:13–20)
  - The Hope for the Future (4:21–22)
- **The Prayer for the People (5:1–22)**
  - Confession (5:1–18)
  - Petition (5:19–22)