

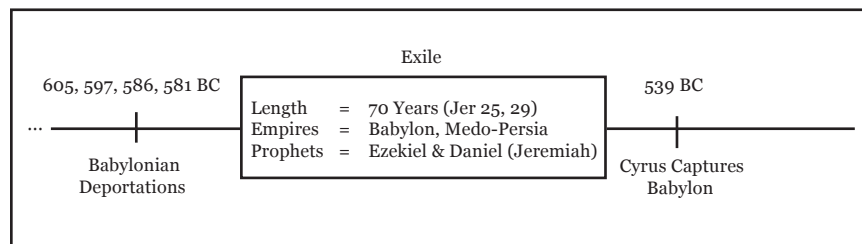
# SESSION 2

## Jeremiah and the Exile

### I. PRAYER

### II. PANORAMA OF THE BIBLE

#### Movement 8: Exile



### III. THE PROPHET JEREMIAH

#### A. Birth | Childhood

1. Date of birth: around 647-643 BC (scholars uncertain of the actual date).
2. Family: his father (Hilkiah) was perhaps a descendant of Abiathar (a descendant of Eli, the priest—see 1 Sam 14:3).
3. Hometown: Anathoth, a Levitical city in the tribal area of Benjamin (about 3 miles or so northeast of Jerusalem).
4. Heritage: raised in a priestly family but there are no indications of his service as a priest.

#### B. Call to Ministry

Jeremiah 1:1-2

*The words of Jeremiah son of Hilkiah, one of the priests at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin.<sup>2</sup> The word of the LORD came to him in the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah...*

### **C. Ministry Highlights**

1. Jeremiah's ministry extended over a period of forty years.
2. Jeremiah prophesied of impending doom for Judah (Babylonian captivity), the length of the exile (70 years), and lived a few years beyond.
3. Leon Wood (*Prophets of Israel*, 330) divides his life into three phases:
  - Phase 1: Pleasant years (under King Josiah)
  - Phase 2: Persecution and suffering years (under Kings Jehoahaz and Jehoiachin)
  - Phase 3: Disappointment years (following the fall of Jerusalem)
4. Assessments of Jeremiah's life and ministry:
  - "He was weeping prophet to a wayward people." (C. Dyer)
  - "(He) was hated, jeered at, ostracized... continually harassed, and more than once almost killed..." (J. Bright)
  - "...by birth a priest; by grace a prophet; by the trials of life a bulwark of God's truth... by temperament gentle and timid..." (C. Feinberg)
  - "...the premier prophet of Judah during the dark days leading to her destruction" (C. Dyer)

### **D. Important Dates for Jeremiah**

See chart, "Important Dates for Jeremiah" on page 43.

## IV. THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH

### A. Charted

BOOK OF JEREMIAH						
INTRO	TO THE JEWS				TO GENTILES	CONCLUSION
"Call"	13 "Messages"	4 "Conflicts"	Jerusalem's Future   Fall		"Baruch/ Nations"	"Jerusalem"
Call (1:1-10)	Condemnation of Judah	1. (26)	1. Back to the Land (30-32)	Before (34-36)	1. Baruch (45)	Fall of the City
Confirm. (1:11-19)	(13 messages of judgment)	2. (27) 3. (28) 4. (29)	2. By the Messiah- King (33)	During (37-39) After (40-44)	2. Nine Nations (46-51)	
1	2      25	26   29	30   33	34   44	45   51	52
1	Before the Fall of Jerusalem			39   40	After the Fall	
						52

### B. Selected Key Passages

1. Call: Jeremiah 1:4-5

*The word of the LORD came to me, saying,  
<sup>5</sup> "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
before you were born I set you apart;  
I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."*

2. Confirmation: Jeremiah 1:17-19

*"Get yourself ready! Stand up and say to them whatever  
I command you. Do not be terrified by them, or I will ter-  
rify you before them. <sup>18</sup> Today I have made you a fortified  
city, an iron pillar and a bronze wall to stand against  
the whole land—against the kings of Judah, its officials,  
its priests and the people of the land. <sup>19</sup> They will fight  
against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you  
and will rescue you," declares the LORD.*

3. Condemnation: Jeremiah 2:13, 19

*“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...  
<sup>19</sup>Your wickedness will punish you;  
your backsliding will rebuke you.  
Consider then and realize  
how evil and bitter it is for you  
when you forsake the LORD your God  
and have no awe of me,”  
declares the LORD, the LORD Almighty.*

4. Judgment on Israel: Jeremiah 3:6-10

*During the reign of King Josiah, the LORD said to me,  
“Have you seen what faithless Israel has done? She has  
gone up on every high hill and under every spreading  
tree and has committed adultery there. <sup>7</sup> I thought that  
after she had done all this she would return to me but  
she did not, and her unfaithful sister Judah saw it. <sup>8</sup> I  
gave faithless Israel her certificate of divorce and sent  
her away because of all her adulteries. Yet I saw that her  
unfaithful sister Judah had no fear; she also went out  
and committed adultery. <sup>9</sup> Because Israel’s immorality  
mattered so little to her, she defiled the land and  
committed adultery with stone and wood. <sup>10</sup> In spite of all  
this, her unfaithful sister Judah did not return to me with  
all her heart, but only in pretense,” declares the LORD.*

5. Judgment on Judah: Jeremiah 4:3-9

*<sup>3</sup> This is what the LORD says to the people of Judah and to  
Jerusalem:  
“Break up your unplowed ground  
and do not sow among thorns.  
<sup>4</sup> Circumcise yourselves to the LORD,  
circumcise your hearts,  
you people of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem,  
or my wrath will flare up and burn like fire  
because of the evil you have done—  
burn with no one to quench it.*

<sup>5</sup> *"Announce in Judah and proclaim in Jerusalem and say:  
'Sound the trumpet throughout the land!'*

*Cry aloud and say:*

*'Gather together!*

*Let us flee to the fortified cities!'*

<sup>6</sup> *Raise the signal to go to Zion!*

*Flee for safety without delay!*

*For I am bringing disaster from the north,  
even terrible destruction."*

<sup>7</sup> *A lion has come out of his lair;*

*a destroyer of nations has set out.*

*He has left his place*

*to lay waste your land.*

*Your towns will lie in ruins*

*without inhabitant.*

<sup>8</sup> *So put on sackcloth,*

*lament and wail,*

*for the fierce anger of the LORD*

*has not turned away from us.*

<sup>9</sup> *"In that day," declares the LORD,*

*"the king and the officials will lose heart,*

*the priests will be horrified,*

*and the prophets will be appalled."*

6. Call to Repentance: Jeremiah 7:1-8

*This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD:*

<sup>2</sup> *"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. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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!" <sup>5</sup> If you really change your ways and  
your actions and deal with each other justly, <sup>6</sup> if you do  
not oppress the foreigner, 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, <sup>7</sup> then I will  
let you live in this place, in the land I gave your ancestors  
for ever and ever. <sup>8</sup> But look, you are trusting in deceptive  
words that are worthless.*

7. Judgment Warning: Jeremiah 9:22-24  
Say, *"This is what the LORD declares:*

*"Dead bodies will lie  
like dung on the open field,  
like cut grain behind the reaper,  
with no one to gather them."*

<sup>23</sup> *This is what the LORD says:*

*"Let not the wise boast of their wisdom  
or the strong boast of their strength  
or the rich boast of their riches,*

<sup>24</sup> *but let the one who boasts boast about this:  
that they have the understanding to know me,  
that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness,  
justice and righteousness on earth,  
for in these I delight,"*  
*declares the LORD.*

8. Captivity Warning: Jeremiah 13:15-19

*Hear and pay attention,  
do not be arrogant,  
for the LORD has spoken.*

<sup>16</sup> *Give glory to the LORD your God  
before he brings the darkness,  
before your feet stumble  
on the darkening hills.*

*You hope for light,  
but he will turn it to utter darkness  
and change it to deep gloom.*

<sup>17</sup> *If you do not listen,  
I will weep in secret  
because of your pride;  
my eyes will weep bitterly,  
overflowing with tears,  
because the LORD's flock will be taken captive.*

<sup>18</sup> *Say to the king and to the queen mother,  
"Come down from your thrones,  
for your glorious crowns  
will fall from your heads."*

<sup>19</sup> *The cities in the Negev will be shut up,*

*and there will be no one to open them.  
All Judah will be carried into exile,  
carried completely away.*

Recall that captivity was prophesied by Moses if the covenant people were not obedient to the Law. Deuteronomy 28-30 records the blessings and cursings (judgment) as a result of obedience or disobedience.

Deuteronomy 28:49-52

*The LORD will bring a nation against you from far away, from the ends of the earth, like an eagle swooping down, a nation whose language you will not understand,<sup>50</sup> a fierce-looking nation without respect for the old or pity for the young.<sup>51</sup> They will devour the young of your livestock and the crops of your land until you are destroyed. They will leave you no grain, new wine or olive oil, nor any calves of your herds or lambs of your flocks until you are ruined.<sup>52</sup> They will lay siege to all the cities throughout your land until the high fortified walls in which you trust fall down. They will besiege all the cities throughout the land the LORD your God is giving you.*

9. Jeremiah's Conflict with Priests, Prophets, People:

Jeremiah 26:4-9

*"Say to them, 'This is what the LORD says: If you do not listen to me and follow my law, which I have set before you,<sup>5</sup> and if you do not listen to the words of my servants the prophets, whom I have sent to you again and again (though you have not listened),<sup>6</sup> then I will make this house like Shiloh and this city a curse among all the nations of the earth.'"*

*<sup>7</sup> The priests, the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speak these words in the house of the LORD.*

*<sup>8</sup> But as soon as Jeremiah finished telling all the people everything the LORD had commanded him to say, the priests, the prophets and all the people seized him and said, "You must die!"<sup>9</sup> Why do you prophesy in the LORD's name that this house will be like Shiloh and this city will be desolate and deserted?" And all the people crowded around Jeremiah in the house of the LORD.*

10. Jeremiah's Conflict with False Prophets:

Jeremiah 27:16-18

*Then I said to the priests and all these people, "This is what the LORD says: Do not listen to the prophets who say, 'Very soon now the articles from the LORD's house will be brought back from Babylon.' They are prophesying lies to you. <sup>17</sup> Do not listen to them. Serve the king of Babylon, and you will live. Why should this city become a ruin? <sup>18</sup> If they are prophets and have the word of the LORD, let them plead with the LORD Almighty that the articles remaining in the house of the LORD and in the palace of the king of Judah and in Jerusalem not be taken to Babylon.*

11. Jeremiah's Conflict with Hananiah (the false prophet):

Jeremiah 28:5-9

*Then the prophet Jeremiah replied to the prophet Hananiah before the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD. <sup>6</sup> He said, "Amen! May the LORD do so! May the LORD fulfill the words you have prophesied by bringing the articles of the LORD's house and all the exiles back to this place from Babylon. <sup>7</sup> Nevertheless, listen to what I have to say in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people: <sup>8</sup> From early times the prophets who preceded you and me have prophesied war, disaster and plague against many countries and great kingdoms. <sup>9</sup> But the prophet who prophesies peace will be recognized as one truly sent by the LORD only if his prediction comes true."*

12. Jeremiah's Conflict with Shemaiah (the false prophet):

Jeremiah 29:24-32

*Tell Shemaiah the Nehelamite, <sup>25</sup> "This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: You sent letters in your own name to all the people in Jerusalem, to the priest Zephaniah son of Maaseiah, and to all the other priests. You said to Zephaniah, <sup>26</sup> 'The LORD has appointed you priest in place of Jehoiada to be in charge of the house of the LORD; you should put any maniac who acts like a prophet into the stocks and neck-irons. <sup>27</sup> So why have you not reprimanded Jeremiah from Anathoth,*



*who poses as a prophet among you?<sup>28</sup> He has sent this message to us in Babylon: It will be a long time. Therefore build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce.’”*

*<sup>29</sup> Zephaniah the priest, however, read the letter to Jeremiah the prophet. <sup>30</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah: <sup>31</sup> “Send this message to all the exiles: ‘This is what the LORD says about Shemaiah the Nehelamite: Because Shemaiah has prophesied to you, even though I did not send him, and has persuaded you to trust in lies, <sup>32</sup> this is what the LORD says: I will surely punish Shemaiah the Nehelamite and his descendants. He will have no one left among this people, nor will he see the good things I will do for my people, declares the LORD, because he has preached rebellion against me.’”*

13. Captivity Length:

Jeremiah 29:10-14 (cf Jer 25:12)

*This is what the LORD says: “When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. <sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. <sup>12</sup> Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. <sup>13</sup> You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. <sup>14</sup> I will be found by you,” declares the LORD, “and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you,” declares the LORD, “and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile.”*

14. Promise: A New Covenant Coming:

Jeremiah 31:31-34

*“The days are coming,” declares the LORD,  
“when I will make a new covenant  
with the people of Israel  
and with the people of Judah.  
<sup>32</sup> It will not be like the covenant  
I made with their ancestors  
when I took them by the hand*

*to lead them out of Egypt,  
because they broke my covenant,  
though I was a husband to them,”  
declares the LORD.*

<sup>33</sup> *“This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel  
after that time,” declares the LORD.*

*“I will put my law in their minds  
and write it on their hearts.*

*I will be their God,  
and they will be my people.*

<sup>34</sup> *No longer will they teach their neighbor,  
or say to one another, ‘Know the LORD,’  
because they will all know me,  
from the least of them to the greatest,”  
declares the LORD.*

*“For I will forgive their wickedness  
and will remember their sins no more.”*

### **EXCURSIS: THE NEW COVENANT**

Certain biblical scholars have debated the fulfillment of the New Covenant. Some early dispensational writers believed that there were two new covenants: one for national Israel, one for the Church. Other mediating or opposing views (beyond the scope of our study) have also been proposed. The basic texts for the New Covenant follows.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

*“The days are coming,” declares the LORD,  
“when I will make a new covenant  
with the people of Israel  
and with the people of Judah.*

<sup>32</sup> *It will not be like the covenant  
I made with their ancestors  
when I took them by the hand  
to lead them out of Egypt,  
because they broke my covenant,  
though I was a husband to them,”  
declares the LORD.*

<sup>33</sup> *“This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel  
after that time,” declares the LORD.*

*“I will put my law in their minds*

*and write it on their hearts.  
I will be their God,  
and they will be my people.  
34 No longer will they teach their neighbor,  
or say to one another, 'Know the LORD,'  
because they will all know me,  
from the least of them to the greatest,"  
declares the LORD.  
"For I will forgive their wickedness  
and will remember their sins no more."*

Ezekiel 36:24-28

*"For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. 25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. 26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. 28 Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God."*

While scholars debate the intention, scope and timing of the New Covenant, at least three elements are central:

- (1) Forgiveness of sins
- (2) Indwelling of the Holy Spirit
- (3) New heart for God

It is the opinion of this writer that Jesus inaugurated the New Covenant with His death on the cross. At the last supper, Luke records, "In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you'" (Lk 22:20). Also, Matthew's account also notes that Jesus said, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins" (Matt 26:28). This understanding does not diminish the fact that certain elements of the New Covenant will be finally, completely realized in the coming literal, Davidic kingdom on earth (i.e. the national and territorial promises—see Jer 31:31, 36; Ezek 36:28; 37:14). But as church-age believers we share in the inaugurated New Covenant.

15. Judgment to come on Babylon:

Jeremiah 51:54-57

*“The sound of a cry comes from Babylon,  
the sound of great destruction  
from the land of the Babylonians.*

<sup>55</sup> *The LORD will destroy Babylon;  
he will silence her noisy din.*

*Waves of enemies will rage like great waters;  
the roar of their voices will resound.*

<sup>56</sup> *A destroyer will come against Babylon;  
her warriors will be captured,  
and their bows will be broken.*

*For the LORD is a God of retribution;  
he will repay in full.*

<sup>57</sup> *I will make her officials and wise men drunk,  
her governors, officers and warriors as well;  
they will sleep forever and not awake,”  
declares the King, whose name is the LORD Almighty.*

Note: the fulfillment of this prophecy will be found in Daniel 5 and the amazing story of the handwriting on the wall.

16. Future Promise: Davidic King:

Jeremiah 33:14-18

*“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah.”*

<sup>15</sup> *“In those days and at that time  
I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David’s line;  
he will do what is just and right in the land.*

<sup>16</sup> *In those days Judah will be saved  
and Jerusalem will live in safety.*

*This is the name by which it will be called:  
The LORD Our Righteous Savior.’*

<sup>17</sup> *For this is what the LORD says: ‘David will never fail to have a man to sit on the throne of Israel, <sup>18</sup>nor will the Levitical priests ever fail to have a man to stand before me continually to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings and to present sacrifices.’”*

## V. CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH

### A. Eleventh Hour Warning

Jeremiah's prophetic ministry extended before, during, and after the Babylonian captivity. It was the final word urging repentance before the nation (Judah) plunged into national ruin and destruction.

However, the nation was stubbornly unrepentant. The kings, officials, and people rejected the Law and ignored God's prophets.

### B. Harsh Reality: Submit to Babylon

Unlike other prophetic messages that urged repentance in order to be restored and delivered (from the nation's enemies), Jeremiah's warnings were ignored and thus the prophet issued the astounding word from God: submit to the Babylonian captivity. Recall the word given to King Zedekiah (Jer 27:12-15).

*I gave the same message to Zedekiah king of Judah. I said, "Bow your neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon; serve him and his people, and you will live. <sup>13</sup> Why will you and your people die by the sword, famine and plague with which the LORD has threatened any nation that will not serve the king of Babylon? <sup>14</sup> Do not listen to the words of the prophets who say to you, 'You will not serve the king of Babylon,' for they are prophesying lies to you. <sup>15</sup> 'I have not sent them,' declares the LORD. 'They are prophesying lies in my name. Therefore, I will banish you and you will perish, both you and the prophets who prophesy to you.'"*

### C. The Consequences of Unrepentant Hearts

The story of Jeremiah is a sad one. It chronicles the last days of the Davidic dynasty leading to the eventual captivity and exile. It pictures the truth of Proverbs 29:1.

*Whoever remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed—without remedy.*

### D. Weeping Prophet

Although tasked with an uncompromising, yet bitter message, Jeremiah remained a tender-hearted spokesman for the Lord.

1. Jeremiah 9:1 (Tears)  
*Oh, that my head were a spring of water  
 and my eyes a fountain of tears!  
 I would weep day and night  
 for the slain of my people.*
2. Lamentations 2:11 (Wept)  
*My eyes fail from weeping,  
 I am in torment within;  
 my heart is poured out on the ground  
 because my people are destroyed,  
 because children and infants faint  
 in the streets of the city.*

**Insight:**

“Jeremiah’s life as a prophet was one long, sad, stormy day. Often he grew discouraged and was almost ready to give up the battle, but the fire of the Spirit in his bones kept him true to God... Jeremiah’s personal life was very lonely... He was instructed of God not to marry and raise a family (16:1-4)...”

(I. Jensen, *Jensen’s Survey of the Old Testament*, 342)

**E. Overview to Jeremiah’s Life**

The following chart was adapted from Wilkinson and Boa, *Talk Thru the Bible*, 200.

<b>THE MINISTRY LIFE OF JEREMIAH</b>	
Early stage	Later Stage
Reformation	Retrogression
Assyria in Power	Babylon in Power
Jews in the Land	Jews in Babylon
Jeremiah in Jerusalem	Jeremiah in Egypt
Davidic Throne Occupied	Davidic Throne Empty

## VI. TAKEAWAYS

### A. Judgment Promised, Judgment Delivered

Judah as a nation was in a downward spiral. The messages of the prophets had been ignored. God had promised (prophesied) that continued rebellion would lead to national destruction. The Book of Jeremiah validates the truth for a nation which is also true of individuals as well. Sin and rebellion will not be ignored.

Hebrews 12:4-6

*In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.<sup>5</sup> And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says,*

*“My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline,  
and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,  
<sup>6</sup> because the Lord disciplines the one he loves,  
and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.”*

### B. Righteousness Should Characterize Nations/Peoples

Proverbs 14:34

*Righteousness exalts a nation,  
but sin condemns any people.*

Proverbs 11:11AMP

*By the blessing [of the influence] of the upright  
the city is exalted,  
But by the mouth of the wicked it is torn down.*

### C. God’s Word Must Be Heeded and Obeyed

By ignoring God’s prophetic word the nation of Judah fell to the Babylonians, God’s instrument of judgment upon a stubborn, sinful people. Rejecting God’s word leads to eventual discipline.

1. Exodus 19:5-6

*“Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine,<sup>6</sup> you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”*

2. Joshua 1:7-8  
*"Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. <sup>8</sup> Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."*
3. Psalm 119:57, 129  
*You are my portion, LORD;  
I have promised to obey your words..."*  
*<sup>129</sup> Your statutes are wonderful;  
therefore I obey them.*
4. John 14:15  
*"If you love me, keep my commands."*



<b>IMPORTANT DATES FOR JEREMIAH</b>		
<b>Years</b>	<b>Events</b>	<b>References</b>
643	Probable date of Jeremiah's birth	
640	Josiah becomes king of Judah at age 8	2 Chron 34:1
628	Josiah begins his reforms	2 Chron 34:3
627	Jeremiah begins his ministry	Jer 1:2; 25:3
626	Nabopolassar founds the Neo-Babylonian Empire	
622	The book of the Law discovered in the temple	2 Chron 34:8, 14
612	The fall of Nineveh, Assyria's capitol	
609	Josiah killed in battle by Egyptians at Megiddo	2 Chron 35:20-25
	Jehoahaz reigns over Judah for 3 months	2 Chron 36:1-3
	Jehoiakim made king of Judah by Pharaoh Necho	
605	Nebuchadnezzar defeats the Egyptians at Carchemish	Jer 46:2
	The first deportation of exiles (including Daniel) to Babylon	Dan 1:1-7
604	Jehoiakim burns Jeremiah's first scroll	Jer 36
601	Jehoiakim rebels against Babylon	2 Kings 24:1
598	Jehoiakim is deposed and dies	2 Chron 36:3
	Jehoiachin reigns over Judah for 3 months	2 Kings 24:8
597	The second deportation of exiles (including Jehoiachin) to Babylon	2 Kings 24:12-16
	Zedekiah made king of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar	2 Kings 24:17
593	Zedekiah summoned to Babylon	Jer 51:59
588	Zedekiah is besieged in Jerusalem for treachery	Jer 52:3-4
586	Fall of Jerusalem (third deportation?)	Jer 39
	Gedaliah appointed governor of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar	Jer 40:5-6
	Gedaliah assassinated by Ishmael	Jer 41:2
	Judean refugees flee to Egypt taking Jeremiah with them	Jer 42-43
581	The third deportation of exiles to Babylon (or fourth?)	Jer 52:30
568	Nebuchadnezzar invades Egypt	Jer 43:8-13; 46:13-26
561	Jehoiachin released from prison in Babylon	Jer 52:31-34
539	Fall of Babylon to Cyrus the Persian (considered by some scholars to be the same ruler as Darius the Mede)	Dan 5:30-31
538	Cyrus issues his decree allowing the Jews to return to Palestine	Ezra 1:1-4

(Taken from T. Constable, *Notes on Jeremiah*, 7)