

The Seventy Year Exile

Hezekiah
(29 years)

“He did what was right in the eyes of Yahweh, according to all that David his father had done.” (2 Kings 18.3)
He removed the high places
He trusted in God to be delivered from the Assyrian siege
He showed off all his treasures to Babylonian envoys
(2 Kings 20.12-19)

Manasseh
(55 years)

Rebuilt high places that Hezekiah had destroyed
Filled Jerusalem with innocent blood
He was the worst king of Judah
Because of him God decided to punish Judah
(2 Kings 21.3-16)

Josiah
(31 years)

“He did what was right in the eyes of Yahweh and walked in all the way of David his father, and he did not turn aside to the right or to the left.” (2 Kings 22.2)
Renovated the Temple and found the book of the Law
Discovers God’s wrath is imminent (2 Kings 22.13)
Huldah the prophetess address the King (2 Kings 22.16-20)
Destruction is coming, but not in your days.

Jehoahaz
(3 months)

“He did what was evil in the sight of Yahweh, according to all that his fathers had done.” (2 Kings 23.32)
Pharaoh Neco of Egypt deported Jehoahaz to Egypt as a prisoner and subjugated Judah to pay heavy taxes. He also installed Jehoahaz’s brother Jehoiakim as king

Jehoiakim
(11 years)

“He did what was evil in the sight of Yahweh his God”
(2 Chronicles 36.5)
In the third year of his reign Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, subjugated Judah and deported the best and brightest of Jerusalem to Babylon (2 Kings 23.36-24.7; Daniel 1.1-7)
Jehoiakim remained obstinate and even burned a scroll that God had Jeremiah the prophet write (Jeremiah 36)

First Deportation to
Babylon (3rd year)
- 605 BC -

Jehoiachin

Second Deportation to
Babylon (3rd month)
- 597 BC -

“He did what was evil in the sight of Yahweh, according to all that his father had done.” (2 Kings 24.9)
Reigned 3 months and 10 days, and then the city of Jerusalem was conquered and more than 10k people were carried away into captivity. The king was brought to Babylon as a prisoner but survived and eventually was released many years later (2 Kings 24.8-17)
Ezekiel began prophesying in the 5th year that Jehoiachin was in exile (Ezekiel 1.1-3)

Zedekiah

Third Deportation to
Babylon (11th year)
- 587 BC -

“He did what was evil in the sight of Yahweh, according to all that Jehoiakim had done. For because of the anger of Yahweh it came to the point in Jerusalem and Judah that he cast them out of his presence.” (2 Kg. 24.19-20)
Zedekiah rebelled against Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Jerusalem in the 9th year of Zedekiah’s reign. The people held out for two years but starvation set in and hope was lost. Zedekiah fled but was captured. The Temple that Solomon had built was burned to the ground and the walls around Jerusalem were destroyed. (2 Kings 24.18-25.7; 2 Chronicles 36.11-21)

E X I L E

The Temple was destroyed in 587 BC and rebuilt in 516 BC marking off seventy years of exile without the worship of God in Jerusalem. Alternatively we could mark the exile from 605 BC to 536 BC, which would begin with the first deportation and end with the first wave of people returning.

Exile was not only nationally devastating but also religiously disastrous because it ended the worship of God in his holy Temple (Psalm 137; cf. Obadiah)
During the exile Jeremiah’s letter encouraged the people to build houses, run business, and seek the welfare of the land until the 70 years were up. (Jeremiah 29)
Daniel was taken in the first deportation and realized that the 70 years were almost up when he prayed his famous prayer of national repentance (Daniel 9)

1st Return from Exile
(Joshua & Zerubbabel)
- 538 BC -

Exploring Scripture

A journey through the pages of Scripture to uncover God's eternal truths

Temple Rebuilt
- 536 to 516 BC -

Events Recorded in Esther Occur
- 484 to 475 BC -

2nd Return from Exile
(Ezra teaches the Law)
- 457 BC -

3rd Return from Exile
(Nehemiah rebuilds the wall)
- 445 BC -

Middle Eastern Empires
911-612 BC Assyrian Empire (Nineveh)
612-539 BC Babylonian Empire (Babylon)
539-333 BC Persian Empire (Susa)

The Prophets:

Jeremiah prophesied in Jerusalem from the time of Josiah through Zedekiah and shortly after that died in Egypt. He was despised for his message of impending doom and was persecuted throughout his life.

Obadiah prophesied regarding how the Edomites (one of Judah's neighbors) treacherously picked off the Judeans as they fled from the Babylonians when Jerusalem was destroyed.

Daniel was taken to Babylon as a boy during the first deportation and lived out his days as a high ranking government official in both the Babylonian and Persian empires. He lived until the time of the first return from exile.

Ezekiel was taken to the exile community near the Chebar canal (possibly modern day Nippur, Iran). He prophesied to his community through the destruction of Jerusalem and beyond.