

Summary (1–52)

Jeremiah: surrender and be spared ...

Or don't ... and die or be deported (1–33)

Judah won't surrender (34–39)

A remnant won't surrender (40–45)

The nations won't surrender (46–49)

And so the vast majority of Judah goes off to Babylon for the next 70 years (50–52; cf. 25)

APPLICATION: Believer: You must surrender unconditionally

As He Asked His Prophet ...

In spite of ...

Loneliness (no spouse or family 16:2)

Hardship, physical danger and even death

Repeated conflict and confrontation

Being reviled by his own family, hometown, etc.

Disappointment, discouragement, helplessness

Seeing virtually no fruit from his ministry

Jeremiah surrendered himself unconditionally to the Lord for more than 40 years

As He Asked Jeremiah's Scribe ...

Baruch seems to have been discouraged (45)

He was trying to make a name for himself

God told him to stop it

All that matters is that God's work gets done, and that He gets the glory for it

Baruch surrendered his desire to make a name for himself to the Lord and continued to serve the Lord by serving Jeremiah

As He Asked His Son ...

Philippians 2:3-11

He surrendered His health and well-being

He surrendered His name and reputation

He surrendered His security, significance and success (from man's earthly point of view)

He held nothing back

Jesus surrendered Himself unconditionally to His Father for His entire life

As Jesus Asked His Disciple ...

Peter's expectations

Comfort, power, control

Security, significance, success

A crown

Jesus' expectations

Love, self-denial, sacrificial service

Unwavering faithfulness to His Father

A cross

Jesus' instruction: go to the cross

Death always precedes life

A cross always precedes a crown

Holding on to your stuff vs. holding on to His

As the Lord Asks Us Today ...

What "crowns" am I struggling to surrender?

Comfort, power or control; security, significance or success?

An attitude or a habit; my own way; my own dreams; my own direction?

My own expectations for my life: a relationship, a certain role; some respect or recognition?

Will I let these "loves" or expectations crowd out God fulfilling His best in and through me?

Unconditional Surrender

Maybe you need to take one of your "crowns" to the cross this week

Confess it ... in the embrace of grace

Release it

Embrace what God has for you right now instead of your plans for yourself

Go in faith with worship, trusting that His resurrection power will continue to be at work in you from the inside out

FOR NEXT TIME: _____

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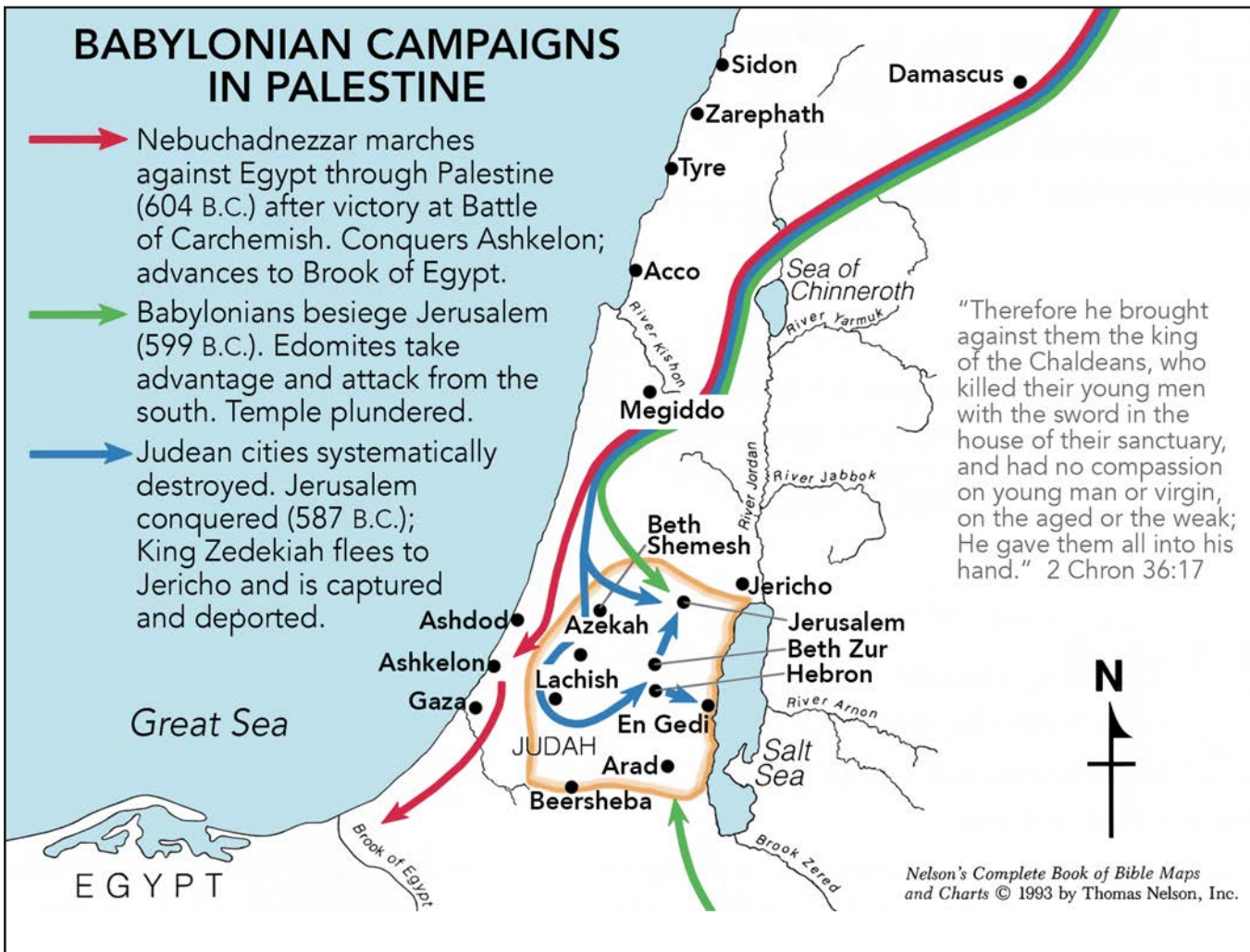
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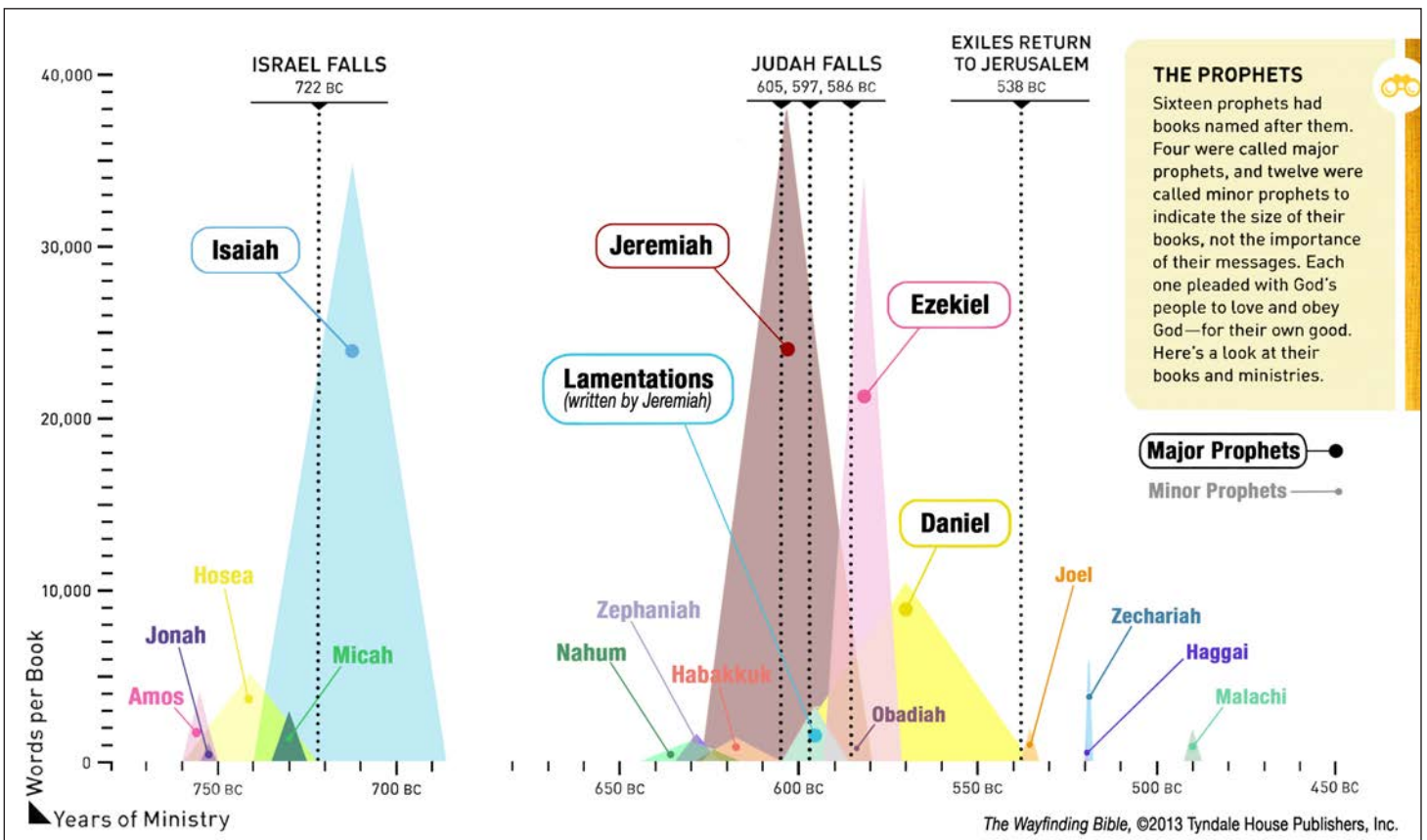
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BABYLONIAN CAMPAIGNS IN PALESTINE

- Nebuchadnezzar marches against Egypt through Palestine (604 B.C.) after victory at Battle of Carchemish. Conquers Ashkelon; advances to Brook of Egypt.
- Babylonians besiege Jerusalem (599 B.C.). Edomites take advantage and attack from the south. Temple plundered.
- Judean cities systematically destroyed. Jerusalem conquered (587 B.C.); King Zedekiah flees to Jericho and is captured and deported.



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THE PROPHETS
 Sixteen prophets had books named after them. Four were called major prophets, and twelve were called minor prophets to indicate the size of their books, not the importance of their messages. Each one pleaded with God's people to love and obey God—for their own good. Here's a look at their books and ministries.

Major Prophets ●
Minor Prophets —

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COMPARISON OF THE FOUR MAJOR PROPHETS

	ISAAH	JEREMIAH	EZEKIEL	DANIEL
PROPHESIED TO:	Jews in Judea	Jews in Judea & Captivity	Jews captive in Babylon	Jews captive in Babylon & Gentile kings
CONCERNING:	Judah & Jerusalem (Isa. 1:1; 2:1)	Judah & Nations (Jer. 1:5, 9-10; 2:1-2)	The whole house of Israel (Ezek. 2:3-6; 3:4-10, 17)	Israel & Gentile Nations (Dan. 2:36ff; 9)
DURING THE REIGNS OF:	Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah (kings of Judah)	Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah (kings of Judah)	Zedekiah (king of Judah); Nebuchadnezzar (king of Babylon)	Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah (kings of Judah); Nebuchadnezzar (king of Babylon)
DATES:	(739-692)	(627-574)	(593-559)	(605-536)
HISTORICAL SETTING:	2 Kings 15-21; 2 Chronicles 26-30	2 Kings 22-25	Daniel 1-6	Daniel 1-6

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Cultural Collapse (24:1-10)

Suddenly and completely, impressive cultures full of creative and skilled people fall apart. While digging, archaeologists often find a layer of ash between strata of remarkable artifacts; the ash indicates the destruction of the culture. This is one of the most disturbing aspects of human history.

Israel's history is replete with cycles of courage and success followed by disaster. Men of God led Israel into new periods of power (Joshua, Samuel, David, Solomon), but the nation repeatedly fell into worshipping many deities instead of the one true God. Repeatedly, God's people fell under judgment as their culture disintegrated and their political independence was replaced with servitude and oppression.

The northern kingdom of Israel was especially captivated by the idol-worship of Baal and Asherah. As a result, the Lord turned the northern kingdom over to the Assyrians, who demolished it in 722 BC.

In Jeremiah's time, the same spiritual and political collapse was occurring in the southern kingdom of Judah. Some of the nation's kings, including Josiah, faithfully followed the covenant ban on idol worship and led the people of Judah back to the Lord. However, Josiah's sons did not carry on the reforms begun by their father. Jehoiakim had no interest in continuing his father's revival of devotion to the Lord, seeing that as an impediment to his own political power. He was so hardened toward the Lord that he did his best to kill Jeremiah, the Lord's messenger. Zedekiah was more fearful than hardened, but he also refused to return to the Lord.

The Lord's messages through Jeremiah contain strong indictments of Judah's devotion to Baal (2:8; 7:9; 11:13, 17; 12:16; 19:5; 23:13, 27; 32:29, 35) and condemn the immorality that accompanied this sin. Judah's moral and spiritual rottenness—exemplified by its greed, hate, and violence—were refused for all to see.

Despite their stubborn refusal to turn away from idol worship and back to worship of the one true God, the people of Judah hoped that the Lord would work a miracle by defeating the Babylonian army and sending it back home. They thought that the Temple would magically protect them, not understanding that God's disgust over what they were doing there would speed their destruction (7:4-15). They were totally unprepared to face the horror of defeat in war and the destruction of their nation, their capital, and their Temple. They were unaware that their spiritual and moral collapse had already made their doom certain.

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Allusions to Jeremiah in Revelation

Jeremiah	Revelation
51:7	18:3
51:9	18:5
51:22	14:14-15
51:25-26	18:8-9
51:36	21:1
51:48	18:20
51:59-64	18:21
Drinking the cup of God's wrath	18:3
Babylon's sins piled up to heaven	18:5
Judgment as a harvest	14:14-15
Babylon as a volcano	18:8-9
Sea will become dry	21:1
Heaven and earth rejoice	18:20
Scroll thrown into Euphrates River	18:21

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Doom and Gloom

Jeremiah 46-51

Prophecies of judgment for the nations

PHILISTIA
Destroyed by Babylon
47:1-4

EDOM
Stripped bare; ridiculed as object of horror; destroyed by Babylon
49:7-10, 17-18

MOAB
Destroyed and exiled by Babylon
48:42, 46

AMMON
Towns burned and left in ruins; terror approaching from all around
49:1-6

HAZOR
Destroyed by Babylon; given disaster from every side
49:30-33

DAMASCUS
Young men and soldiers killed; city walls destroyed
49:26-27

BABYLON
Attacked and destroyed by an alliance of great nations from the north
50:9; 51:64

ELAM
People exiled in every direction; disaster brought on them
49:34-38

KEDAR
Destroyed by Babylon; terror brought on every side
49:28-29

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