

## The Exile (Captivity) Era (Ezekiel-Daniel)

Israel lived in roller-coaster rebellion against the LORD for four hundred years during the Kingdom Era, continually paying the price. Finally, the debt became so great that judgment came in the form of military conquest. During the time of the Exile, there were some great spiritual leaders, and there was repentance on the part of a segment of the Jewish people. However, this did not remove the penalty for the years of rebellion, and full price of the Exile was exacted.

### Exile

Exile is the mass deportation of large population groups practiced in ancient times usually for political purposes, frequently to destroy the power of an enemy nation and to prevent rebellion. Sometimes the exile of a conquered people was carried out to colonize an area, to create a cultural fusion. Captivity removed people from familiar associations and patriotic memories and put the defeated under the eye of the central government. Deportation was generally resorted to as an extreme measure when other means, such as the imposing of tribute, failed. “Exile” and “captivity” have the same meaning in the OT and are used interchangeably. The principle allusions are to the Assyrian captivity of 722 B.C., in which Israel was transported to Mesopotamia by the Assyrians, and the Babylonian exile of 605–582 B.C., in which a similar fate overtook the inhabitants of Judah. (Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible, p. 732).

**Story Line Summary:** Daniel (and others) give leadership and encourage faithfulness among the exiles for the next seventy years. This era can be studied and organized with four main points listed below.

### Prophecy: Warning of Impending Captivity (Jeremiah)

The northern kingdom, Israel, has been conquered by Assyria and is dispersed in 722 B.C. During the time of the events described in 2 Kings, the southern kingdom, Judah, receives a *warning of impending captivity* through Jeremiah (called the “Weeping Prophet”), who prophesies that the nation will be taken into captivity at the hands of the Babylonians. This happens in 586 B.C. He also accurately prophesies that the captivity will last seventy (70) years (Jer. 25:11-12).

Jeremiah authored two books: Jeremiah and Lamentations

### Prophets: Encouraging Faithfulness of Exiles (Ezekiel and Daniel)

There are two prophets who write books of the Bible during the exile: Ezekiel and Daniel. Not a great deal is known about the prophet Ezekiel since his book is mostly prophetic and not autobiographical. He foretells of national restoration and *encourages faithfulness among the exiles*. Daniel’s book, while a book of prophecy, is more biographical. He is a prominent governmental leader, much like Joseph in Egypt. While Daniel’s personal life is an example to his people, his prophecies tend to concern the future destruction of the world.

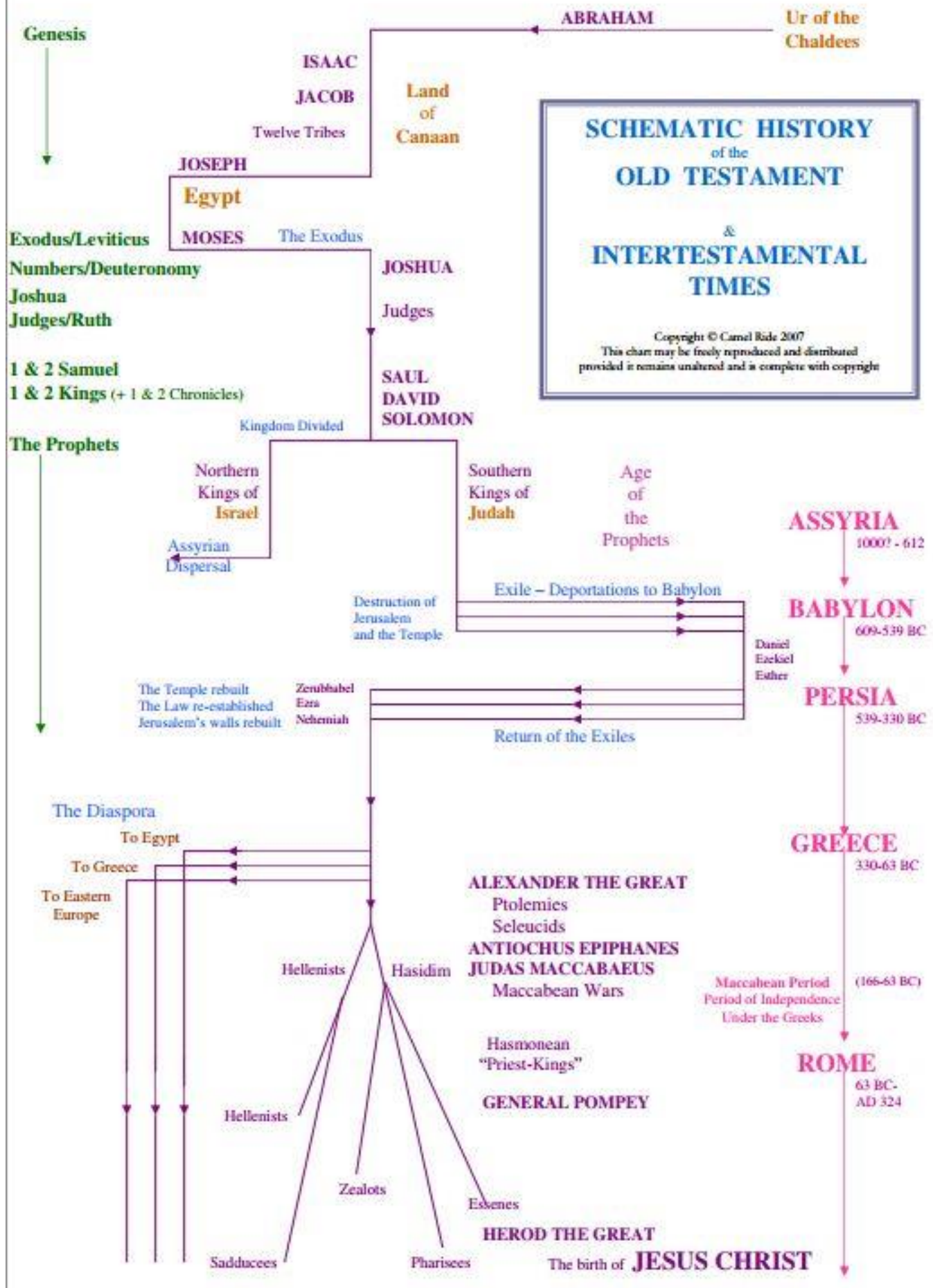
### Exiles: Assimilated Into the Culture (Daniel)

The Book of Daniel also gives a glimpse of life among the exiles. Apparently, the Jews are assimilated into the culture in which they are exiles. They experience discrimination, which has always been true of displaced Jews. Yet, in spite of this, they seem fairly well integrated into society, and some of them achieve positions of prominence.

The book of Daniel contains amazing stories about God’s protection of the Jews even when they were not in the Promised Land and were being punished for their sin. Daniel is protected from the mouth of a lion, and three Hebrew men are protected from a fiery furnace. Hebrew exiles (Daniel and others) live faithfully to the Lord while serving in the court of Nebuchadnezzar and his successors, from 605 BC down to the fall of the Babylonian Empire (539) and into the early years of Persian rule; their service brings blessing to the Gentiles. This is a picture for the Christians of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### Power Change: Persian Empire Expands (Daniel)

While the Jews are in exile in Babylonia, Persia rises to become the dominant military power of that region. Persia conquers Babylonia (which had conquered Assyria), so now Persia rules not only her own land, but the land once dominated by Assyria and Babylonia. The *Persian Empire* expands from the Tigris River to the Mediterranean Sea.



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ (2 points each) Score \_\_\_\_\_

## Exile Homework

“Exile” and “\_\_\_\_\_” have the same meaning in the OT and are used interchangeably.

What prophet predicted \_\_\_\_\_ years of captivity for Judah? \_\_\_\_\_

In what year was Israel deported by the Assyrians? \_\_\_\_\_

What was the capital city the Assyrians besieged to destroy Israel? \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Kings 20:1)

How many years transpire before Judah is taken captive? \_\_\_\_\_

What nation took Judah captive? \_\_\_\_\_

Who was the Babylonian king when Jerusalem was destroyed and Judah taken captive? \_\_\_\_\_

Who are the two prophets of the exile? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ is also known as the “weeping prophet.”

What is the other OT book the above author authored? \_\_\_\_\_

Like \_\_\_\_\_, Daniel has a position of prominence in the Babylonian government (remember the Patriarch era.)

Beginning with Assyria list the next 4 world empires in chronological order:

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Daniel was given a Chaldean or Babylonia name: what was it? \_\_\_\_\_ (Daniel 1:7)

List the Chaldean names the three Hebrew men were given:

_____	_____	_____
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Who was Judah’s king when Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_

In Babylon, Daniel resolved to live out his \_\_\_\_\_ faith/religion in regard to dietary laws and God blessed this resolve.

Daniel served in a foreign government through many kings until the first year of king \_\_\_\_\_ (Dan. 1:21).

\_\_\_\_\_ dreams correctly is what God used to make Daniel famous in the king’s palace (Dan. 2).

In Daniel 3, the three Hebrews were saved from being burned or k\_\_\_\_\_ from a fiery furnace.

In Daniel 4, Nebuchadnezzar had to learn that the most high \_\_\_\_\_ ruled in the kingdom of men (Dan. 4:32).

When he was working for Darius, Daniel was targeted because of his insistence that he had to obey the \_\_\_\_\_ (Daniel 9:11)

\_\_\_\_\_.

Beginning in Daniel 7, Daniel has a series of \_\_\_\_\_ which predict the future of the world.

Lookup Daniel 9:24 and identify how many weeks are determined before reconciliation will be made for sin? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In Genesis Jacob had to work for Laban for an additional week which was not really 7 days but \_\_\_\_\_ years.

Therefore, Daniel's \_\_\_\_\_ weeks are really \_\_\_\_\_ years.

More than any other prophet \_\_\_\_\_ is referred to as "son of man" throughout this book (use a search engine to find the words 'son of man' in the Bible).

In Ezekiel 3 the prophet received very unique and somewhat bizarre instructions. Describe in detail what Ezekiel was told to do and did:

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Describe the vision Ezekiel sees in chapter 37:1-14

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This vision is the most famous of all the visions in Ezekiel; it speaks to both the captives and the future people of God. In what way do you think the message speaks to the captives in Babylon? (look at v. 11)

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In what way does the vision speak to future followers of the LORD? (look at v. 14)

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Beginning in Ezekiel 1:3 the phrase "the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ came to or unto me" occurs over 45 times in the book of Ezekiel.

In light of 2 Peter 1:21, what is the significance of the above phrase appearing so many times?

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