

"PROOF OF ISRAEL - XXXVII"

"Babylonian Captivity"

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585 B.C. – 515 B.C. ... JUDAH TAKEN CAPTIVE TO BABYLONIA:

Jeremiah 25:11-12

"And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years."

"And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the LORD, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations."

THE FULFILLMENT IN HISTORY:

There is a difference between Jean Dixon's prophecies and God's prophecies: Jean Dixon is right about 60% of the time, and JEHOVAH GOD IS RIGHT 100% OF THE TIME!

Here, we find the prophet Jeremiah telling people of the Kingdom of Judah that Babylon is going to come up against them, and take them captive to that country. So sure was he that God was supporting him in his effort, in fact putting the "words in his mouth," so to speak-that he boldly predicted that they would be there for SEVENTY YEARS. As you can see in the scriptures above, that is exactly what happened! OUR LORD IS GREAT ISN'T HE?

For seventy years this remnant of the TRIBE OF JUDAH lived in Babylon whose "HANGING GARDENS" was one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Brown's Bible Dictionary pub 1853, gives a lengthy description of this city of which we will quote only a small part:

"Babel or Babylon, the capital of Chaldea, was one of the most splendid cities that ever existed."

"...built in a large plain, its circumference of 480 furlongs, or 60 miles, 15 on each side..."

"The walls were in thickness 87 feet, in height 350; on which were built 316 towers, three between each gate, and seven at each corner..." "The gates were 100 in all, 25 on each side, and all of them of solid brass.

...Thus the whole city was divided into 676 squares, each where whereof

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was four furlongs and a half on every side. All around these squares stood the houses fronting the streets, and the empty space within served for gardens and other purposes."

"A branch, if not the current, of the Euphrates, running through the city from north to south, divided it into two parts ... a magnificent bridge of a furlong or more in length, and 30 feet wide, joined the two parts of the city in the middle."

"The inhabitants of Babylon, and places adjacent, were excessively credulous, superstitious, lewd, and debauched; parents and husbands exposed to sale the chastity of their daughters and wives; their woman scarcely retained the least shadow of modesty, exposing themselves quite naked in companies. They were bound, once in life, to prostitute themselves to strangers in honor of their goddess Succoth-benoth. The other idols of the Babylonians were Bel, Nebo, Sheshach, Nergal, Meredach, and the Fire: ..."

It is no wonder then, that when Jehovah-God raised Cyrus up to be King of Persia, and to defeat Babylonia, and free the captive JUDEANS, only 42,360 of them were willing to return to the so-called Promised Land, even though Cyrus offered to pay their travel expenses. However, we find in **Psalms 137:1-4**, the following:

"By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion."

"We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof."

"For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion."

"How shall we sing the LORD's song in a strange land"

It seems then, that accounting the number that returned to the City of Jerusalem, where it and all of Judea, had been re-peopled with pagan Babylonians, a large majority of the captives preferred to remain in the country singing another song and not to the LORD! Here is what happened which makes it a necessary even in God's historical timetable and is therefore recorded:

The Holy Bible tells us that when these 42,000 souls returned to JERUSALEM, to rebuild the walls and the temple, they received stiff opposition from the inhabitants whom, as we have pointed out, were not of the bloodline of ISRAEL.

It is recorded also, that even many of the returnees, were not of a pure ISRAEL BLOODLINE, and therefore GOD CHASTIZED THEM AND PURGED THEM OF "STRANGE WIVES, AND THEIR CHILDREN."