

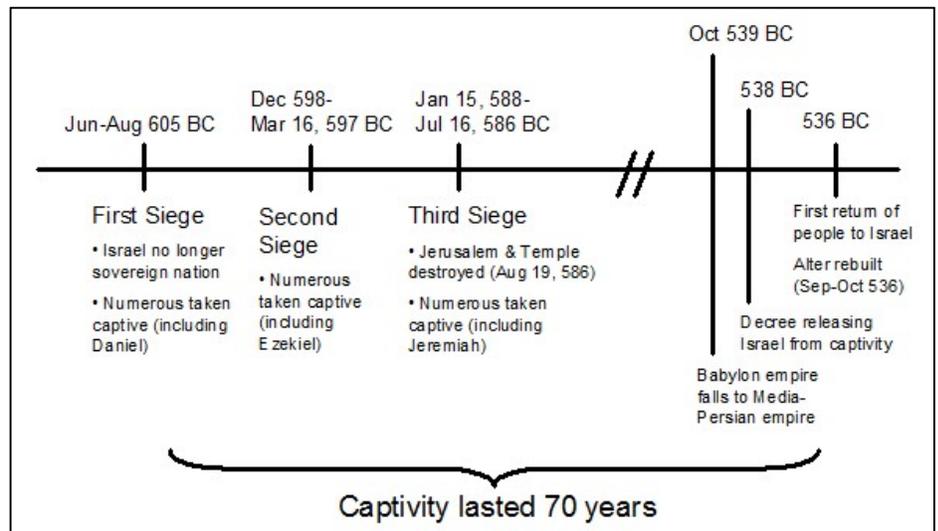


BRAVE IN BABYLON

Daniel 1:1-8

Babylon^a

- Nebuchadnezzar pursued the fleeing Egyptians as far west as Jerusalem. His first visit to Jerusalem was short, for he hurried home in 605 B.C. because of the sudden death of his father. But before he finished, he would lay siege to the Holy City on at least three occasions and ultimately burn it to the ground. These occasions were:



1. 605 B.C. He occupies the city, allows Jehoiakim (Josiah's son) to rule as his puppet king, takes some of the Temple treasures, and key royal seed to Babylon. Among this group of teenagers were Daniel and his three friends ([2 Chron. 36:6, 7](#); [Dan. 1:1-3](#)).
2. 597 B.C. He comes again and takes the rest of the treasures to Babylon along with Ezekiel the prophet, King Jehoiachin (Jehoiachim's son), and 10,000 princes, officers, and chief men ([2 Ki. 24:14-16](#)).
3. 586 B.C. He once more returns to punish the rebellion led by Zedekiah, Judah's last king. This time the walls are broken, the Temple destroyed, and the city burned. Zedekiah's sons are killed and he himself is blinded and carried into Babylon where he dies.

^a Harold L. Willmington, *Willmington's Guide to the Bible*, (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1981), 226-227.

1) The Revival with Josiah

- Manassah and Amon (2 Chron. 33)
- Daniel born 625BC (Josiah had been king 15 years).
- Reversed evil practices, repaired the Temple
- Found the Word of God!! [The Bible was lost in the Church – This happens today!!]

2) The Rebellion from Jehoakim

- Josiah Killed in Battle with Pharaoh Necho, and Jehoahaz taken to Egypt (Jehoiakim installed)
- Jeremiah 36 (Burning of Scroll)

3) The Repercussions by God

- They had seen God's judgment on the 10 tribes of the North. (722BC)
- Israel (10 Tribes) – 19 Kings (all wicked)
- Judah (2 Tribes) – 20 Kings (9 godly)
- God raised up Babylon to judge His people.

The RUIN of Jerusalem and THE REMNANT in Exile

- Prophesied 100 yrs before it happened. (Isaiah 39:5-7)
- Psalm 137 (How can we sing in a foreign land?)

	1	2	3
Year	605	597	586
Scripture	2 Kings 24:1; Dan.1:1	2 Kings 24:10-16; Ezek. 1:1-2	2 Kings 25:1-2, Ezek 33:21
Judah's king	Jehoiakim	Jehoiachin	Zedekiah
Those taken	Daniel & some princes	Ezekiel & majority 10k	Remnant captured, Jerusalem & Temple destroyed

4) The Refining Under Nebuchadnezzar

- Let's Refine Their LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND LIFESTYLE So we can ultimately change their LOYALTY.
 - Nebuchadnezzar wanted them to be Jews on the Outside (to help him govern the Jewish people) but Babylonian on the Inside (to think like him and to hold values like the Babylonians).
 - The goal of secular education institutions today – Babylonians on the inside!
- HAVE YOU BEEN REFINED BY BABYLON?**

5) The Righteousness of Daniel, Hannaniah, Azariah, Mischael

- He did not Condemn, but he also did not COMPROMISE.
- Learn to say "NO" when the world says "YES"!

CONCLUSION: Matthew 5:10 – Blessed are the persecuted;
Hebrews 11:33-38a

We are Exiles – 1 Peter 2:11; Phil. 3:20-21

APPLICATION: What to Do?

1. Prepare (Spiritually, Mentally, Emotionally)
2. Pray
3. Participate
4. Proclaim (Speak the truth in love)

Blessings of Captivity of Israel:
1) The nation was never again idolatrous.
2) The institution of the synagogue was born.
3) The canon of Holy Scriptures were formed.
4) 500 years later, the Magi would come from this area, having heard about the coming of the Messiah.
5) Purified and became a godly remnant from which came Christ.