

HISTORICAL CONTENT: JEREMIAH 29

People

King Nebuchadnezzar II

- **King of Babylon (605–562 BC)**
 - **2 Ki 24:1, 10-17; 25:1-22**
 - **1 Ch 6:15**
 - **2 Ch 36:5-21**
 - **Eze 17:11-14**
- Conquered Jerusalem & the Kingdom of Judah Fell (586 B.C.)
 - Attacked Jerusalem 3 times before conquering it completely
 - i. *601 BC (Exile)*
 - ii. *597 BC (Exile)*
 - iii. *586 BC (Exile)*
- King Jehoiakim became his servant for 3 years before rebelling against him.
- His son, Evil-Merodach, gave King Jeconiah (Jehoiachin) favor by releasing him from prison (2 Ki 25:27-30).
- Same Babylonian King mentioned in the book of Daniel
- The "Babylonian Chronicle" is an ancient inscription narrating the first 11 years of his reign

Jeconiah (Aka: Jehoiachin)

- **King of Judah (598-597 BC; Evil)**
 - **2 Ki 24:6-17**
 - **1 Ch 3:16–17**
 - **2 Ch 36:8–10**
 - **Eze 1:2; 17:11-21**
 - **2 Ki 25:27-30**
 - **Mt 1:11-12**
 - **Es 2:5-7**
- Son of King Jehoiakim
- Nephew of King Zedekiah (597-586 BC; Evil)
- Began to reign at 18 yrs old
- Reigned for only 3 months and 10 days
- Surrendered to King Nebuchadnezzar and was brought to Babylon with the other Jews into exile
- Replaced (by King Nebuchadnezzar) with his brother, Zedekiah (Judah's final king before falling to Babylon completely)
- Ezekiel prophesied while Jeconiah was in exile in Babylon
- Was freed from prison by Evil-Merodach king of Babylon (successor of Nebuchadnezzar II) after 37+ years and given favor above the other imprisoned kings of Judah, eating at the king's table and receiving an allowance as long as he lived.
- Listed in Matthew's genealogy of Christ
- Esther's cousin Mordecai was carried away to Babylon from Jerusalem in the same exile as King Jeconiah.

The Queen Mother (Nehushta)

- **King Jehoiakim's wife, King Jehoiachin's mother, and the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem**
 - **2 Ki 24:8; 12-15**
- As the king's mother, she was an important member of the king's court.
- She was taken captive as prisoner and sent into exile with her son and many others when the Babylonians conquered Jerusalem.

Elasah son of Shaphan

- Sent (with Gemariah son of Hilkiyah) by King Zedekiah to deliver Jeremiah's letter to the exiles in Babylon.

Gemariah son of Hilkiyah

- Sent (with Elasah son of Shaphan) by King Zedekiah to deliver Jeremiah's letter to the exiles in Babylon.

Zedekiah King of Judah

- **King of Judah (597-586 B.C.; Evil)**
 - 2 Ki 24:17-25:1-24
 - 2 Ch 36:10-21
 - Je 21:1-10; 34:1-7; 37:1-10; 38:1-28; 39:2-40:12; 52:1-27
 - Ez 26:1-21; 32:1-32; 33:21-33
- Son of King Josiah
- Last king of Judah
- AKA: Mattaniah; Sedecias; Zedechias; Zedekiah; Zidkijah
- Uncle of King Jehoiachin
- Successor of King Jehoiachin
 - Reigned 11 years and was carried captive to Babylon

Ahab son of Kolaiah

- False prophet to the exiles in Babylon
- He and another false prophet, Zedekiah (son of Maaseiah the Priest), falsely prophesied that the exiles in Babylon would return to Jerusalem quickly. The Lord sent a prophetic message to them through Jeremiah which indicted them for their false prophesy and pronounced their execution by Nebuchadnezzar and saying their names would become a curse among the people.

Zedekiah son of Maaseiah the Priest

- False prophet to the exiles in Babylon
- He and another false prophet, Ahab (son of Kolaiah), falsely prophesied that the exiles in Babylon would return to Jerusalem quickly. The Lord sent a prophetic message to them through Jeremiah which indicted them for their false prophesy and pronounced their execution by Nebuchadnezzar and saying their names would become a curse among the people.

Shemaiah the Nehelamite

- False prophet to the exiles in Babylon
- Wrote letters of rebuke, opposing the prophet Jeremiah and his message by calling him a demented false prophet who should be imprisoned for saying that the captivity in Babylon would be long. Shemaiah's letters were sent to Zephaniah the priest as well as all the other priests and people in Jerusalem.
- Jeremiah responds with a letter to the exiles in Babylon that Shemaiah was not sent by the Lord, lied, and therefore (he and his family) would be punished by the Lord.

Jehoiada the Priest

- A priest during the reign of King Zedekiah in Judah and during the prophetic ministry of the prophet Jeremiah

Zephaniah the Priest

- One of the priests sent to Jeremiah by King Zedekiah to inquire of the Lord and intercede on behalf of the nation as King Nebuchadnezzar and the Chaldeans began to attack Judah (Je 21:1-7; 37:3-10).
- The second priest to Seraiah who was the chief priest in the temple (Je 52:24; 2 Ki 25:18).
- Executed by Nebuchadnezzar in Riblah, after Jerusalem was conquered in 586 B.C. (Jer 52:24-28; 2 Kgs 25:18-21).
- Possibly a cousin to Jeremiah (Jer 32:7; 35:4).
- Was rebuked by the false prophet Shemaiah for allowing the prophet Jeremiah to prophesy.

Others mentioned in this chapter:

- **The Officials of Judah & Jerusalem**
- **Eunuchs**
- **Craftsmen**
- **Metal workers**

Places

Babylon

- "The cultural and political center of Mesopotamia during much of the second and first millennia BC. Located in modern-day Iraq along one branch of the Euphrates River, about 59 miles southwest of Baghdad and 6 miles northeast of Hillah...
- From Genesis to Revelation, Babylon maintains a significant presence as both a historical empire and a symbol of opposition to God and His people...
- There are 287 references to Babylon in the Old Testament and 82 references to its Chaldean inhabitants."
- William R. Osborne, "Babylon," ed. John D. Barry et al., *The Lexham Bible Dictionary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016).

Judah

- The land allotted to the tribe of Judah as their inheritance.
- The southern kingdom of the divided kingdom of Israel.
- "According to Judges 1:1–18, the people of Judah expelled the majority of the Canaanites and Perizzites from their land. However, they were unable to completely drive out the people in the plains or the Jebusites of Jerusalem (Judg 1:19–21). The Philistines, who lived in western part of Judah, often exerted control over parts of Judah (Judg 15:11)...
- After Solomon's death, Judah, along with Benjamin, split off from the 10 northern tribes into a separate kingdom (1 Kgs 12:16–24). Judah then became a designation for the southern kingdom as a whole...
- By God's intervention, the people of Judah were spared from exile at the hands of Assyria in the late eighth century BC, but around 586 BC they were conquered and deported by the Babylonians."
- Brandon Ridley, "Judah," ed. John D. Barry et al., *The Lexham Bible Dictionary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016).

Jerusalem

- The capital city of biblical Israel (United Kingdom) and eventually Judah (Divided Kingdom).
- Mentioned 660 times in the Old Testament, and 141 times in the New Testament
- "In the prophetic books of the Old Testament, Jerusalem is harshly rebuked for its complicity in the sins of the people. The message the prophets brought was liberation for the oppressed, a challenge to change internally [repent], and an exhortation to pursue justice (Isa 61:1–4; Joel 2:13; Micah 6:8)."
- C. E. Shepherd, "Jerusalem," ed. John D. Barry et al., *The Lexham Bible Dictionary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016).

Key Dates / Timelines

911 - 609 B.C. Assyrian Empire | 626 – 539 B.C. Babylonian Empire | 539 – 358 B.C. Persian Empire

- **640 B.C.** Josiah becomes King of Judah
- **627 B.C.** Jeremiah begins his ministry
- **622 B.C.** Discovery of the Book of the Law by King Josiah (Reformation)
- **609 B.C.** Pharaoh Neco kills Josiah in battle and sets Jehoiakim as King of Judah
- **608 B.C.** Jehoiakim becomes King of Judah
- **605 B.C.** Battle of Carchemish (Nebuchadnezzar defeats the Egyptians on the Euphrates River)
- **605 B.C.** Nebuchadnezzar invades Jerusalem and takes exiles to Babylon (including Daniel and his companions)
- **597 B.C.** Nebuchadnezzar besieges Jerusalem and takes King Jeconiah (Jehoiachin) as prisoner
- **597 B.C.** Zedekiah becomes King of Judah
- **588 B.C.** Nebuchadnezzar begins his final siege of Jerusalem
- **586 B.C.** Fall of Jerusalem to Babylon; Judah in exile in Babylon

Key Terms

False Prophet

- The term "false prophet" itself is not in the Old Testament, however there are many references to false prophets throughout.
- A false prophet is a "person who spreads false messages and teachings, claiming to speak God's words..."
- "Punishment for prophesying falsely was severe. False prophets were cast away from God's presence and permanently humiliated [and sentenced to death]..."
- "A false prophet was also one who prophesied on behalf of another god (1 Kings 18:20–39)..."
- "The apostles instructed believers to be diligent in faith and understanding of Christian teachings, in order to discern false prophets when they arise (2 Pet. 1:10; 1:19–2:1; 1 John 4:1)..."
- "The tests of a prophet are: (1) Do their predictions come true (Jer. 28:9)? (2) Does the prophet have a divine commission (Jer. 29:9)? (3) Are the prophecies consistent with Scripture (2 Pet. 1:20–21; Rev. 22:18–19)? (4) Do the people benefit spiritually from the prophet's ministry (Jer. 23:13–14, 32; 1 Pet. 4:11)?"

- Donna R. Ridge, "False Prophet," ed. Chad Brand et al., *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary* (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2003), 554.

Cross References

Key References:

- **Jeremiah 14:14** | "And the LORD said to me, 'The prophets prophesy lies in My name. I have not sent them, commanded them, nor spoken to them; they prophesy to you a false vision, divination, a worthless thing, and the deceit of their heart.'"
- **2 Kings 24:8-12** | "Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months. His mother's name was Nehushta the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem. And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father had done. At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against Jerusalem, and the city was besieged. And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came against the city, as his servants were besieging it. Then Jehoiachin king of Judah, his mother, his servants, his princes, and his officers went out to the king of Babylon; and the king of Babylon, in the eighth year of his reign, took him prisoner."
- **2 Kings 24:14-15** | "Also he carried into captivity all Jerusalem: all the captains and all the mighty men of valor, ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and smiths. None remained except the poorest people of the land. And he carried Jehoiachin captive to Babylon. The king's mother, the king's wives, his officers, and the mighty of the land he carried into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon."

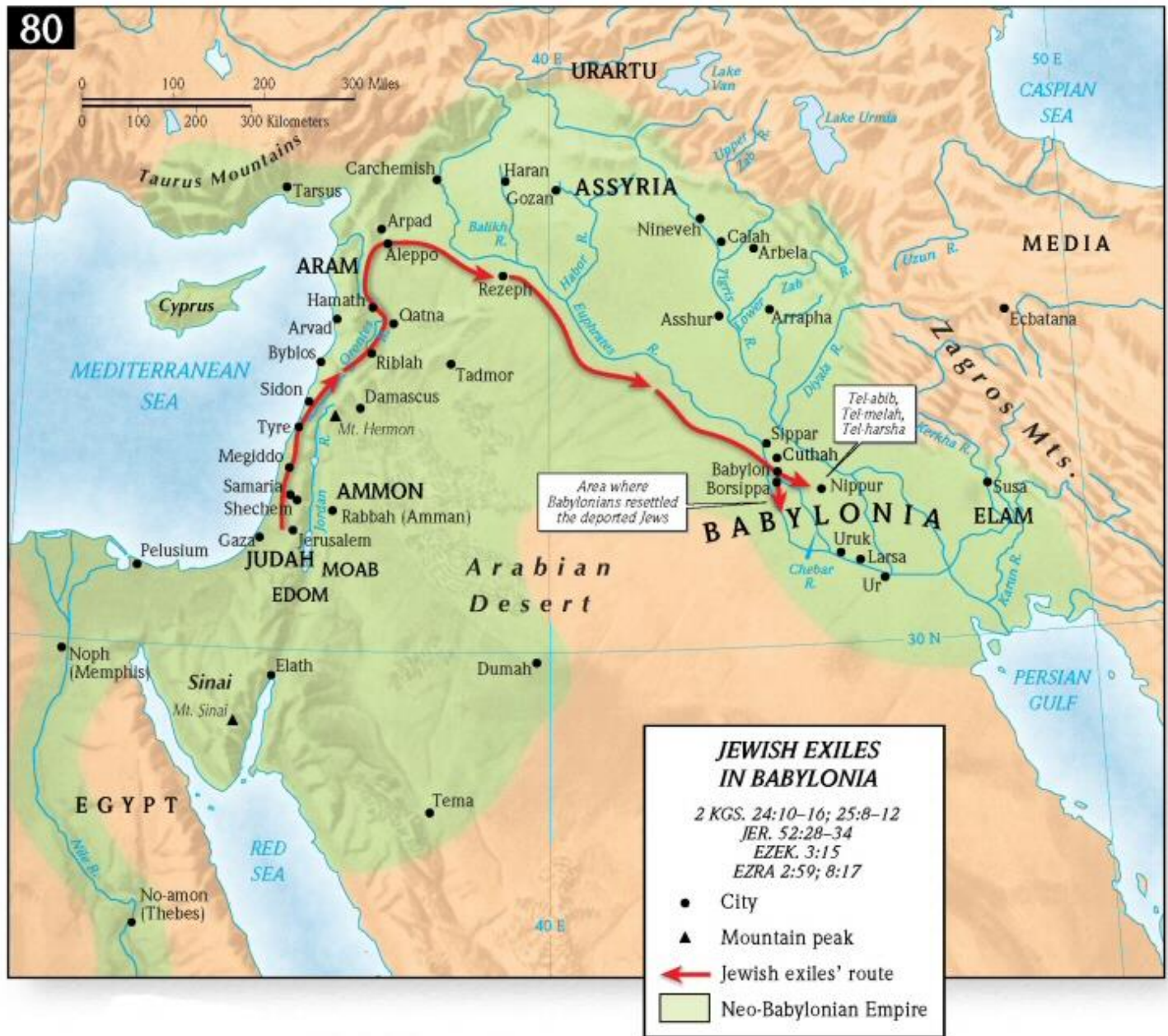
- **Jeremiah 27:15** | "for I have not sent them," says the LORD, "yet they prophesy a lie in My name, that I may drive you out, and that you may perish, you and the prophets who prophesy to you."
- **Deuteronomy 4:29** | "But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul."

Full List:

- **Genesis** 1:26–31; 9:1–7; 17:5–6; 31:48; 34:7; 35:10–11; 48:20
- **Leviticus** 26:39–42
- **Numbers** 5:27; Dt 4:7, 29–34; 13:1–5; 22:21; 28:25, 37; 29:19; 30:1–10
- **Joshua** 7:15
- **Ruth** 1:6; 1 Sa 2:30–34; 10:11; 18:10
- **2 Samuel** 11:14–15; 13:12
- **1 Kings** 8:30, 56; 18:29; 21:8–11
- **2 Kings** 7:2, 19–20; 9:11; 11:1–6, 15; 22:19; 24:8, 11–20; 25:18, 22
- **1 Chronicles** 6:13; 22:19; 28:9
- **2 Chronicles** 6:37; 15:2; 16:10; 22:9; 23:1–3, 16; 29:8; 30:1, 6–7; 31:13; 34:8; 36:6–13, 15, 20–23
- **Ezra** 1:1–4; 6:10; 7:23
- **Nehemiah** 1:4–11
- **Esther** 3:8; 9:20
- **Job** 8:7; 42:10
- **Psalms** 32:6; 33:10; 40:5; 46:1; 50:15; 78:34; 107:3; 145:19
- **Proverbs** 5:21; 8:17
- **Isaiah** 5:4; 28:22; 40:9–11; 43:5–6; 55:6–9, 12; 65:15
- **Jeremiah** 1:1; 3:12, 14; 5:8, 30–31; 6:14, 19; 7:11, 13, 25; 8:3; 10:18; 11:7; 12:15; 13:17–18; 14:1–22; 15:4; 16:2–4, 14–15, 17; 17:6, 25; 18:16; 19:1, 8; 20:1–2, 6; 21:1, 9; 22:2, 10, 24–28, 30; 23:3–6, 8, 10, 14–21, 25–27, 32–33; 24:1, 3–25:14, 18; 26:3, 5–6; 27:8–16, 20, 22; 28:4, 12–17; 30:3, 9–10, 18–22; 31:17; 32:7, 24, 33, 37–42, 44; 33:3, 14; 34:15, 17; 35:1–7, 14–15; 36:3, 30–31; 37:3, 9, 19; 38:2–3, 17–23; 42:18; 44:1–8, 12, 22; 46:27; 49:17, 39; 50:13; 51:59; 52:24–27
- **Lamentations** 2:14–16
- **Ezekiel** 8:1; 11:3, 9; 12:15; 13:6, 8–16, 22–23; 16:53; 37:21; 39:25
- **Daniel** 3:6, 21; 4:19, 27; 6:4–5; 9:2–3, 11, 16
- **Hosea** 2:15, 23; 3:5; 6:11; 9:7
- **Amos** 9:14
- **Micah** 2:6; 4:10; 6:16
- **Zephaniah** 2:7, 15; 3:12, 20
- **Zechariah** 5:3; 7:5; 8:15; 13:1–5, 9
- **Malachi** 3:5
- **Matthew** 7:7; 24:4
- **Mark** 3:21
- **John** 7:32–44; 10:20
- **Acts** 16:24; 26:24–25
- **1 Corinthians** 10:13
- **2 Corinthians** 5:13
- **Ephesians** 5:6
- **1 Timothy** 2:1–7
- **Hebrews** 4:13
- **2 Peter** 2:1
- **1 John** 4:1

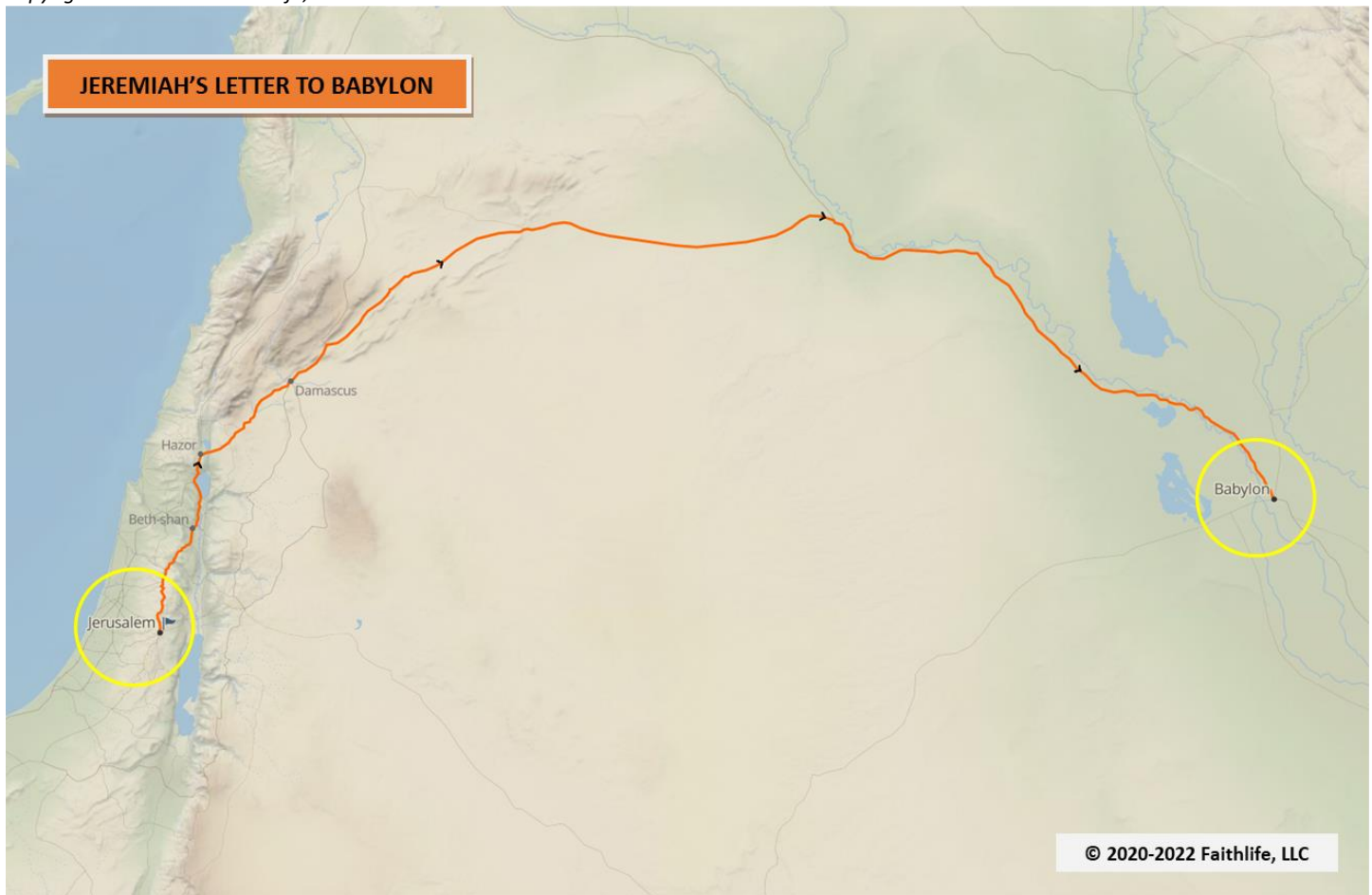
1. Jewish Exiles in Babylonia

© Copyright 1998 Thomas Brisco



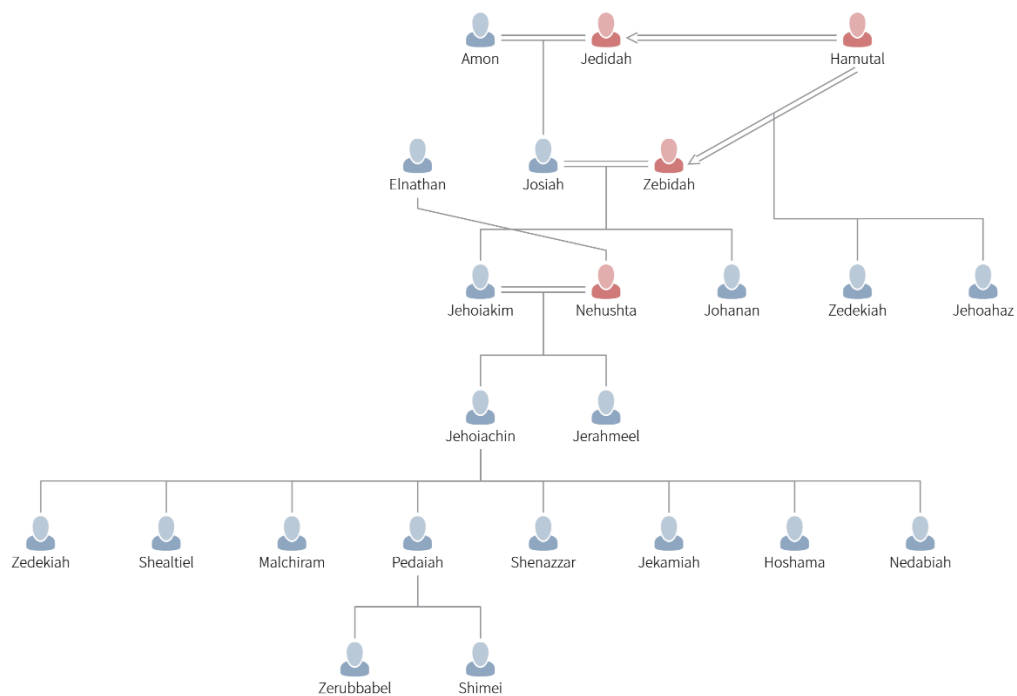
2. Jeremiah's Letter to Babylon

Copyright © 2020-2022 Faithlife, LLC



3. Family Tree of Jehoiachin

Copyright © 2009 Logos Software



4. Jeremiah's Letter

Copyright © 2009 Logos Software

