

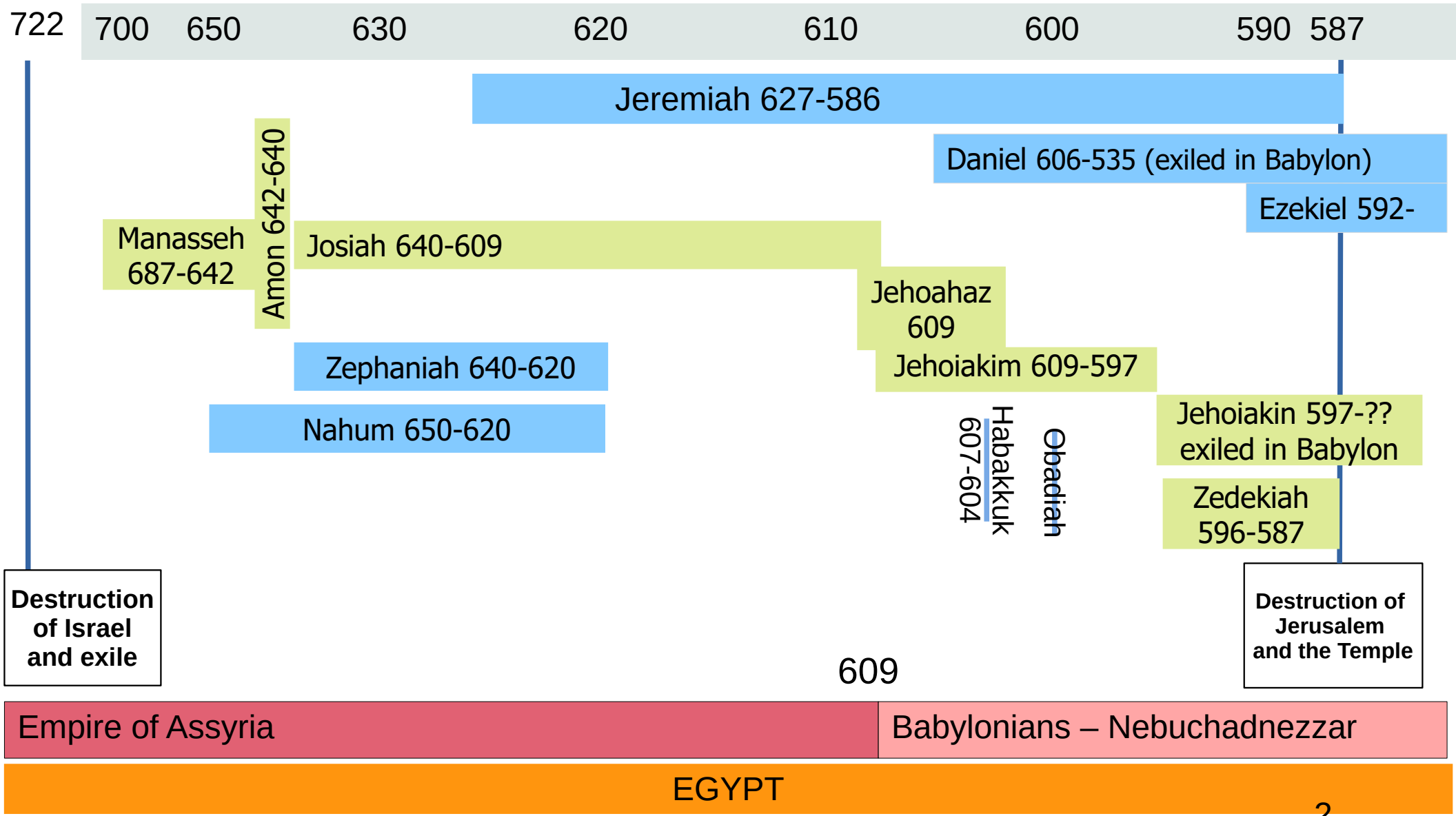
**Welcome to St Mark's
Bible Teaching Stream**

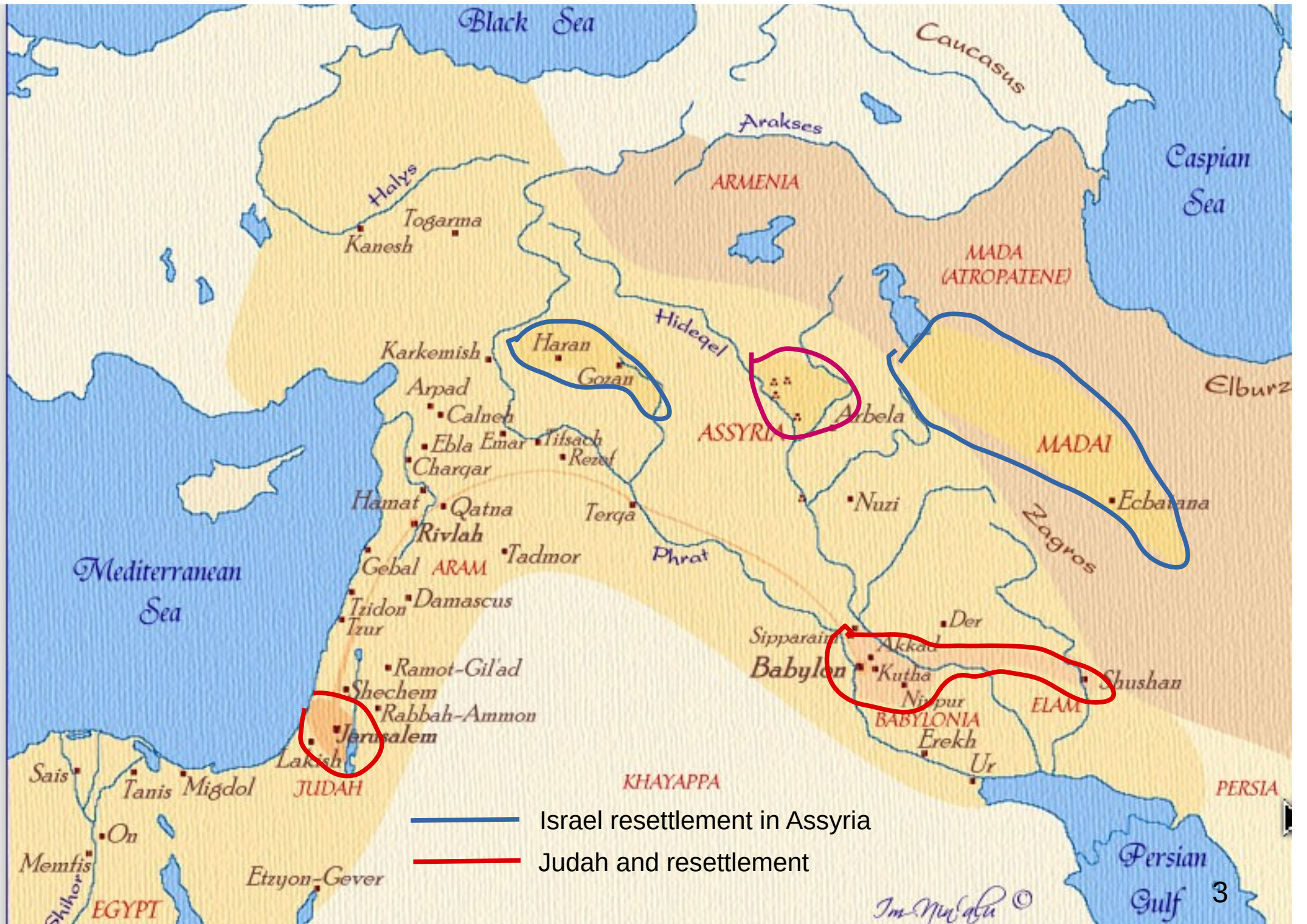
The Book of Jeremiah

With Graham Wilkins

June 2023

Timelines with prophets and Kings (dates when prophesying)





- Israel resettlement in Assyria
- Judah and resettlement

Jeremiah the book

- 52 Chapters
- Period of 40 years
- 4 kings
- “terror on every side”
- Jumps around time-wise
- Prose, poetry, taunt, lament, parable, history
- Break down into what happened under each king’s reign

Chapter 1 – reign of Josiah (a)

Jeremiah's calling

vv17-19 set the scene for Jeremiah's difficult life ahead.

Get yourself ready! Stand up and say to them whatever I command you. Do not be terrified by them, or I will terrify you before them. (18) Today I have made you a fortified city, an iron pillar and a bronze wall to stand against the whole land--against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests and the people of the land. (19) They will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you and will rescue you," declares the LORD.

Chapter 16 – reign of Josiah

(b)

Jeremiah cannot marry; summary of prophecies

Vv1-4 explain that Jeremiah must not marry and have children because of the coming disasters

Vv5-7 Don't go to any funeral – God has withdrawn his pity.

Vv8,9 Don't go to any feasts – these will end.

Vv10-13 There will be disaster and exile

Vv14,15 Restoration to the land of their forefathers

Vv16 – end Complicated prophecy/response

Chapters 2 – 6 reign of Josiah (c)

Complaint and promise

Ch 2.13 *"My people have committed two sins – they have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and dug their own cisterns – broken cisterns that cannot hold water."*

36,37 Why do you go about so much, changing your ways? You will be disappointed by Egypt as you were by Assyria. You will also leave that place with your hands on your head, for the LORD has rejected those you trust; you will not be helped by them.

Chapters 2 – 6 reign of Josiah (d)

Complaint and promise

Ch 3.14 *"Return, faithless people," declares the LORD, "for I am your husband. I will choose you--one from a town and two from a clan--and bring you to Zion".*

Ch 4.1-2 *"If you will return, O Israel, return to me," declares the LORD. "If you put your detestable idols out of my sight and no longer go astray, and if in a truthful, just and righteous way you swear, 'As surely as the LORD lives,' then the nations will be blessed by him and in him they will glory."*

Chapters 2 – 6 reign of Josiah (e)

Jeremiah's response to his own prophecy

4:16 *"Tell this to the nations, proclaim it to Jerusalem: "A besieging army is coming from a distant land, raising a war cry against the cities of Judah. They surround her like men guarding a field, because she has rebelled against me," declares the LORD. "Your own conduct and actions have brought this upon you. This is your punishment. How bitter it is! How it pierces to the heart!"*

4:19 *Oh, my anguish, my anguish! I writhe in pain. Oh, the agony of my heart! My heart pounds within me, I cannot keep silent. For I have heard the sound of the trumpet; I have heard the battle cry.*

Chapters 2 – 6 reign of Josiah (f)

Jeremiah also had visions

Ch 4.23-26

I looked at the earth, and it was formless and empty; and at the heavens, and their light was gone. I looked at the mountains, and they were quaking; all the hills were swaying. I looked, and there were no people; every bird in the sky had flown away. I looked, and the fruitful land was a desert; all its towns lay in ruins before the LORD, before his fierce anger.

Chs 5 and 6 – more prophecy of disaster, dialogue and monologue from Jeremiah. The invaders will be God's retribution

Chapters 7 – 9+ reign of Jehoiakim

A new king – worse than the last

609BC

- Josiah decided to support Babylon against Assyria.
- Egypt came to the aid of Assyria, and Josiah tried to fight them but was killed.
- His son Jehoahaz took the throne, lasted 3 months.
- Pharaoh now had control of Judah, and replaced him with Jehoiakim

Chapters 7 – 9+ reign of Jehoiakim (a)

Prophecy at the gate of the temple

Ch 7.1,2 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: "Stand at the gate of the LORD's house and there proclaim this message: 'Hear the word of the LORD, all you people of Judah who come through these gates to worship the LORD.'

Ch 26:7,8 The priests, the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speak these words in the house of the LORD. But as soon as Jeremiah finished telling all the people everything the LORD had commanded him to say, the priests, the prophets and all the people seized him and said, "You must die!"

Chapters 7 – 9+ reign of Jehoiakim (b)

Don't pray

Ch 7.16 *"So do not pray for this people nor offer any plea or petition for them; do not plead with me, for I will not listen to you."*

Why not?

v.24 *they did not listen or pay attention; instead, they followed the stubborn inclinations of their evil hearts. They went backward and not forward*

v.31 *They have built the high places of Topheth in the Valley of Ben Hinnom to burn their sons and daughters in the fire-- something I did not command, nor did it enter my mind.*

Chapters 7 – 9+ reign of Jehoiakim (c)

Jeremiah in anguish

Ch 8.21,22 Since my people are crushed, I am crushed; I mourn, and horror grips me. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then is there no healing for the wound of my people?

Ch 9.1 Oh, that my head were a spring of water and my eyes a fountain of tears! I would weep day and night for the slain of my people.

Chapters 10-20 reign of Jehoiakim (d)

Mocking of idols

10:2-5 This is what the LORD says: "Do not learn the ways of the nations or be terrified by signs in the sky, though the nations are terrified by them. For the customs of the peoples are worthless; they cut a tree out of the forest, and a craftsman shapes it with his chisel. They adorn it with silver and gold; they fasten it with hammer and nails so it will not totter. Like a scarecrow in a melon patch, their idols cannot speak; they must be carried because they cannot walk. Do not fear them; they can do no harm nor can they do any good."

Chapters 10-20 reign of Jehoiakim (e)

Jeremiah's own people turn on him

11.18 ...the LORD revealed their plot to me, I knew it, for at that time he showed me what they were doing. I had been like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter; I did not realize that they had plotted against me, saying, "Let us destroy the tree and its fruit; let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name be remembered no more." ...

(22) therefore this is what the LORD Almighty says: 'I will punish them. Their young men will die by the sword, their sons and daughters by famine. Not even a remnant will be left to them, because I will bring disaster on the men of Anathoth in the year of their punishment.

Chapters 10-20 reign of Jehoiakim?(f)

The linen belt

13:4 *"Take the belt you bought and are wearing around your waist, and go now to Perath and hide it there in a crevice in the rocks." Many days later the LORD said to me, "Go now to Perath and get the belt I told you to hide there." So I went to Perath and dug up the belt and took it from the place where I had hidden it, but now it was ruined and completely useless.*

The belt would have been part of the clothing specific to a priest and indicated holiness and the close relationship between God and His people.

Chapters 10-20 reign of Jehoiakim?(g)

Famine and false prophets

14:11 Then the LORD said to me, "Do not pray for the well-being of this people. Although they fast, I will not listen to their cry; though they offer burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Instead, I will destroy them with the sword, famine and plague."

But I said, "Ah, Sovereign LORD, the prophets keep telling them, 'You will not see the sword or suffer famine. Indeed, I will give you lasting peace in this place.'" Then the LORD said to me, "the prophets are prophesying lies in my name. I have not sent them or appointed them or spoken to them. They are prophesying to you false visions, divinations, idolatries and the delusions of their own minds."

Chapters 10-20 reign of Jehoiakim?(h)

4 alternatives - death, sword, starvation, captivity

15.1 *Then the LORD said to me: "Even if Moses and Samuel were to stand before me, my heart would not go out to this people. Send them away from my presence! Let them go! And if they ask you, 'Where shall we go?' tell them, 'This is what the LORD says: "'*
'Those destined for death, to death;
those for the sword, to the sword;
those for starvation, to starvation;
those for captivity, to captivity.'

"I will send four kinds of destroyers against them," declares the LORD, "the sword to kill and the dogs to drag away and the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth to devour and destroy. (4) I will make them abhorrent to all the kingdoms of the earth because of what Manasseh son of Hezekiah king of Judah did in Jerusalem¹⁹.

Chapters 10-20 reign of Jehoiakim?(i)

Cursing versus Blessing

17:7 "But blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."

17:14 Heal me, O LORD, and I will be healed; save me and I will be saved, for you are the One I praise.

Chapters 10-20 reign of Jehoiakim?(j)

The Potter and the Clay

Jer 18:2 "Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message."

Jer 18:6 "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter does?" declares the LORD. "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel."

Chapters 10-20 reign of Jehoiakim (k)

The smashed clay pot

19:1 *This is what the LORD says: "Go and buy a clay jar from a potter. Take along some of the elders of the people and of the priests and go out to the Valley of Ben Hinnom... there proclaim the words I tell you, and say, 'Hear the word of the LORD, O kings of Judah and people of Jerusalem. This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Listen! I am going to bring a disaster on this place...*

4 they have filled this place with the blood of the innocent.

10 *Then break the jar while those who go with you are watching, and say to them, 'This is what the LORD Almighty says: I will smash this nation and this city just as this potter's jar is smashed and cannot be repaired.*

Chapters 10-20 reign of Jehoiakim (I)

Jeremiah suffers for his message

20:1 When the priest Pashhur son of Immer, the chief officer in the temple of the LORD, heard Jeremiah prophesying these things, he had Jeremiah the prophet beaten and put in the stocks at the Upper Gate of Benjamin at the LORD's temple.

20:7 O LORD, you deceived me, and I was deceived; you overpowered me and prevailed. I am ridiculed all day long; everyone mocks me. Whenever I speak, I cry out proclaiming violence and destruction....

But if I say, "I will not mention him or speak any more in his name," his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot. I hear many whispering, "Terror on every side! Report him! Let's report him!" All my friends are waiting for me to slip, saying, "Perhaps he will be deceived; then we will prevail over him and take our revenge on him."

Chapter 25 - reign of Jehoiakim (m)

70 years in exile

25.7 *"...you have provoked me with what your hands have made, and you have brought harm to yourselves." Therefore the LORD Almighty says this: "Because you have not listened to my words, I will summon all the peoples of the north and my servant Neb'ezzar king of Babylon," declares the LORD, "and I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants and against all the surrounding nations. I will completely destroy them and make them an object of horror and scorn, and an everlasting ruin."*

25:11 *This whole country will become a desolate wasteland, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years. "But when the seventy years are fulfilled, I will punish the king of Babylon and his nation, the land of the Babylonians, for their guilt," declares the LORD, "and will make it desolate forever. 24*

Chapter 25 - reign of Jehoiakim (n)

The cup of wrath for the nations

v.15 *This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, said to me: "Take from my hand this cup filled with the wine of my wrath and make all the nations to whom I send you drink it. When they drink it, they will stagger and go mad because of the sword I will send among them."*

Prophecies against:

Egypt - ch. 46

Philistia - ch. 47; Moab - ch. 48

Ammon - 49.1-6; Edom - 49.7-22

Damascus - 49.23-27

Kedar and Hazor (= Arabia) - 49.28-33; Elam - 49.34-39

Babylon - chs. 50, 51

Chapters 36,45 - reign of Jehoiakim (o)

Baruch writes and the king burns the scroll

36:2 "Take a scroll and write on it all the words I have spoken to you concerning Israel, Judah and all the other nations from the time I began speaking to you in the reign of Josiah till now. Perhaps when the people of Judah hear about every disaster I plan to inflict on them, each of them will turn from his wicked way; then I will forgive their wickedness and their sin."

36:23 Whenever Jehudi had read three or four columns of the scroll, the king cut them off with a scribe's knife and threw them into the firepot, until the entire scroll was burned in the fire. The king and all his attendants who heard all these words showed no fear, nor did they tear their clothes.

Chapters 22,23 Jehoiakim/n

Change of kings once again

597BC

King Jehoiakim dies. Likely that he was killed by the Babylonians, as he had turned against them and sided with Egypt.

His natural successor, his son Jehoiakinu was enthroned. He is almost immediately removed by the Babylonians and taken into exile.

Jehoiakim's brother Zedekiah is installed in his place as a puppet king.

Chapter 24 - reign of Zedekiah (a)

A vision of baskets of figs

24:1 *After Jehoiachin son of Jehoiakim king of Judah and the officials, the craftsmen and the artisans of Judah were carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the LORD showed me two baskets of figs placed in front of the temple of the LORD. One basket had very good figs, like those that ripen early; the other basket had very poor figs, so bad they could not be eaten.*

24:5 *"This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Like these good figs, I regard as good the exiles from Judah, whom I sent away from this place to the land of the Babylonians.*

24:8 *"'But like the poor figs, which are so bad they cannot be eaten,' says the LORD, 'so will I deal with Zedekiah king of Judah, his officials and the survivors from Jerusalem, whether they remain in this land or live in Egypt.*

Chapters 27-31 - reign of Zedekiah (b)

Demonstration of a yoke

27:1 Early in the reign of Zedekiah son of Josiah king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD: This is what the LORD said to me: "Make a yoke out of straps and crossbars and put it on your neck.

27:8 "If, however, any nation or kingdom will not serve Neb'zzar king of Babylon or bow its neck under his yoke, I will punish that nation with the sword, famine and plague, declares the LORD, until I destroy it by his hand. So do not listen to your prophets, your diviners, your interpreters of dreams, your mediums or your sorcerers who tell you, 'You will not serve the king of Babylon.' They prophesy lies to you that will only serve to remove you far from your lands; I will banish you and you will perish.

Chapters 27-31 - reign of Zedekiah (c)

A letter to the exiles

29:4 This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters.

Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper."

Chapters 27-31 - reign of Zedekiah (d)

Prophecy of restoration

30.1 *This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Write in a book all the words I have spoken to you. The days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will bring my people Israel and Judah back from captivity and restore them to the land I gave their forefathers to possess,' says the LORD."*

v.18 *"This is what the LORD says: "'I will restore the fortunes of Jacob's tents and have compassion on his dwellings; the city will be rebuilt on her ruins, and the palace will stand in its proper place. From them will come songs of thanksgiving and the sound of rejoicing. I will add to their numbers, and they will not be decreased; I will bring them honour, and they will not be disdained.*

Chapters 27-31 - reign of Zedekiah (e)

Prophecy of a new Covenant

31:31 "The time is coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers ...

31.33 "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbour, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

Chapters 37, 38 - reign of Zedekiah (f)

Jerusalem under siege

588BC

- Zedekiah has rebelled against Babylon, so Nebuchadnezzar has begun to besiege Jerusalem.
- Egypt comes to challenge them once again and Jerusalem gets a short reprieve.
- Jeremiah's enemies find an opportunity to arrest him and beat him up. Zed has some sympathy for Jeremiah but is easily persuaded to have him put in a cistern where he would die from starvation and thirst.
- He is rescued by a friend with the ear of the King, who again asks Jeremiah what will happen. Surrender and you will live, otherwise Jerusalem is lost and you will die.
- But Zed is afraid of his officials and continues to resist.

Chapters 32,33 - reign of Zedekiah (g)

Jeremiah buys a field as a sign

32.14 *"Take these documents, both the sealed and unsealed copies of the deed of purchase, and put them in a clay jar so they will last a long time. For this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Houses, fields and vineyards will again be bought in this land."*

32.37 *I will surely gather them from all the lands where I banish them in my furious anger and great wrath; I will bring them back to this place and let them live in safety. They will be my people, and I will be their God.*

33:15 *"In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness."*

Chapters 39-44 - The final phase (a)

587/586BC - Jerusalem falls, Jeremiah stays

- Nebuchadnezzar offers Jeremiah a place at the Babylonian Court
- Jeremiah chooses to stay in Judah, protected by Governor Gedaliah
- Gedaliah is murdered, Jeremiah and Baruch taken away to Egypt

42:15... *hear the word of the LORD, O remnant of Judah. This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: 'If you are determined to go to Egypt and you do go to settle there, then the sword you fear will overtake you there, and the famine you dread will follow you into Egypt, and there you will die.'*

Chapters 39-44 - The final phase (b)

In Egypt – Jeremiah is still prophesying

43.9 ...take some large stones with you and bury them in clay in the brick pavement at the entrance to Pharaoh's palace in Tahpanhes. Then say to them, 'This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: I will send for my servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and I will set his throne over these stones I have buried here; he will spread his royal canopy above them... He will set fire to the temples of the gods of Egypt; he will burn their temples and take their gods captive.'

Chapters 39-44 - The final phase (c)

In Egypt – Jeremiah's message rejected again

44:17 We will certainly do everything we said we would: We will burn incense to the Queen of Heaven and will pour out drink offerings to her just as we and our fathers, our kings and our officials did in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. At that time we had plenty of food and were well off and suffered no harm. But ever since we stopped burning incense to the Queen of Heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her, we have had nothing and have been perishing by sword and famine."

44:28 Those who escape the sword and return to the land of Judah from Egypt will be very few. Then the whole remnant of Judah who came to live in Egypt will know whose word will stand--mine or theirs.

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