

- 3) Jeremiah writes them a letter (see Jeremiah 29).
 - i) It was sent after 597 B. C.
 - ii) In this letter, Jeremiah says, "Now look, you in captivity, don't think you are going to be there just a little while and then go home. You are going to be there 70 years all together. You need to get married, have kids, raise your families, build houses, plant your vineyards, etc."
 - iii) They had some false prophets telling them they were going to go home shortly.
 - 4) This is a period of false hopefulness.
- ii. 586-536 B. C.
- a. This was a period of hopelessness.
 - b. The temple was destroyed and the rest of Judah was taken into captivity.
 - c. And it looked like there was not going to be any way out.
 - d. There was a ray of hope when Jehoiachin (who had been taken into captivity in 597 B. C.) was released from prison and he was elevated in Babylon and allowed to eat at the king's table and was given an allowance for the rest of his life.
 - 1) That happened in 560 B. C.
 - 2) The people thought, "If this has happened, maybe we will be released."
 - 3) But soon they saw that they weren't going to be released soon and they were right back where they were.
 - e. There were two prophets:
 - 1) Daniel - taken in 1st deportation
 - 2) Ezekiel - taken in 2nd deportation
 - f. The Lord had these two prophets there to encourage the people.
 - g. Isaiah wrote Isaiah 40-66 to comfort the people in captivity in Babylon.
 - h. Psalm 137 was written about people weeping on the banks of Babylon.
- iii. 536ff
- a. This was a period of hopefulness.
 - b. The Lord said, "You are going to serve 70 years."
 - c. Medo-Persia was in power and Cyrus was the king.
 - d. In 536, he gives a decree, "Any Jew who wants to go back to Jerusalem can go back. Not only that, but they are to rebuild the temple and sacrifice to the Lord."
 - e. The king is going to underwrite the expenses. *a/E*
 - f. All the ~~articles~~ articles that Neb had brought to Babylon ~~is~~ to be taken back.