

Jeremiah 29:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

(After that Jeconiah the king, and the queen, and the eunuchs, the princes of Judah and Jerusalem, and the carpenters, and the smiths, were departed from Jerusalem;)

Analysis

After that Jeconiah the king, and the queen, and the eunuchs—This parenthetical verse establishes the historical setting: the letter follows the first deportation of 597 BC when Yekonyah (יְכָנָה, Jeconiah/Jehoiachin) was exiled along with Judah's elite. The Hebrew term פָּרִיסִים (sarism) refers to royal officials (eunuchs), while **the carpenters, and the smiths** (הַחֲרָשׁ וְהַמְּסִגָּר, hecharash vehammasger) represent the skilled artisans—precisely those needed to prevent rebellion but whose absence would cripple Jerusalem's defenses (2 Kings 24:14-16).

Jeremiah's letter addresses not random captives but the cream of Judah's leadership and craftsmanship, now languishing in Babylon while false prophets promised quick return. This detail underscores the letter's pastoral urgency: these were not peasants but princes who desperately needed God's word about their prolonged exile.

Historical Context

This deportation occurred in 597 BC under Nebuchadnezzar, eleven years before Jerusalem's final destruction. Jeconiah reigned only three months before surrender. The Babylonians' strategy of deporting leadership and skilled workers while leaving peasants explains Judah's inability to resist the final siege in 586 BC.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. When God's timeline differs from yours (70 years vs. immediate return), how do you maintain faith without false hope?
2. What happens to a society when its best leaders and skilled workers are removed? How does this parallel spiritual decline?
3. Why would God reveal the historical context of a prophecy? How does knowing the audience change how we read Scripture?

Interlinear Text

וּבְסָרִיסִים יְמִינָה וּבְגַבְיוֹן הַבְּ פָלָג אַחֲרֵי
After were departed that Jeconiah the king and the queen and the eunuchs
H310 H3318 H3204 H4428 H1377 H5631

וּבְמְמַסִּים רְאֵבָנָן שְׁבִי
the princes of Judah and Jerusalem and the carpenters and the smiths
H8269 H3063 H3389 H2796 H4525

מִירוּשָׁלָם:

and Jerusalem

H3389

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 27:20 (Kingdom): Which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon took not, when he carried away captive Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah from Jerusalem to Babylon, and all the nobles of Judah and Jerusalem;

