

# 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

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**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 (יְכֹנְיָה, Jeconiah/Jehoiachin) was exiled along with Judah's elite. The Hebrew term סָרִיסִים (sarisim) refers to royal officials (eunuchs), while **the carpenters, and the smiths** (הַחֹרָשׁ וְהַמְסִיגֵר, 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

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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

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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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

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אַחֲרַי	צִאת	יְכֹנָיָה	הַמֶּלֶךְ	וְהַגִּבִּירָה	וְהַסָּרִיסִים
After	were departed	that Jeconiah	the king	and the queen	and the eunuchs
H310	H3318	H3204	H4428	H1377	H5631

שְׂרָיָה	יְהוּדָה	מִירוּשָׁלַם	וְהַחֲכָמִים	וְהַמְּסָגִּרִים
the princes	of Judah	and Jerusalem	and the carpenters	and the smiths
H8269	H3063	H3389	H2796	H4525

מִירוּשָׁלַם:

and Jerusalem  
H3389

## Additional Cross-References

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**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;

