

Ezekiel – A timeline of events

At the age of 30 instead of entering the priesthood, Ezekiel finds himself in exile in Babylon. King Jehoiachin had surrendered to Nebuchadnezzar in 598 BC. Many of the people were taken to Babylon but others remained behind in Judah. Jerusalem was finally overthrown and destroyed in 586 BC after the puppet king Zedekiah rebelled.

597 BC Jehoiachin stops paying the tribute to Nebuchadnezzar. The lands come under siege and a number of people are taken into exile. Zedekiah becomes a vassal king.

589 BC Influenced by Egypt Zedekiah rebels against Babylon and rebels despite the warnings of Jeremiah.

587 BC Jerusalem is once again under siege.

586 BC Jerusalem and the Temple are destroyed and the Kingdom of Judah comes to an end.

538 BC The remaining exiles are allowed to return home under Cyrus the Great as recorded in Ezra.

Ezekiel spans 22 years from **593** until **571 BC**.

About Babylon



Nebuchadnezzar II conquered Syria and Palestine; he is best remembered for the destruction of Judah and Jerusalem in 587 BCE and for the ensuing Babylonian captivity of the Jews.

He also revitalized Babylon, constructing the wondrous hanging gardens and rebuilding the Temple of Marduk and its accompanying ziggurat.

The Persians, under Cyrus the Great, captured Babylonia from Nebuchadnezzar's last successor Nabonidus in 539 BCE. Thereafter, Babylonia ceased to be independent, passing eventually in 331 BCE to Alexander the Great, who planned to make Babylon the capital of his empire and who died in Nebuchadnezzar's palace.

After Alexander's death, however, the Seleucids eventually abandoned Babylon, bringing an end to one of the greatest empires in history.

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