



Life in

BABYLON

How do we live in *Babylon*?

*Buy
into the
culture*

*Separatist /
Isolationist:
Hyper-
religious*

How do we live in *Babylon*?

*Buy
into the
culture*

*Separatist /
Isolationist:
Hyper-
religious*

How do we live in *Babylon*?

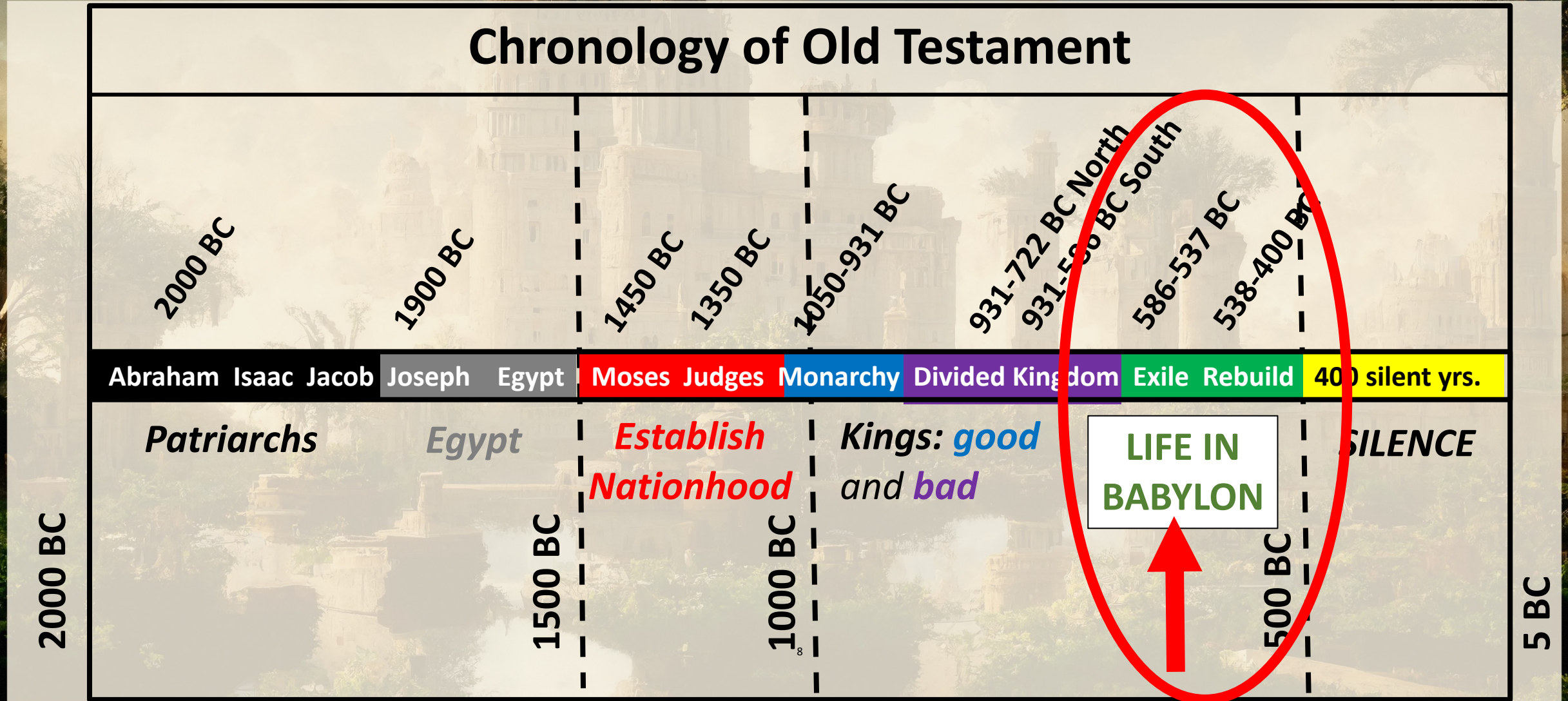
*Buy
into the
culture*

Daniel - Integrity

*Separatist /
Isolationist:
Hyper-
religious*

Life in BABYLON

Chronology of Old Testament



Life in BABYLON

Jeremiah 607 BC Daniel	Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego	Ezra / Nehemiah Esther	
---	---	---	--

Divided Kingdom
and after 722 BC just
the southern
Kingdom of Judah

Exile in Babylon 586 – 537 BC

Rebuild

400
silent
years
before
the
coming
Christ

LIFE IN BABYLON

Life in BABYLON

650-570 BC **Jeremiah**
607 BC **Daniel**

Shadrach,
Meshach &
Abednego

Ezra / Nehemiah
Esther

Divided Kingdom
and after 722 BC just
the southern
Kingdom of Judah

Exile in Babylon 586 – 537 BC

Rebuild

400
silent
years
before
the
coming
Christ

LIFE IN BABYLON

Life in
BABYLON

**How did Jeremiah
navigate living with
Babylon?**

**How can we navigate living
with a post-Christian culture
that is going through
profound and radical change?**

Life in
BABYLON

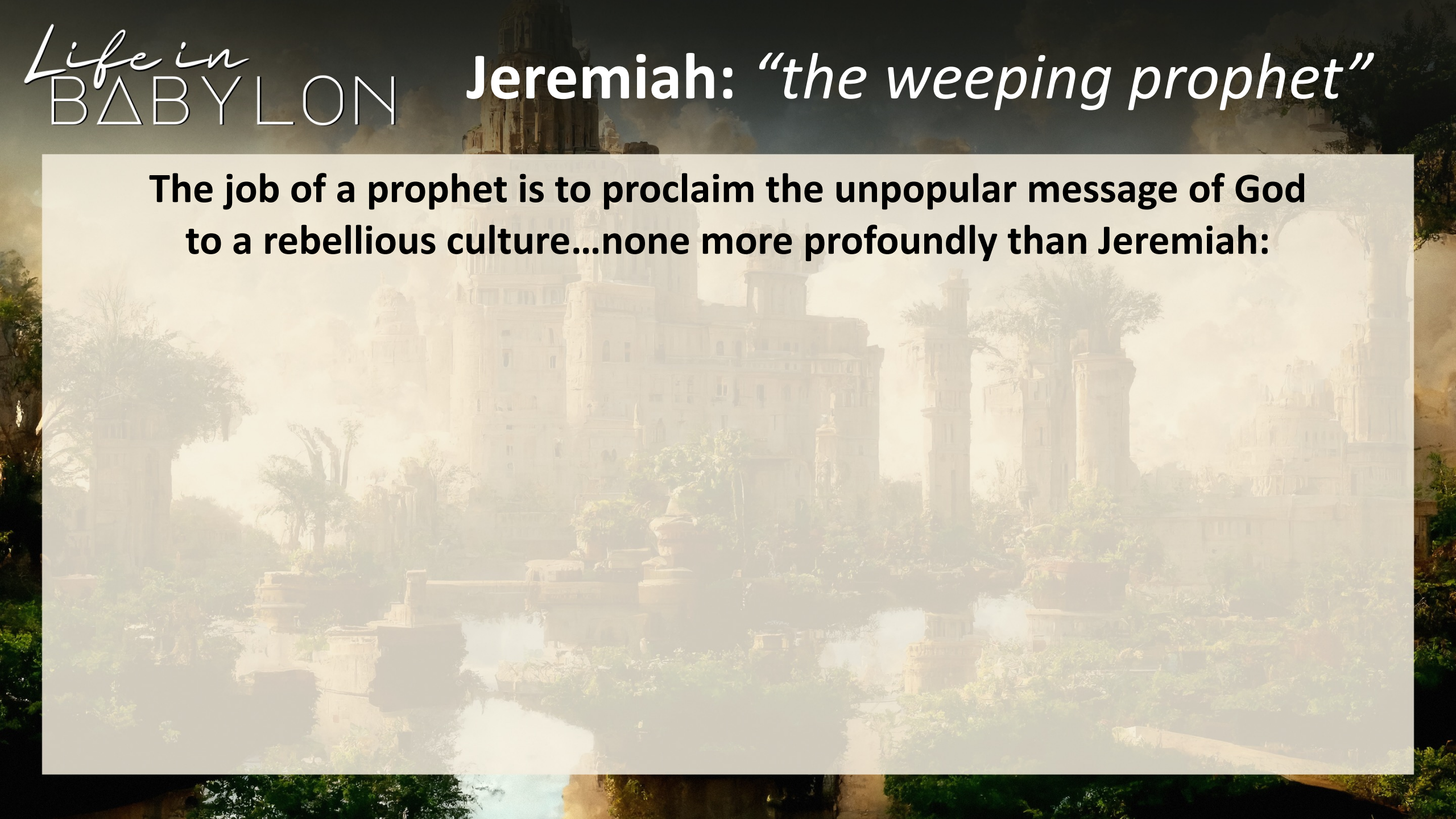
Jeremiah: *“the weeping prophet”*



Life in
BABYLON

Jeremiah: *"the weeping prophet"*

The job of a prophet is to proclaim the unpopular message of God to a rebellious culture...none more profoundly than Jeremiah:



Life in
BABYLON

Jeremiah: *“the weeping prophet”*

The job of a prophet is to proclaim the unpopular message of God to a rebellious culture...none more profoundly than Jeremiah:

- His own family despised him and his message so much they plotted to kill him.

The job of a prophet is to proclaim the unpopular message of God to a rebellious culture...none more profoundly than Jeremiah:

- His own family despised him and his message so much they plotted to kill him.
- Pashur, the chief priest, had Jeremiah whipped and put in stocks. (Jer. 20)

The job of a prophet is to proclaim the unpopular message of God to a rebellious culture...none more profoundly than Jeremiah:

- His own family despised him and his message so much they plotted to kill him.
- Pashur, the chief priest, had Jeremiah whipped and put in stocks. (Jer. 20)
- A mob of priests and prophets tried to have him executed. (Jer. 26)

The job of a prophet is to proclaim the unpopular message of God to a rebellious culture...none more profoundly than Jeremiah:

- His own family despised him and his message so much they plotted to kill him.
- Pashur, the chief priest, had Jeremiah whipped and put in stocks. (Jer. 20)
- A mob of priests and prophets tried to have him executed. (Jer. 26)
- Under King Zedekiah he was arrested, charged with treason, beaten and thrown in prison (Jer.37)

The job of a prophet is to proclaim the unpopular message of God to a rebellious culture...none more profoundly than Jeremiah:

- His own family despised him and his message so much they plotted to kill him.
- Pashur, the chief priest, had Jeremiah whipped and put in stocks. (Jer. 20)
- A mob of priests and prophets tried to have him executed. (Jer. 26)
- Under King Zedekiah he was arrested, charged with treason, beaten and thrown in prison (Jer.37)
- Others had him moved from the palace prison and thrown into an empty well where he sunk into the mire. (Jer. 38)

The job of a prophet is to proclaim the unpopular message of God to a rebellious culture...none more profoundly than Jeremiah:

- His own family despised him and his message so much they plotted to kill him.
- Pashur, the chief priest, had Jeremiah whipped and put in stocks. (Jer. 20)
- A mob of priests and prophets tried to have him executed. (Jer. 26)
- Under King Zedekiah he was arrested, charged with treason, beaten and thrown in prison (Jer.37)
- Others had him moved from the palace prison and thrown into an empty well where he sunk into the mire. (Jer. 38)
- After the two month reign of Gedaliah he was forcibly taken to Egypt by Jewish rebels and probably stoned to death by those rebels. (Jer. 40-45)

The job of a prophet is to proclaim the unpopular message of God to a rebellious culture...none more profoundly than Jeremiah:

- His own family despised him and his message so much they plotted to kill him.
- Pashur, the chief priest, had Jeremiah whipped and put in stocks. (Jer. 20)
- A mob of priests and prophets tried to have him executed. (Jer. 26)
- Under King Zedekiah he was arrested, charged with treason, beaten and thrown in prison (Jer.37)
- Others had him moved from the palace prison and thrown into an empty well where he sunk into the mire. (Jer. 38)
- After the two month reign of Gedaliah he was forcibly taken to Egypt by Jewish rebels and probably stoned to death by those rebels. (Jer. 40-45)
- He prophesied that God had sovereignly placed Babylon over Judah for 70 years. (Jer. 27)

Jeremiah 2:4-13

⁴ Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob, and all the clans of the house of Israel.

⁵ Thus says the Lord:

“What wrong did your fathers find in me that they went far from me, and went after worthlessness, and became worthless?

⁶ They did not say, ‘Where is the Lord who brought us up from the land of Egypt, who led us in the wilderness, in a land of deserts and pits, in a land of drought and deep darkness, in a land that none passes through, where no man dwells?’

⁷ And I brought you into a plentiful land to enjoy its fruits and its good things. But when you came in, you defiled my land and made my heritage an abomination.

- 8 The priests did not say, ‘Where is the Lord?’ Those who handle the law did not know me;
the shepherds transgressed against me; the prophets prophesied by Baal and went after things that do not profit.
- 9 “Therefore I still contend with you, declares the Lord,
and with your children's children I will contend.
- 10 For cross to the coasts of Cyprus and see, or send to Kedar and examine with care; see if there has been such a thing.
- 11 Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods?
But my people have changed their glory for that which does not profit.

Life in
BABYLON

Jeremiah: “the weeping prophet”

¹² Be appalled, O heavens, at this;
be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the Lord,
¹³ for my people have committed two evils:
they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters,
and hewed out cisterns for themselves,
broken cisterns that can hold no water.

12 Be appalled, O heavens, at this;
be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the Lord,
13 for my people have committed two evils:
they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters,
and hewed out cisterns for themselves,
broken cisterns that can hold no water.

¹² Be appalled, O heavens, at this;

be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the Lord,

¹³ for my people have committed two evils:

- 1.** they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters,
and hewed out cisterns for themselves,
broken cisterns that can hold no water.

¹² Be appalled, O heavens, at this;

be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the Lord,

¹³ for my people have committed two evils:

- 1.** they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters,
- 2.** and hewed out cisterns for themselves,
broken cisterns that can hold no water.

Jeremiah 29:10-14

10 “For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place.

11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you.

13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

14 I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

Jeremiah 29:10-14

¹⁰ “For thus says the Lord: ***When seventy years are completed*** for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place.

¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

¹² Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you.

¹³ You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

¹⁴ I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

Jeremiah 28:1-14

¹⁰ Then the prophet Hananiah took the yoke-bars from the neck of Jeremiah the prophet and broke them.

¹¹ And Hananiah spoke in the presence of all the people, saying,
“Thus says the Lord: Even so will I break the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon from the neck of all the nations within two years.”

But Jeremiah the prophet went his way.

¹² Sometime after the prophet Hananiah had broken the yoke-bars from off the neck of Jeremiah the prophet, the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah:

¹³ “Go, tell Hananiah, ‘Thus says the Lord: You have broken wooden bars, but you have made in their place bars of iron.

¹⁴ For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: I have put upon the neck of all these nations an iron yoke to serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and they shall serve him, for I have given to him even the beasts of the field.’”

15 And Jeremiah the prophet said to the prophet Hananiah,
“Listen, Hananiah, the Lord has not sent you, and you have made this
people trust in a lie.

16 Therefore thus says the Lord:
‘Behold, I will remove you from the face of the earth.
This year you shall die, because you have uttered rebellion against
the Lord.’”

17 In that same year, in the seventh month, the prophet Hananiah died.

15 And Jeremiah the prophet said to the prophet Hananiah,
“Listen, Hananiah, the Lord has not sent you, and you have made this
people trust in a lie.

16 Therefore thus says the Lord:
‘Behold, I will remove you from the face of the earth.
This year you shall die, because you have uttered rebellion against
the Lord.’”

17 In that same year, in the seventh month, the prophet Hananiah died.

Do not give people false hope!

Jeremiah 29:10-14

¹⁰ “For thus says the Lord: ***When seventy years are completed*** for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place.

¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

¹² Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you.

¹³ You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

¹⁴ I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

Jeremiah 29:10-14

¹⁰ “For thus says the Lord: ***When seventy years are completed*** for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place.

¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a **hope**.

¹² Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you.

¹³ You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

¹⁴ I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

Jeremiah 29:1-14

- ¹ These are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders of the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.
- ² This was after King Jeconiah and the queen mother, the eunuchs, the officials of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftsmen, and the metal workers had departed from Jerusalem.
- ³ The letter was sent by the hand of Elasah the son of Shaphan and Gemariah the son of Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to Babylon to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. It said:
- ⁴ “Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon:
- ⁵ Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce.
- ⁶ Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease.

Jeremiah 29:1-14

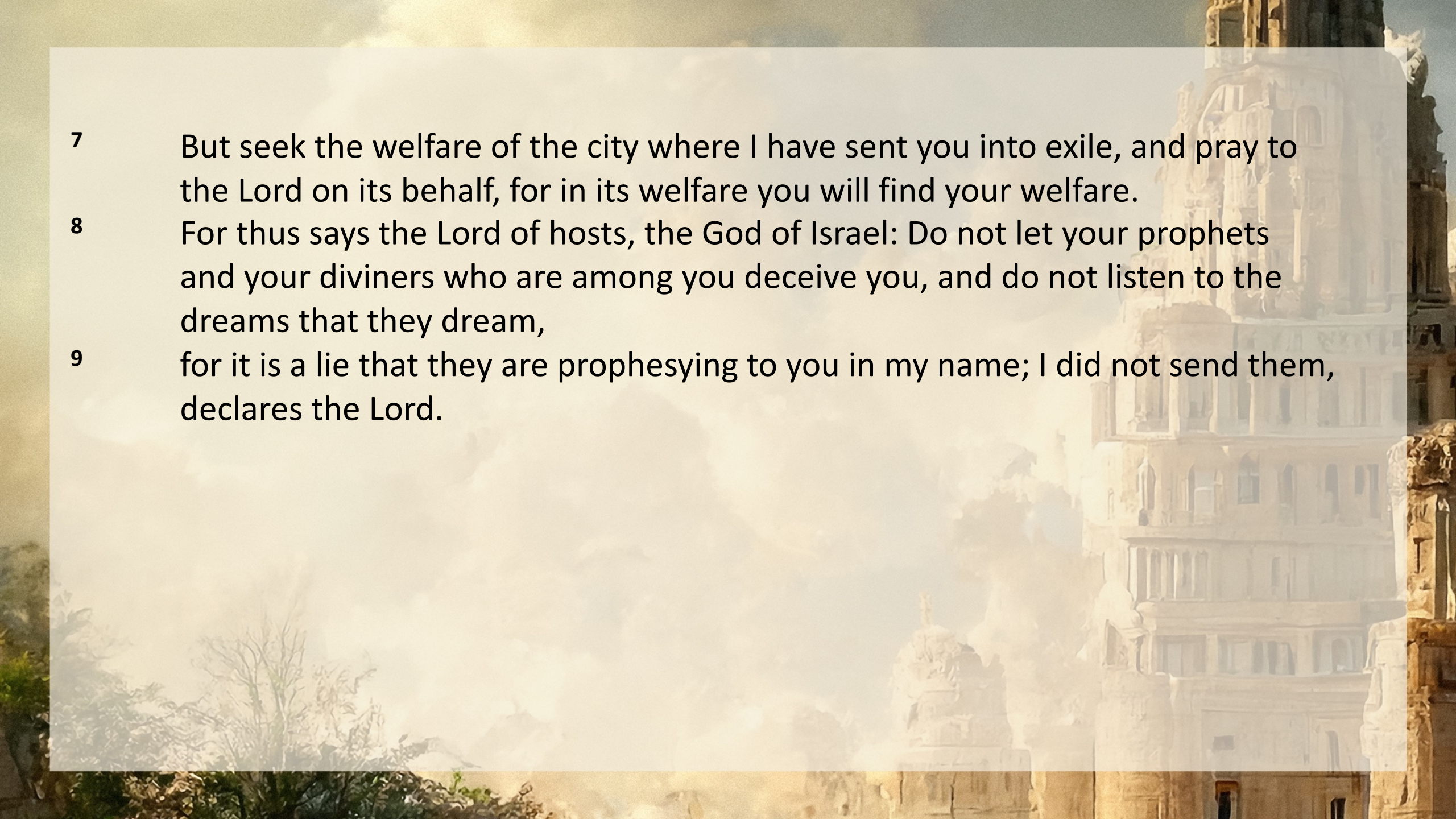
¹ These are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders of the exiles, and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

² This is the message that the Lord God of Israel sent to the officials of Judah

³ **Don't stop living...**

⁴ Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce.

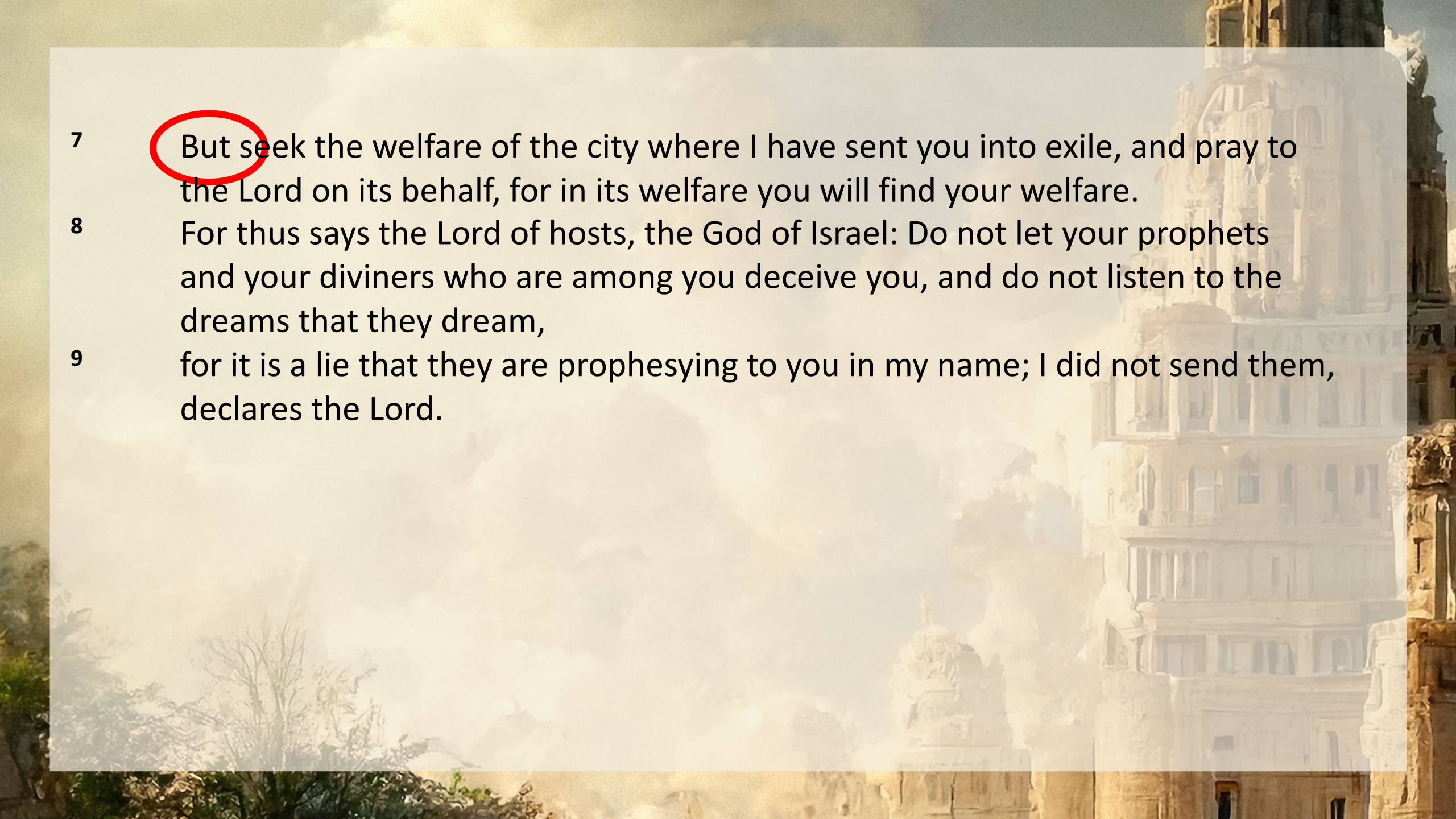
⁵ Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease.

The background of the slide features a composite image. On the right side, there are detailed stone ruins of an ancient city, including a prominent tower with a dome and various architectural elements. The left side shows a hazy, mountainous landscape with some trees in the foreground. The entire scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent white rectangle containing the text.

7 But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

8 For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream,

9 for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, declares the Lord.



7 But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to
the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

8 For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets
and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the
dreams that they dream,

9 for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them,
declares the Lord.

10 “For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place.

11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a **hope**.

12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you.

13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

14 I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

10

“For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place.

11

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a **hope**.

12

Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear

13

14

Don't stop living...

10

“For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place.

11

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a **hope**.

12

Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear

13

14

**Don't stop living...
there is HOPE!**

Romans 12:9-13

⁹ Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.

¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.

¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.

¹² **Rejoice in hope**, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

II Corinthians 1:8-10

⁸ For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself.

⁹ Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.

¹⁰ He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us.

On Him we have set our hope that He will deliver us again.

I Timothy 4:7-10

⁷ Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths.

Rather train yourself for godliness;

⁸ for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

⁹ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance.

¹⁰ For to this end we toil and strive, because

we have our hope set on the living God,

who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

I Peter 1:3-5

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to
a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the
dead,

⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled,
and unfading, kept in heaven for you,

⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a
salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

I Peter 1:13-16

- ¹³ Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, **set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you** at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
- ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance,
- ¹⁵ but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,
- ¹⁶ since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

I Peter 3:13-17

¹³ Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for **the hope that is in you;** yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

Life in
BABYLON

Jeremiah: *“the weeping prophet”*

**How did Jeremiah navigate
living with Babylon?**

Life in
BABYLON

Jeremiah: *"the weeping prophet"*

**How did Jeremiah navigate
living with Babylon?**

Hope

Life in
BABYLON

Jeremiah: *“the weeping prophet”*

How can we navigate living with a post-Christian culture that is going through profound and radical change?

Life in
BABYLON

Jeremiah: *“the weeping prophet”*

How can we navigate living with a post-Christian culture that is going through profound and radical change?

Hope

Life in
BABYLON

Jeremiah: *“the weeping prophet”*

**When life puts us in *“the squeeze”*,
we find that God is the
main thing we have,
but He is also the
main thing we need!**

Life in
BABYLON

Jeremiah: *“the weeping prophet”*

When life puts us in *“the squeeze”*,
we find that God is the
only thing we have,
but He is also the
only thing we need!

Life in
BABYLON

Jeremiah: *“the weeping prophet”*

When life puts us in *“the squeeze”*,
we find that God is the
biggest thing we have,
but He is also the
biggest thing we need!

Life in
BABYLON

Jeremiah: *“the weeping prophet”*

When life puts us in *“the squeeze”*,
we find that God is
what we have,
and He is
what we need!

Life in
BABYLON



How do we live in *Babylon*?

*Buy
into the
culture*

*Separatist /
Isolationist:
Hyper-
religious*

How do we live in *Babylon*?

*Buy
into the
culture*

Daniel - Integrity

*Separatist /
Isolationist:
Hyper-
religious*

How do we live in *Babylon*?

*Buy
into the
culture*

Daniel - Integrity

Nehemiah -

*Separatist /
Isolationist:
Hyper-
religious*

How do we live in *Babylon*?

*Buy
into the
culture*

Daniel - Integrity
Jeremiah - Hope
Nehemiah -

*Separatist /
Isolationist:
Hyper-
religious*



Life in

BABYLON