

[1] *Jeremiah Chapter 29 Verse 10*

For so said the Lord: For at the completion of seventy years of Babylon I will remember you, and I will fulfill My good word toward you, to restore you to this place.

כִּי־כֹה אָמַר ה' כִּי לְפִי מְלֶאכֶת לְבַבְכֶם שְׁנֵי אֶפְקֹד  
אֶתְכֶם וְהִקְמֹתִי עֲלֵיכֶם אֶת־יְדֵי הַטּוֹב לְהַשִּׁיב אֶתְכֶם  
אֶל־הַמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה:

[2] *Jeremiah Chapter 25*

11. And all this land shall become waste [and] desolation, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon for seventy years.
12. And it shall be at the completion of seventy years, I will visit upon the king of Babylon and upon that nation, says the Lord, their iniquity, and upon the land of the Chaldeans, and I will make it for everlasting desolations.

[3] *Daniel Chapter 5*

1. King Belshazzar made a great feast for his one thousand dignitaries, and he drank as much wine as the thousand.
2. Belshazzar said, with the counsel of the wine, to bring the golden and silver vessels that his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the Temple that was in Jerusalem, that the king, his dignitaries, his queen, and his concubines should drink from them.
3. Then the golden vessels that they had taken out of the Temple of the House of God, which was in Jerusalem, were brought, and the king, his dignitaries, his queen, and his concubines drank from them.
4. They drank wine and praised gods of gold, silver, copper, iron, wood, and stone.
5. At that time, the fingers of a human hand emerged and wrote opposite the candelabrum on the plaster of the wall of the king's palace, and the king saw the palm of the hand that was writing.
6. Then the king—his color changed, and his thoughts frightened him, the belts of his loins became untied, and his knees knocked one against the other.
7. The king cried aloud to bring in the necromancers, the Chaldeans, and the astrologers. The king shouted and said to the wise men of Babylon, "Any man who shall read this writing and tell me its interpretation shall wear purple and [have] a golden chain on his neck and rule over a third of the kingdom."
8. Then all the king's wise men entered, but they could not read the writing or let the king know its interpretation.
9. Then King Belshazzar became very frightened, and his color changed, and his dignitaries were perplexed.
10. The queen, in response to the words of the king and his dignitaries, entered the banquet hall; the queen raised her voice and said, "May the king live forever! Let your thoughts not frighten you, and let your color not change.
11. There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the spirit of holy angels, and in your father's time enlightenment, understanding, and wisdom like the wisdom of the angels was found in him, and King Nebuchadnezzar, your father, appointed him prince of the necromancers, the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the demonologists; [so did] your father the king.
12. All because a superior spirit, knowledge, and understanding to interpret dreams, tell riddles, and untie knots was found in him, in Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar; now let Daniel be summoned and he will tell the interpretation."
13. Then Daniel was brought in before the king. The king raised his voice and said to Daniel, "You are Daniel, who is of the exiles of Judea, whom my father brought from Judea.
14. And I heard about you that the spirit of the angels is in you, and enlightenment, understanding, and superior wisdom is found in you.
15. And now the wise men, the astrologers, have been brought in before me, that they may read this writing and let me know its interpretation, but they cannot interpret the matter to tell [it].
16. And I have heard about you that you can interpret interpretations and untie knots. Now if you can read the writing and let me know its interpretation, you shall wear purple and [have] a golden chain on your neck, and [over] a third of the kingdom

you shall rule.”

17. Then Daniel raised his voice and said before the king, “Keep your gifts for yourself, and give your lavish gifts to someone else, but I shall read the writing for the king, and I shall let him know the interpretation.
18. You are the king [because] the Most High God gave your father, Nebuchadnezzar, kingdom, greatness, honor, and glory.
19. And through the greatness that He gave him, all peoples, nations, and tongues were quaking, and they feared him; whomever he wished he would slay, and whomever he wished he would let live; whomever he wished he would exalt, and whomever he wished he would humble.
20. And when his heart became haughty and his spirit was toughened so that he dealt wickedly, he was deposed from his royal throne, and the honor was removed from him.
21. And he was banished from mankind, and his heart was just like that of the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild asses. They fed him grass like the cattle, and his body was drenched with the dew of the heavens, until he realized that the Most High God rules over the kingdom of man, and whomever He wishes He sets up on it.
22. But you, his son, Belshazzar, you did not humble your heart in view of the fact that you know all this.
23. But over the Lord of heaven you exalted yourself, and the vessels of His House they brought before you, and you, your dignitaries, your queen, and your concubines drank wine in them, and you praised gods of silver and gold, copper, iron, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear nor know, but the God in Whose hand is your soul and all your ways—He you did not glorify.
24. Then from before Him the palm of a hand was sent forth, and it inscribed this writing.
25. And this is the writing that it inscribed: MENE MENE TEKEIL UFARSIN.
26. This is the interpretation of the matter: MENE—God has counted your kingdom and has brought it to an end.
27. TEKEIL—You were weighed on the scales and found wanting.
28. UFARSIN—Your kingdom has been broken up and given to Media and Persia.”
29. Then Belshazzar ordered, and they attired Daniel with purple and the golden chain on his neck, and they announced about him that he should rule over a third of the kingdom.
30. On that very night, Belshazzar, the Chaldean king, was assassinated.

#### [4] *Ezra Chapter 1*

1. And in the first year of Cyrus, the king of Persia, at the completion of the word of the Lord from the mouth of Jeremiah, the Lord aroused the Spirit of Cyrus, the king of Persia, and he issued a proclamation throughout his kingdom, and also in writing, saying:
2. “So said Cyrus, the king of Persia, ‘All the kingdoms of the earth the Lord God of the heavens delivered to me, and He commanded me to build Him a House in Jerusalem, which is in Judea.
3. Who is among you of all His people, may his God be with him, and he may ascend to Jerusalem, which is in Judea, and let him build the House of the Lord, God of Israel; He is the God Who is in Jerusalem.

#### [5] *Ezra Chapter 4*

1. Now the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the people of the exile were building a Temple for the Lord God of Israel.
2. And they approached Zerubbabel and the heads of the fathers’ houses and said to them, “Let us build with you, for like you we seek your God, and we have been sacrificing to Him since the days of Esarhaddon, the king of Assyria, who brought us up here.”
3. And Zerubbabel, Jeshua, and the rest of the heads of the fathers’ houses of Israel said to them, “It is not for you and for us

to build a House for our God, but we ourselves shall build for the Lord God of Israel, as King Cyrus, the king of Persia, commanded us.”

4. And the people of the land were hindering the people of Judea and frightening them from building.
5. And they would hire advisors against them to frustrate their plan, all the days of Cyrus, the king of Persia, and until the kingdom of Darius, the king of Persia.
6. And in the reign of Ahasuerus, in the beginning of his reign, they wrote an accusation against the dwellers of Judea and Jerusalem.
7. And in the days of Artaxerxes, Mithredath Tabeel and the rest of his colleagues wrote with peace, to Artaxerxes, the king of Persia, and the script of the epistle was written in Aramaic and explained in Aramaic.
8. Rehum was the secretary, and Shimshai (son of Haman, *Rashi*) was the scribe; they wrote a letter about Jerusalem to Artaxerxes the king, as is stated.
9. Then Rehum the secretary and Shimshai the scribe and the rest of their companies, the Dinites, the Apharesattechites, the Tarpelites, the Apharesites, the Archevites, the Babylonians, the Shushanchites, the Dehites, the Elamites.
10. And the rest of the nations whom the great and honored Asenappar exiled and settled in the cities of Samaria and the rest of the other side of the river and Ke’eneth.
11. This is the meaning of the letter that they sent to him, to Artaxerxes the king: “Your servants are the people of the other side of the river and Ke’eneth.
12. Let it be known to the king that the Jews who ascended from you upon us have come to Jerusalem, the rebellious and sinful city they are building, and the walls they have completed, and the walls they have joined.
13. Now let it be known to the king that if this city is built and the walls are founded, they will not give the king’s due, the head tax, or the meal tax they will not give, and the tax of the kings will suffer.
14. Now, in view of this, that we wish to destroy the Temple, and it is improper for us to witness the king’s disgrace, we have therefore sent and notified the king.
15. That one should search in the annals of your fathers, and you will find in the annals, and you will know that this city is a rebellious city, and it injures kings and countries, and they have made rebellion in its midst since days of yore; because of this, this city was destroyed.
16. We make known to the king that if this city is built, and its walls founded, because of this, you will have no part in the other side of the river.”
17. The king sent a word to Rehum the secretary and Shimshai the scribe and the rest of their companies who lived in Samaria, and the rest of the other side of the river, Shelam and Ke’eth.
18. “The letter that you sent to us was explained and read before me.
19. And the order was given by me, and they searched and found that this city had raised itself up over kings, and rebellion and disobedience were committed within it.
20. And mighty kings were over Jerusalem who ruled over all beyond the river, and the king’s due, the head tax, and the meal tax was given to them.
21. Now issue an order to stop these men, and this city shall not be built; until orders are given by me.
22. And beware of committing an error in this matter. Why should the damage increase to injure the kings?”
23. Then, since the interpretation of the letter of Artaxerxes the king was read before Rehum, and Shimshai the scribe, and their companies, they went in haste to Jerusalem to the Jews, and they stopped them with force and might.
24. Then the work of the House of God, which was in Jerusalem, was stopped, and it was suspended until the second year of the reign of Darius, the king of Persia.