Notes Chapter 6

1. When we get to this account of the destruction of Jerusalem in 605 B.C., the [minimalists] are nowhere to be found.

2. You find the passion of God … spoken through [Jeremiah].

3. At the battle of [Carchemish], Nebuchadnezzar … defeats Necho.

4. The prophet Jeremiah warned [Jehoiakim] that God had decided to put the Judahites under the control of Nebuchadnezzar.

5. [Azekah] and [Lachish] are the last two cities to fall.

6. In Jeremiah 36 there are [five] biblical figures corroborated by extra-biblical findings.

7. We have no right to expect this level of [corroboration] for any event that long ago.

8. We’ve seen that in [tiny, tiny details], and in the great movements of history, the biblical record is accurate.

**Thesis**

The biblical account of the Babylonian conquest of Judah contains many details supported by external evidence, making these events some of the most well attested in history.

What happen from the time period from the 6th century B.C. to the time of Christ? Did nothing happen in between?

- The Old Testament itself says little about what occurred after the Jews returned and Jerusalem was rebuilt. We have zeroed in on a few turning points in the life of Israel because the destruction from those times left much for the archaeologists to discover (remember why fire is the archaeologist’s best friend?), and documents from invading empires were more likely to mention the nation of Israel.

**Bullae for Us**

What happens to clay when exposed to fire? It hardens, and that explains why the little blobs of clay that citizens of ancient Israel used to seal documents — stamping the clay with their signet ring — have brought us impressive proof of the Bible’s reliability. The fires that destroyed Jerusalem (2 Kings 25:9), under the assault of the Babylonian army, also helped preserve these “bullae” for our benefit. Now we know that Jeremiah’s friend and scribe, Baruch son of Neriah (Jeremiah 36:4), along with several other key officials mentioned in Jeremiah’s account of events, really lived. It’s a good thing they didn’t use wax seals in those days, or, for that matter, e-mail.
### What’s the What?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>ZEDEKIAH [J]</td>
<td>A. ancient city-state located just south of modern Baghdad</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>JEHOIACHIN [E]</td>
<td>B. first king of Judah to rebel against Nebuchadnezzar</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>OSTRACON [G]</td>
<td>C. a person or country in a subordinate position to another</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>BABYLON [A]</td>
<td>D. Persian king who conquered Babylon</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>NECHO [F]</td>
<td>E. son of Jehoiakim</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>NEBUCHADNEZZAR [I]</td>
<td>F. Egyptian pharaoh defeated at Battle of Carchemish</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>CYRUS [D]</td>
<td>G. shard of pottery with writing on it</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>JEHOIAKIM [B]</td>
<td>H. Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>587 B.C. [H]</td>
<td>I. Babylonian king who conquered Judah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>VASSAL [C]</td>
<td>J. last king of Judah before the destruction</td>
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When Nebuchadnezzar burned down Jerusalem and carried off the survivors to his own country, it appeared to be the end of the nation that God had established centuries before. But as we saw, the Persian king who later conquered Babylon allowed the Jews to return to Israel/Judah and rebuild the city and Temple once again.

Nothing could deter our Creator from His plan to bring the Jews — and the whole world — a son of David who would save us from the dominion of darkness and offer eternal life. In the next lesson, we take a giant leap forward to Jesus’ day and begin looking at the amazing evidence that supports what we know from the New Testament about our Lord.

### Additional notes

1) Dr. Meyer stated that he likes this particular lesson because the Scriptures, especially in Jeremiah, reveal to us the existence, the mind and the heart of God. In addition, there are overwhelming amounts of external evidence which corroborate the Biblical account of this period of history.

2) See the following sections of Scripture as particularly relevant to this period of history: 2 Kings 24:1ff, 2 Chronicles 36, Jeremiah 29, 32-34 - also see the books of Daniel, Ezra (esp 1:1-3; 6:1-12)
3) Particular historical figures of importance:

- Sennacherib - King of Assyria, 705-681 BC
- Nebuchadnezzar - King of Babylon, 605-562 BC

- Jehoiakim King of Judah, 635-597 BC
  - Jehoiakim Burns Jeremiah’s Scroll
  - Listen to the text here: Jeremiah 36
  - Jehoiachin (also known as Jeconiah) was king for only three months in 597 BC, during which time he continued the notable evil of his father King Jehoiakim.
  - 2 Kings 24:8-9  *Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months. And his mother’s name was Nehushta, the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father had done.*
• Zedekiah King of Judah, 606-586 BC
  o **Zedekiah** was the last king of Judah before the destruction of the kingdom by Babylon. He was installed as king of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar II, king of Babylon, after a siege of Jerusalem, to succeed his nephew, Jeconiah (aka Jehoiachin), who was overthrown as king after a reign of only three months and ten days.

• Necho Pharaoh of Egypt, 610-594 BC
  o He defeated Judah and placed Jehoiakim on the throne in the place of his brother, Jehoahaz, both were the sons of King Josiah.

A small kneeling bronze statuette, likely Necho II, now residing in the Brooklyn Museum