

Until now, we've been before the point of no return. But we're about to pass it.

Perek 25

1: The following is a prophecy which Yirmiyahu heard in the fourth year of Yehoyakim. Which is the first year of Nebucadnezzar.

2-8: Do teshuva.

9: I will send my servant, Nebucadnezzar, to destroy this land and its people. He will be destroying the land for me. I will make them into [3 names for ruins]

10: I will rid the land of happy things like weddings, lamplight, and mills.

Rashi: Hashem will get rid of happiness and parties. The mills and lamplights are caterers and fancy candles.

Malbim: He will get rid of pure happiness like big, extravagant parties, but also more essential celebrations like weddings. But not only that, also the mills and lamps, things which everyone needs.

11: They will serve Babylon for 70 years. (VERY IMPORTANT PASUK)

12: When the 70 years are up, I will punish them, too.

13: I will bring upon בבל all which I have said against it, everything which Yirmiyahu prophesied against them.

14: Because great nations and mighty kings will enslave them (the babylonians), and Hashem will punish them for what they did. (And it's a never ending cycle, like a גדיה a גדיה)

70 years of exile = 45 years of Nebucadnezzar + 23 years of Evyl Merodach + 2 years of Belshatzar.

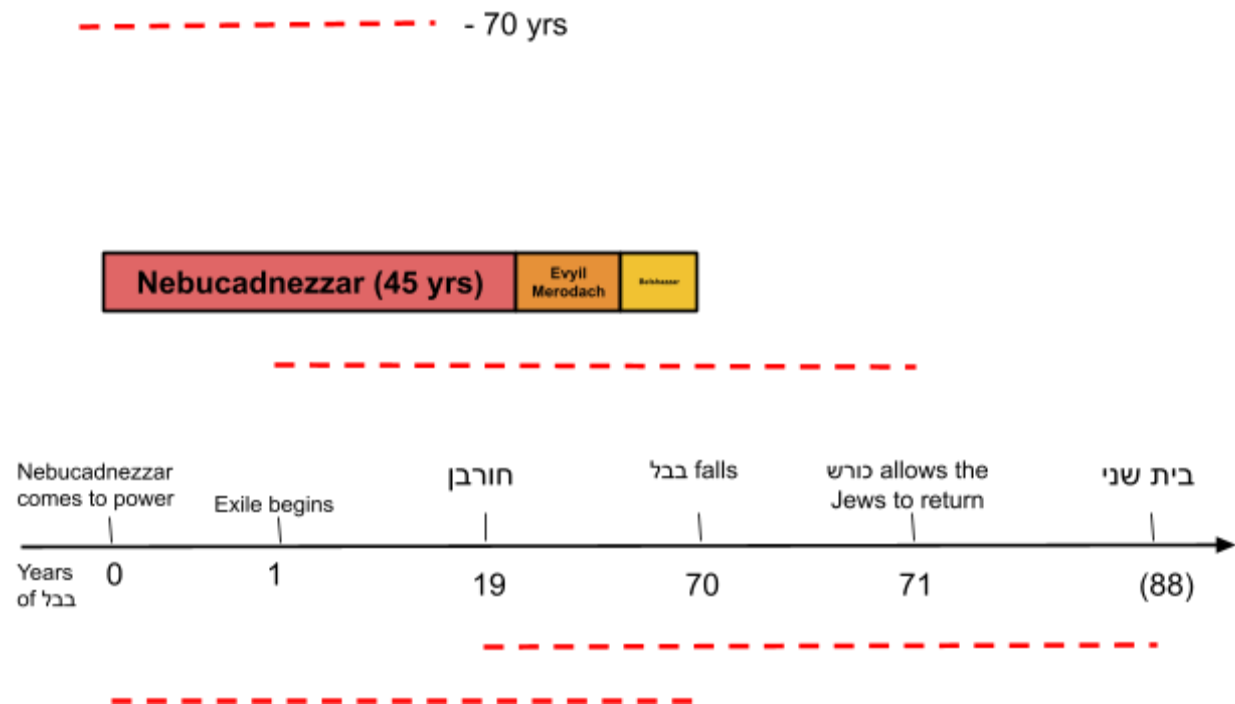
Belshatzar's Feast (דניאל ה')

Belshatzar made a big feast, where he was using the vessels from the בית המקדש, which his grandfather had taken. At the feast, there was a strange hand who wrote on the wall. Belshatzar was scared, and could not even understand the writing. He offered a huge reward for anyone who could interpret it.

Daniel answered, "Keep your gifts, but here's what it means: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. MENE: God has counted your kingdom and will end it. TEKEL,

you have come up short. UPHARSIN, your kingdom will be given to Persia, broken into pieces.
That night, Belshatzar was killed.

There are 3 times that the number 70 is mentioned in this context.
Here, 25:12 - "When the 70 years are up, I will punish the Babylonians..."
29:10 (Yirmiyahu to the Jews of בבל) - "When בבל has finished the 70 years, I will recall you. I will keep my good promises, and bring you back."



How can בבל be punished for carrying out ה' plans?

Ramban: How can they be punished? They did exactly what Hashem said would happen! (Like with פטרה.) His actions were following the allotted punishment, yes, but his intent wasn't to fulfill God's word. It was to hurt the Jews, and to increase his power.

Perek 36

In the fourth year of Yehoyakim, Hashem said to Yirmiyahu to write down everything that was told to him by Hashem. Maybe when the house of Yehuda hears what I intend to do to them, they will repent, and I can forgive them. So Yirmiyahu called Baruch ben Neriah (his right hand man) and Baruch wrote down in a scroll what Yirmiyahu dictated to him. Yirmiyahu told Baruch, “I am wanted, I cannot enter the בית המקדש. (He was under house arrest or something.) But you will go and read from the scroll, to the people in the בית המקדש on a fast day, speaking to all Yehuda who will be there that day. Maybe their begging will be accepted by Hashem, and they will do תשובה. Because Hashem is hotly angry with them.”

Pshat: He wrote Yirmiyahu א-כז.

Metzudat Dovid: This scroll is מגילת איכה, lamentations. He wrote it from the future perspective, as if the בית המקדש was already destroyed, to scare the people. And when he said “write down everything I told you” it means to use the punishments Hashem said would happen, and make them happen.

In Kislev, in the 5th year of Yehoyakim, there was a fast day. And then, Baruch read the scroll to everyone there. Michayhu ben Shafan heard this, and went down to the king’s palace, to the scribe. He saw all the scribes and told them about what the scroll said. They went out to Baruch and brought him into a separate room, asked him to read it to them. They said to each other fearfully, “We gotta tell the king.” “How did you write down all this?” Baruch said, “He told all these words to me, and I wrote them down.” They said to him, “You and Yirmiyahu, go into hiding. Don’t tell anyone where you are.” Then they read it to the king, who was in his winter house by the fire. [The woodchips burning in the fire are called נח, brothers. They light up like brotherhood, they are only strong together.] And as the scroll was being read, the king chopped it up and threw it into the fire. Until the entire thing was in the fire. But they didn’t lament, they begged the king not to burn the scroll. The king ordered Yerachmiel, his son, and a bunch of others to arrest Baruch and Yirmiyahu. But Hashem hid them. Hashem told Yirmiyahu to write another scroll, and to add how Yehoyakim burned the first scroll, and he

shall not have any heirs, I will punish him and leave his corpse out in the sun. And Yirmiyahu did so, and added more. [Radak (דברים, רבים, כהמה): There is a machloket as to what these extra words are. The first rabbi says that איכה perek bet (ועוד נוסף עליהם), gimmel (כהמה), daled (דברים), and heh (רבים).]

מלכים ב – כד

Babylon exiled the Jews

1. Exiled the King
2. Took all the gold from the temple
3. Exiled the soldiers, the nobility, etc.

Perek 24

Hashem showed me two baskets of figs in front of the temple. This was after Nebucadnezzar exiled the king and the officials. One basket had good figs, and one had bad figs. Hashem asked me what I saw, I told him. And Hashem responded that the good figs represent the Jews in exile, which he will look upon favorably and bring them back. And the bad figs are the king צדקיהו and his officials, and the people remaining in this land. I will make them a disgrace, those are the ones who will be a curse.

Rashi: The people being exiled were the torah scholars. How do we know this?

Malbim: The people being exiled were the good ones, like the good figs, because they were picked off the tree when they were still ripe, and the bad ones were left there to rot.

Perek 29

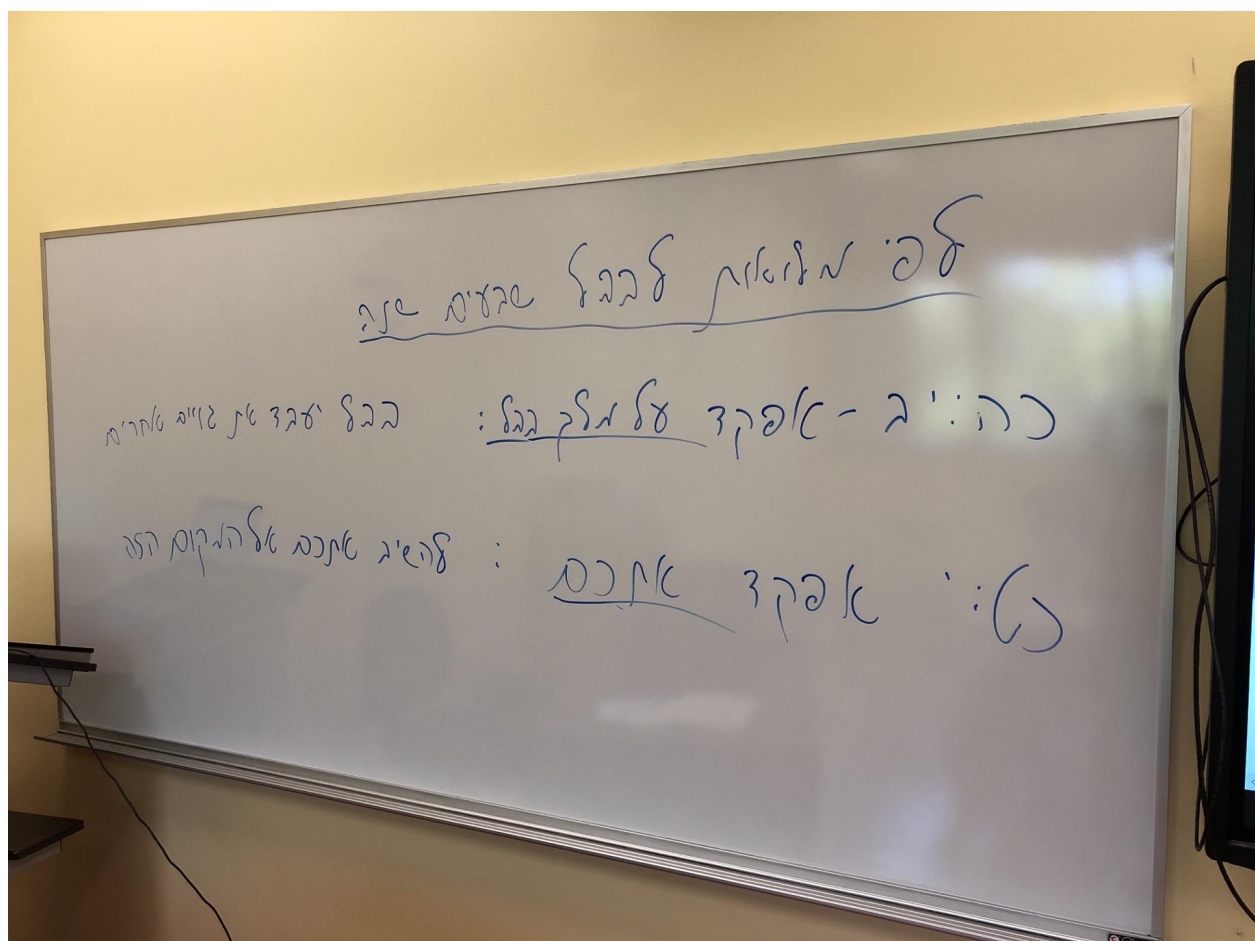
These are the words of the letter which Yirmiyahu sent from Jerusalem to the Jews in exile. The letter was sent through Elasah ben Shafan and Gmaryah ben Chilkiyah:

Build houses, live in them. Plant gardens and eat from them. (There's a halacha that you can't even eat fruit from a tree for the first 3 years. So get comfy.) Get married, have kids. Marry your kids. Keep having children, do not decrease. Pray for the welfare of where you are living, where I sent you. (Get involved. Help out.

Even if it's not a Jewish cause, help with it.) But don't let their prophets and magicians fool you, do not listen to the dreams which you dream there. (Because the dreams aren't from Hashem. They are brought by what you think about.)

Malbim: Caesar once asked Rabi Yehoshua, "You Jews are smart. What will I dream tonight?" In your dream, the Persians will force you to serve their king, and you will tend to their sheep with a gold staff. And he did dream that, because he was thinking about it all day. The king of persia asked the same thing to Shmuel, who responded that he would see himself serving the Romans and making wine with a gold crusher. And he thought about it all day, so he did dream that.

This is what I have to say: After these 70 years in Babylon, I will take you back to Israel. I know what I've planned, for your future. A bright future.



[Metzudat Dovid: I know my thoughts, and the fact that you will be in exile for 70 years is for *your* benefit. Your stuffed heart will be humbled. That will allow you to

have a good future, and you will come back to Israel to be a better person. (It's like the same idea of מצרים being a purifying furnace)]

I will gather you from all the places I sent you to, and bring you back to Israel.