

# EXILE

(597–538 BC)

**(Ezekiel and Daniel)**

People interpreted the events of the exile in two ways. First, those who saw the exile as a sign of God's weakness interpreted it negatively. During those times, people believed that if a nation won a war, it indicated that their god was mightier than the god of the enemy. Second, those who saw the exiles as God's punishment for sins the people committed interpreted it positively. Although God was not powerless, he let His people to be punished.

According to the covenant God made with His people, disobedience would be punished (Deut. 30:15-18). The Lord did not turn his back on His people. After all, he made a covenant with them to be their God. He continued to educate and encourage them through prophets such as Ezekiel and Daniel (who were prophets in Babylon) and Jeremiah (a prophet in Jerusalem and Egypt).

The exile changed the people's way of worshipping. Because they were now far away from the Jerusalem, the Temple and sacrifices could no longer be the focal point of their worship. Instead, prayer, confession and teaching became the focus of their worship. The gatherings in their homes preceded the assemblies in the synagogues. The Temple priests who were also taken into exile acted as interpreters of the Law.