

## **Special Note on Jeremiah's Prediction of the 70 Years**

The occasion for the events in chapter 9 was Daniel's understanding "from the Scriptures, according to the word of the LORD given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years" (Dan. 9:2).

Since this precise wording is not found in the book of Jeremiah, Daniel's statement must be understood as a general reference to what Jeremiah had said. There are two places where Jeremiah made a prediction relating to a period of seventy years. The first of these is Jeremiah 25:11-12 which reads as follows:

"This whole country will become a desolate wasteland, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years. But when the seventy years are fulfilled, I will punish the king of Babylon and his nation, the land of the Babylonians, for their guilt," declares the LORD, "and will make it desolate forever."

This prediction, given in 605-4 B.C., contains a number of elements: (1) the whole land of Israel will become a desolate wasteland; (2) "these nations" will (continue to) serve the king of Babylon seventy years; (3) after seventy years God will punish the king of Babylon and his nation for their iniquity; (4) God will make Babylon an everlasting desolation.

Although the phrase "seventy years" is used only with the