

the "books" of Jeremiah in the use of this Hebrew word. So when he said I understood by books the number of the years whereat <sup>by</sup> the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah" he is talking about Jeremiah, not about anything else. "That he would accomplish 70 years in the desolations of Jerusalem." Now this came to Jer. in Jer. 25:11,12 and that is definitely dated. It is dated in Jer. 25:1: "The word ~~of~~ that came to Jer. concerning all the people of Judah in the fourth yr. of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, that was the first yr. of Neb. king of Babylon." So that makes it 605 B.C. And in 605 B. C. Jeremiah says, this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment ~~and~~ and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon 70 years (vs.11). And it shall come to pass when 70 yrs. are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon ~~and~~ that nation saith the Lord for their iniquity and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations."

Now there are <sup>two</sup> / two or three big gaps in these verses. He says that this land will be a desolation and an astonishment. He is going to bring Nebuchadnezzar against the inhabitants of this land. Well what happened in 605? Nebuchadnezzar came into the land and made Jehoiakim become subserviant to him. And he took a few hostages including Daniel. There is no evidence he took more than a few people at that time. There is no reason to call that the beginning of the <sup>captivity</sup> exodus (??). There is certainly no reason to think that Judah became desolate at all at that time. Jehoiakim promised to obey him and for seven yrs. he paid heavy tribute to him and then he quit paying ~~tribute~~ <sup>tribute</sup>. And Nebuchadnezzar came with an army and Jehoiakim was killed and the Jews put Jehoniah in his place and he was there 3 months and then Nebuchadnezzar siezed him and took him off to Babylon as a prisoner and Nebuchadnezzar appointed Zedekiah king. But Judah continued to be nominally independent and there is no reason to think there was any great desolation in Judah at 605 B.C. There is no reason to think there was any great desolation in 597 when a substantial number of Judeans were taken off into captivity including Ezekiel. But the bulk of the people remained there until 586 when Nebuchadnezzar attacked the city and ~~besieged~~ <sup>besieged</sup> it for three years and destroyed the city. Then he took a ~~great~~ <sup>great</sup> number of people and just a few years later after Gedaliah was