

Davidic Kingdom
until 586 BCE



Exile and
Captivity



Diaspora
elsewhere in the
empire (most)



Restoration
Assembly in
Jerusalem (remnant)



• Nineveh

MEDIA

• Behistun

• Jerusalem

• Babylon

• Susa

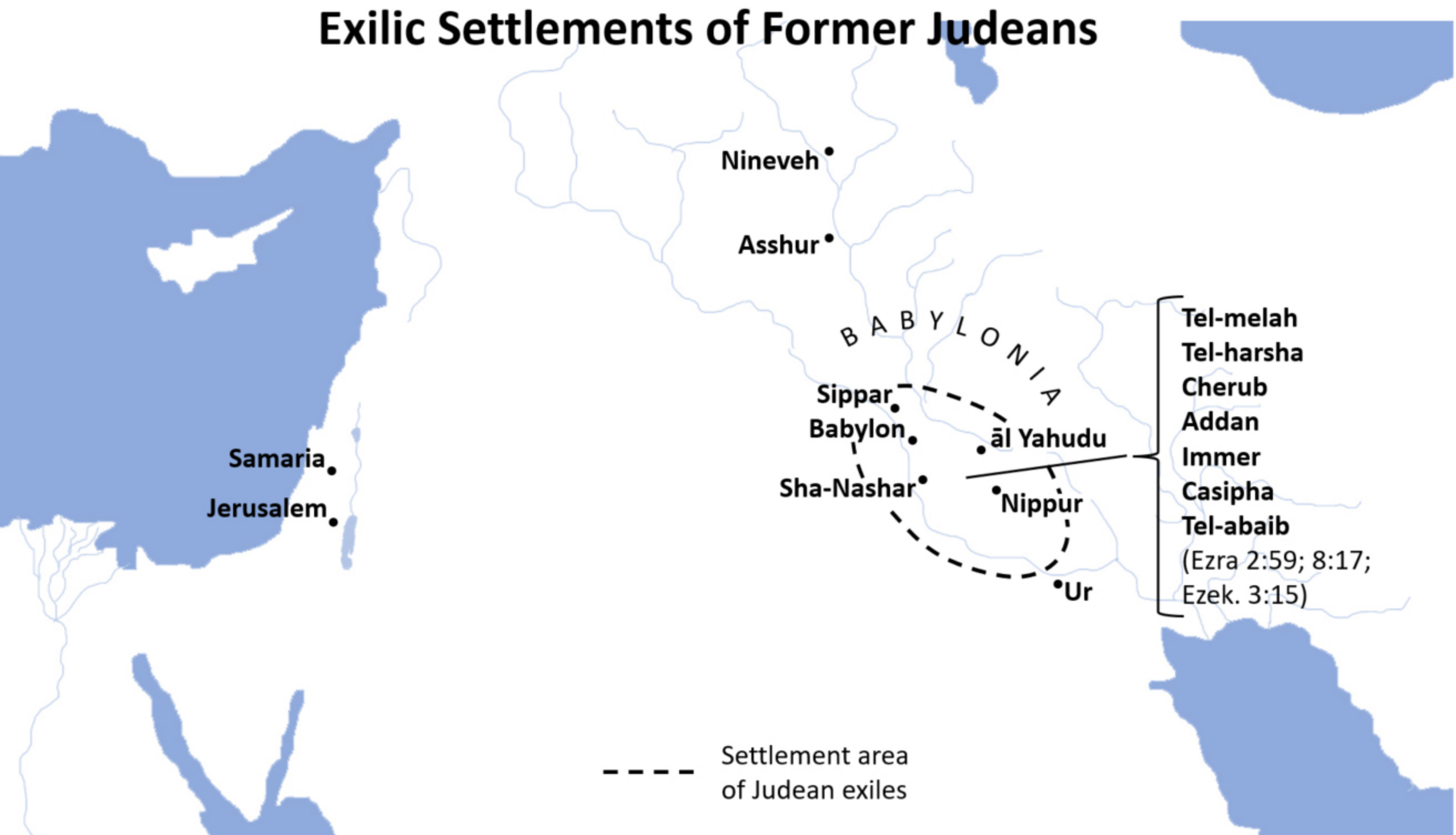
ELAM

• Persepolis

• Parsagarda

EGYPT

Exilic Settlements of Former Judeans



----- Settlement area
of Judean exiles

Return of Zerubbabel and Joshua to rebuild
the temple in Jerusalem (Ezra 1–6)

Return of Ezra with the Torah scroll to
confront renewed rebellion (Ezra 7–10)

Return of Nehemiah to rebuild the walls of
Jerusalem (Neh 1–6)

Covenant renewal and rebellion just like
their ancestors (Neh 7–13)

When the seventh month arrived, the Israelites were in their towns. All of the people gathered as one person in the plaza before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring the scroll of the Torah of Moses which Yahweh had commanded Israel.

(Neh 7:73–8:1, author's translation)

Jerusalem

Temple

**Water
Gate
(8:1)**

Hinnom Valley

Kidron Valley

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How many
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“all the
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Eleven!

“all the people”

6x

“the people”

3x

“men, women, and all who could understand”

2x

Reason one

Collective focus:

Old Testament study is not merely personal,
it's about our identity within God's people collectively

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Reason two

Multisensory:

Old Testament study is not merely informational,
we need dynamic engagement of our whole selves

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Who helps
the people
study
Scripture?

How do
they help?

Reason three

Teachers:

Old Testament study is not merely about personal effort,
we need reliable instruction in the word

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How many
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What is it
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How many times is the Torah scroll referred to including pronouns?
8x!

What is it called?

Reason four

Word from God:

The Old Testament is not merely descriptive of the past,
it is Yahweh's authoritative word to every generation

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How do
the people
respond to
the
Scripture
reading?

Reason five

Worship of God:

The Old Testament is not merely to be studied as an end in itself,
it points us in every generation to worship and service of the God who gave it

Next step?



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