

What Does the Bible Really Teach... about Babylon's 70 years?

What Jehovah's Witnesses believe	What Does the Bible <i>Really</i> Teach?
70 years was a period of Jewish exile	<p>70 years was a period during which the nations were to serve Babylon's king</p> <p>Jeremiah 25:11: And all this land will be reduced to ruins and will become an object of horror, and these nations will have to serve the king of Babylon for 70 years."</p>
Serving Babylon began when Jews were exiled to Babylon in the year Jerusalem was destroyed	<p>Serving Babylon began during the reign of Jehoiakim, many years prior to Jerusalem's destruction</p> <p>Jeremiah 27:1, 6: In the beginning of the reign of Je-hoi'a-kim son of Jo-si'ah, the king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from Jehovah: ... And now I have given all these lands into the hand of my servant King Neb-u-chad-nez'zar of Babylon; even the wild beasts of the field I have given him to serve him.</p> <p>The Jews could avoid exile by serving Babylon's king</p> <p>Jeremiah 27:11: "But the nation that brings its neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon and serves him, I will allow to remain on its land," declares Jehovah, 'to cultivate it and dwell in it.'"</p>
Babylon was conquered by Medo-Persia two years before 70 years ended	<p>Babylon's king would be called to account after 70 years</p> <p>Jeremiah 25:12: "But when 70 years have been fulfilled, I will call to account the king of Babylon and that nation for their error,' declares Jehovah, 'and I will make the land of the Chal-de'ans a desolate wasteland for all time.</p> <p>Babylon's king was called to account when Medo-Persia conquered Babylon</p> <p>Daniel 5:26–31: "This is the interpretation of the words: ME'NE, God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end. ²⁷ TE'KEL, you have been weighed in the balances and found lacking. ²⁸ PE'RES, your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and the Persians." ²⁹ Then Bel-shaz'zar gave the command, and they clothed Daniel with purple and placed a gold necklace around his neck; and they heralded concerning him that he was to become the third ruler in the kingdom. ³⁰ That very night Bel-shaz'zar the Chal-de'an king was killed. ³¹ And Da-ri'us the Mede received the kingdom; he was about 62 years old.</p>
Serving Babylon ended when Jews arrived in Judea	<p>Serving Babylon ended when Persia conquered Babylon</p> <p>2 Chronicles 36:20: He carried off captive to Babylon those who escaped the sword, and they became servants to him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia began to reign,</p>
70 years ended when Jews arrived in Judea	<p>Attention would be given to the Jews' return only after 70 years had been fulfilled</p> <p>Jeremiah 29:10: "For this is what Jehovah says, 'When 70 years at Babylon are fulfilled, I will turn my attention to you, and I will make good my promise by bringing you back to this place.'</p>