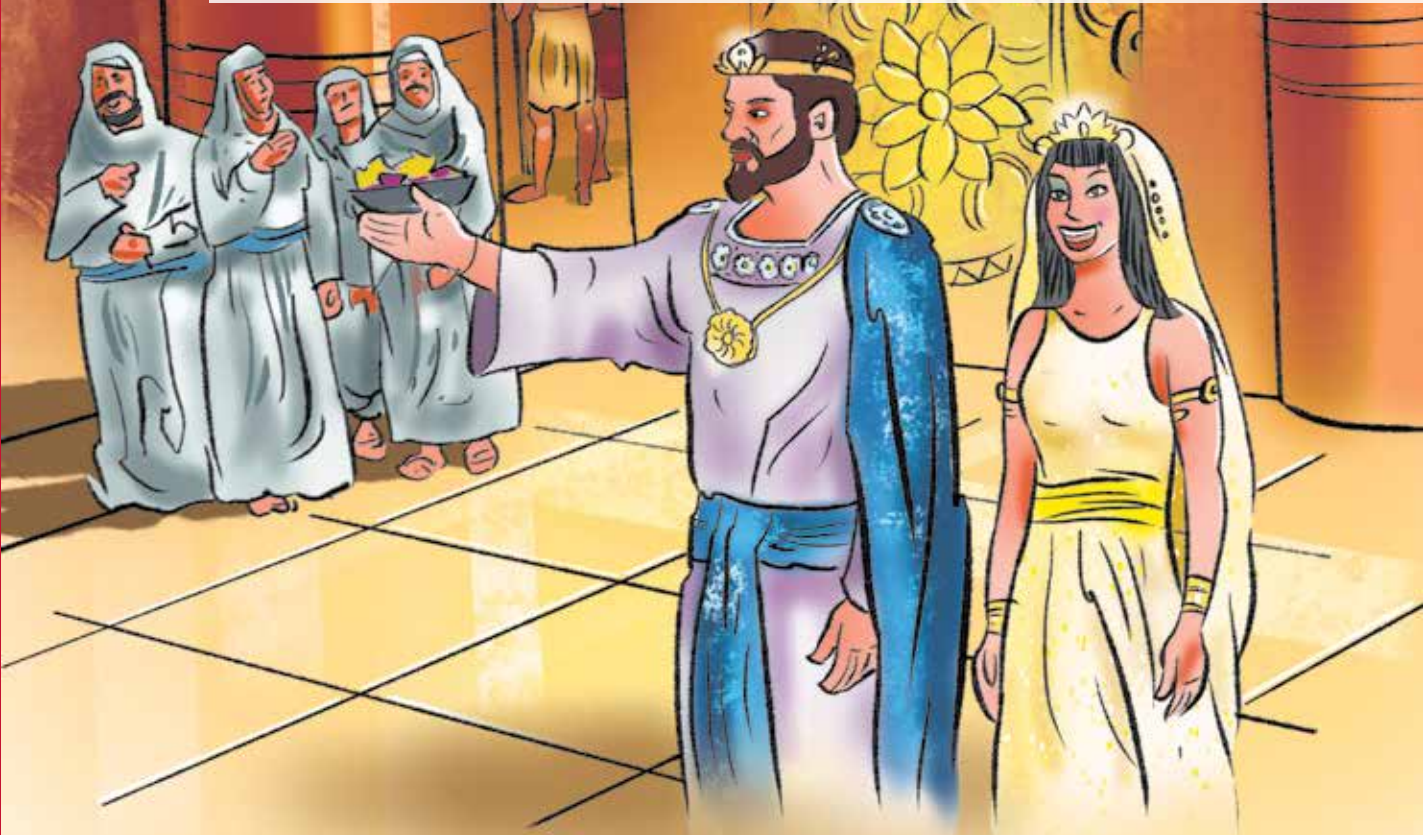


The Exile

The story of the people of Israel after King David shows what happens to human beings when they do not remain faithful to God. They end up suffering in a faraway land.



After David, his son, King Solomon, became famous for his wisdom and for building the beautiful Temple of Jerusalem. But after Solomon, the kingdom of Israel split into two nations. The people began to worship the idols and other false gods.

God sent many prophets to warn them. Still, the people refused to listen to them. Then one day King Nebuchadnezzar's army attacked Jerusalem. They pulled down the walls of the city and destroyed the beautiful temple built by King Solomon. The young and able people were taken as prisoners to Babylon, leaving behind only the old and sick.



Book: *By the River Piedra I Sat Down and Wept* is a novel of forgiveness by Paulo Coelho and the title is an exact imitation of psalm 137 (*By the rivers of Babylon*) that speaks about the Babylonian captivity or exile of the Israelites when king Nebuchadnezzar took them to Babylon. This novel from Paulo Coelho, author of the bestselling *The Alchemist*, tells a poignant, richly poetic story that reflects the depth of love and life.

Book: *The Sword of Judith - Judith Studies Across the Disciplines* is an edited work by Kevin R. Brine, Elena Ciletti and Henrika Lahnemann. It is related to the Babylonian exile. Judith's heroic action has become a validating character myth.

The people of Israel faced many hardships. Those who found themselves in a foreign land grew homesick and those left behind thought of the happier times. They remembered the Almighty God who loved and cared for them. They had broken the bond of friendship with their Lord. The Israelites began to realise that their disloyalty was the real cause behind their suffering.



By the rivers of Babylon we sat down; there we wept when we remembered Zion. On the willows nearby we hung up our harps. Those who captured us told us to sing; they told us to entertain them: “Sing us a song about Zion.” How can we sing a song to the Lord in a foreign land?

Psalm 137: 1-4

Watch the song 'By the rivers of Babylon...' on YouTube. Do you know this song has a much deeper meaning than simply entertaining music lovers? See if you can find the Jews' sadness at having lost sight of God!





In the boxes below you will find words with a number on top. Follow the sequence of the number and write down the words below from 1 to 35. See if it becomes a complete sentence.

in ⁰¹¹	Lord. ⁰³⁵	People ⁰⁰¹	a ⁰¹²	grew ⁰¹⁵	of ⁰²²	hardships. ⁰⁰⁶
Those ⁰⁰⁷	happier ⁰²⁴	friendship ⁰³²	times. ⁰²⁵	their ⁰³⁴	bond ⁰³⁰	behind ⁰²⁰
had ⁰²⁷	the ⁰²⁹	broken ⁰²⁸	with ⁰³³	They ⁰²⁶	themselves ⁰¹⁰	and ⁰¹⁷
many ⁰⁰⁵	those ⁰¹⁸	faced ⁰⁰⁴	homesick ⁰¹⁶	found ⁰⁰⁹	Israel ⁰⁰³	of ⁰³¹
thought ⁰²¹	left ⁰¹⁹	who ⁰⁰⁸	land ⁰¹⁴	of ⁰⁰²	the ⁰²³	foreign ⁰¹³

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Put your signature here if you have done it correctly

People of Israel faced many hardships. Those who found themselves in a foreign land grew homesick. And those left behind thought of the happier times. They had broken the bond of friendship with their Lord.