

“FINDING GOD IN FOREIGN PLACES”

The Book of Baruch

Who wrote The Book of Baruch?

Bible scholars generally agree that at least the first five chapters of the Book of Baruch were written by Baruch, the man who served as secretary and scribe to prophet Jeremiah.

How did The Book of Baruch get its name and/or what does that name mean?

Baruch means “blessed.” The book takes its name from its presumed author.

When did these events take place?

The Book of Baruch is a commentary on the period of the Babylonian exile which began with the fall of Jerusalem in 587 B.C. The Book of Baruch first appeared in approximately 160 B.C.

For more about The Book of Baruch:

See page 866 in the [Fireside Catholic Youth Bible](#).

Are you or have you ever known someone from a military family? They have a unique mindset about where they live. Often “home” for them (no matter how temporary) may actually be in a foreign land. Even if it is for an extended period of time, these dedicated families have adapted to being stationed around the world. During these extended stays overseas, even though they may live full lives and actually prosper there, they never forget that the US is still home. And, most of them are happy when their tour of duty overseas is concluded.

The people of Judah found themselves in this same situation during their 70 years of exile in Babylon. Although they were originally treated like prisoners of war, some of them actually thrived in this foreign land. But they never forgot where home was and they mourned the damage that had been done to Jerusalem. The Book of Baruch is the only book in the Old Testament that recalls that period of exile from within Babylon. In its entirety, it addresses Jerusalem from a distance.

Baruch, the scribe for the prophet Jeremiah, consoles the Jews, confesses their guilt and offers a prayer for their deliverance from captivity. He reminds them of the wisdom of the laws of Moses and of their relationship to a loving and merciful God. The Book concludes with a reminder from Jeremiah of the evils of idolatry and a call to remain faithful to God.

Interesting Fact: The Book of Baruch tells of the importance of prayer in our lives, no matter how difficult the situation.

Bonus Point: The book of Baruch draws heavily upon the writings of which three prophets?