

JANUARY 6-12

## 1 Nephi 1-7

**J**erusalem. The capital city of the kingdom of Judah, filled with political intrigue and wickedness. The past decade has been especially calamitous. Judah's kings were killed or captured; Jews were marched off to Babylon; prophets, such as Jeremiah, were threatened and imprisoned. It's no wonder the Lord told Lehi to flee (see 1 Nephi 2:1-2).

- POPULATION: **25,000**  
(big by ancient standards)
- TERRAIN: desert, fertile valleys, sloping hills
- CURRENCY: **money by weight** (silver, copper, gold; no coins)
- LANGUAGE: **Hebrew**
- WORKFORCE: craftsmen, merchants, slaves (considered members of the family); **most also farm**
- FOOD: fruit, bread, olives, figs, stew
- CLOTHING: **coarse wool, sandals**; white robes for priests

# What Was Jerusalem Like in Lehi's Time?



- RELIGION: **corrupt, idolatrous**; false prophets proclaim peace; a trumpeting ram's horn announces daily prayer
- SOCIAL STRUCTURE: **patriarchal**, including *elders* of the city, *chiefs* of the families, and the *excellent*, or "men of good birth"
- FAMILIES: households consist of multiple **homes surrounding a courtyard**, led by the father. Includes sons' families, unmarried daughters and aunts, and aging relatives.
- MILITARY: **none at present**. Any soldiers are Babylonians, to whom Judah pays tribute. ■

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