

Local Gods

A belief among Middle Eastern people in Old Testament times was that “gods” were local with a limited geographic sphere of influence. Osiris supposedly had authority in Egypt, Baal in Syria, Dagon for the Philistines, Marduk in Babylon and so on.

As a result, when Nebuchadnezzar invaded Judah in 586 B.C., he would not have wanted to interfere with the worship of the God of the Jews, and he didn't (Jeremiah 41:5). However, the Jews remained rebellious, killing Gedaliah, Nebuchadnezzar's governor for area (Jeremiah 41:2). So Nebuchadnezzar sent Nebuzaradan, captain of his guard to Jerusalem to carry off to Babylon the final captives (Jeremiah 52:30). Since sacrifices were indeed stopped, undoubtedly the priests were included in this final captivity.

*According to Daniel 9:17,
sacrifices were abandoned sometime
while Daniel was in Babylon,
but when?*