

## Geographical Distribution

- Babylonian and Persian periods (6th–4th BCE)  
*Babylonia, Egypt*
- Hellenistic and early Roman periods (4th BCE–1st CE)  
*Babylonia, Egypt, Cyrene, Syria, Asia Minor, Greece, Italy*
- By late antiquity (ca 500 CE)  
*Above + Carthage, Spain, Gaul*

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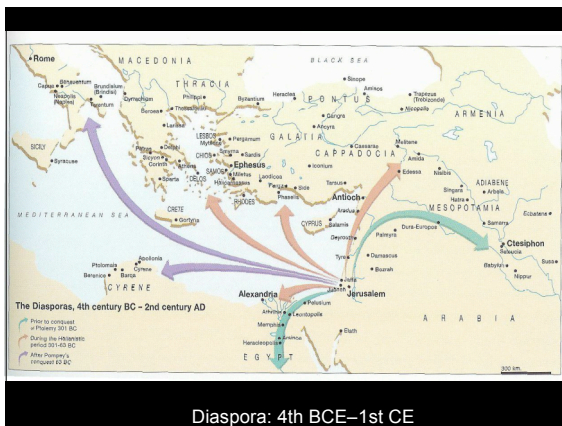
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Diaspora: 4th BCE–1st CE

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## Where did all the Jews come from?

- Earliest examples show the following:
  - Displacement by war (i): refugees
    - Egypt (Jeremiah)
    - Later, presumed as well
  - Displacement by war (ii): captives and slaves
    - Babylonia (Jeremiah, Kings)
    - Later: Hellenistic Egypt; Syria
  - Military colonies
    - Egypt (Elephantine) (papyri from 5th C BCE)
    - Later: Hellenistic Asia Minor, Egypt
- Presumably "opportunity." **But** do not confuse with modern economic opportunities.
- For demographic reasons, perhaps have to assume: conversion, adherence, and/or intermarriage?

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## Elephantine: 5th C. BCE

- Egypt: one of the two earliest known Diaspora areas of Judaeans (other is Mesopotamia).
- History: When first appear already a military colony of Judaeans under Persians; claim that served under Egyptian kings as well.
- Had functioning sacrificial temple.
- Some documents suggest polytheism
- Clashes with Egyptian priests of Khnum on island (destroy the temple, 410)
- Note: Complain (407) that they had written to both Jerusalem and Samaria for support.

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Elephantine: Papyrus (petition to restore Temple) and Temple

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