

BEWER

DOUGLAS

Not by Jeremiah under the following reasons: 1. The historical situation w/ which they deal is the exile, shortly before the fall of Babylon (539 B.C.), when Jeremiah was no longer living;... but a compilation of many poems in which Babylon's fall and desolation and Isaael's return, is constantly repeated w/ strong literary dependence on Isa. 13:2-14-23;21; 40-55 and also on the book of Jeremiah, both its genuine and its later parts. ... a Jeremiah nucleus is contained in these chapters.

The prophecy was not fulfilled as soon as hoped for. Babylon was captured but not destroyed by Cyrus (539 B.C.), and remained an important city. Though Herodotus reports that Darius I broke down its walls and gates, this is not confirmed by Darius, who is silent about it. But Xerxes I tells, in a recent discovered inscription, of his terrible destruction of Babylon. Death prevented Alexander's plan of restoring Babylon as his capital. The newly founded Seleucia on the Tigris became the eastern capital, and Babylon fell into decay. In the last century B.C. "The great city was a great desert" (Strabo XIV, 1, 5).