Contents

Acknowledgments ................................................. ix
Introduction ......................................................... xi
Contents ............................................................ vii

1. The End of the Kingdom of Judah: .............................. 1
   The Geopolitical Background ................................. 1
      i.1. The Geopolitical Situation and the
           Geographic Region 1
      i.2. The Region “Beyond the River” under Assyrian Rule 3
      i.3. The End of the Pax Assyriaca Era 11
      i.4. The Egyptian Empire of the 26th (Saite) Dynasty 20
      i.5. The Rise of the Neo-Babylonian Dynasty and
           Its Interests “Across the River” 29
      i.6. The Babylonian–Egyptian Struggle
           (609–605 B.C.E.) 32

2. Judah under Babylonian Rule ................................ 36
   2.1. The Babylonian Domination of Ḫatti-Land and the
        Characteristics of Nebuchadnezzar II’s Policy 36
   2.2. The Fall of Jerusalem: A Historical Synthesis 68
   2.3. The Biblical Account of the History of the
        Province of Judah (586–538 B.C.E.) 97
       Excursus 1: The Names in 2 Kings 25:23 and
                  Jeremiah 40:8 126
       Excursus 2: The Redaction of Jeremiah 40:7, 11 131

3. Changes in the Borders of Judah between the End of
   the Iron Age and the Persian Period ......................... 134
   Demographic and Geopolitical Processes
   in the Sixth Century B.C.E.
      3.1. The Borders of the Kingdom of Judah during
           the Days of King Josiah 135
      3.2. The Boundaries of Judah during the
           Hellenistic Period 146
### Contents

3.3. Demographic and Geopolitical Processes under Babylonian Rule 149
3.4. Evidence regarding the Boundaries of the Province of Yehud under Persian Rule 154
3.5. Shaping the Boundaries of Judah under Babylonian Rule: Demographic and Geopolitical Processes between the Seventh and the Fifth Centuries B.C.E. 181

4. The Significance of Material Culture for Understanding the History of Judah under Babylonian Rule 185
4.1. The Study of the Babylonian Period in Archaeological Research of Palestine 185
4.2. Continuity in the Pottery Assemblages as a Link between the Iron Age and the Persian Period 192
4.3. Between Destruction and Continuity: The Archaeological Picture 206
4.4. Demographic Changes in Judah between the Seventh and Fifth Centuries B.C.E. 258

5. Babylonian Rule, the Destruction of Jerusalem, the Exile, and the “Remnant” in Judah 272
   5.1. The Description of the Destruction of Jerusalem and Its Causes in 2 Kings: The Date of Composition, Place of Writing, Sources, and Purposes 272
   5.2. Jeremiah 37–44: The Date, Location, Sources, and Purposes of the Composition 304
   5.3. Summary: The Date of the Historiographical Accounts 348
   5.4. Babylonian Rule, the Destruction of Jerusalem, the Exile, and the Remnant in Judah: Perceptions and Trends in Biblical Historiography 349

6. Summary 360

Abbreviations 379
Bibliography 383
Indexes 449

Index of Authors 449
Index of Scripture 457
Index of Ancient Places and Sites 469