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## **Judeans in Babylonia : a study of deportees in the Sixth and Fifth Centuries BCE**

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## **Stellingen**

behorende bij het proefschrift

### **Judeans in Babylonia**

#### **A Study of Deportees in the Sixth and Fifth Centuries BCE**

van Tero Alstola

1. Judeans and other deportees were primarily resettled in the Babylonian countryside in order to increase agricultural output and tax revenue.
2. Although the majority of deportees tilled land in the countryside, some merchants and officials enjoyed a higher standard of living.
3. The Babylonian policy of resettling deportees in rural communities according to their ethnic origin helped the deportees nurture their own culture.
4. Studies of Near Eastern history should better acknowledge population diversity in ancient societies.
5. The Hebrew Bible sheds light on the exilic experience and its theological reflections, not on life in Babylonia.

6. The alleged return migration from Babylonia to Judah (cf. the books of Ezra and Nehemiah) has to be examined within the parameters of Judean life in Babylonia.
7. The present thesis provides an example of a research topic which benefits from interdisciplinary collaboration between Assyriology and biblical studies.
8. Teamwork and collaborative projects advance research in humanities, but this potential has not been fully realised.
9. Migration is an age-old phenomenon and an essential part of human existence.
10. Writing a history shows how things could have been, hiking in the wilderness shows how things are.
11. The author's four-year exile by the canals of Leiden demonstrates that living in a foreign land is an awarding and demanding experience.