

2 Kings 25:1-30 **Judah falls under Babylonian Captivity**

Gedaliah made Governor – Jehoiachin released from prison & honored

The Fall and Captivity of Judah (2 Chronicles 36:15-21; Jeremiah 52:4-30)

1 Now it came to pass in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and all his army came against Jerusalem and encamped against it; and they built a siege wall against it all around. **2** So the city was besieged until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah.

3 By the ninth day of the fourth month the famine had become so severe in the city that there was no food for the people of the land.

4 Then the city wall was broken through, and all the men of war fled at night by way of the gate between two walls, which was by the king's garden, even though the Chaldeans were still encamped all around against the city. And the king went by way of the plain.

5 But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king, and they overtook him in the plains of Jericho. All his army was scattered from him. **6** So they took the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah, and they pronounced judgment on him.

7 Then they killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, put out the eyes of Zedekiah, bound him with bronze fetters, and took him to Babylon.

8 And in the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month (which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon), Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. **9** He burned the house of the Lord and the king's house; all the houses of Jerusalem, that is, all the houses of the great, he burned with fire. **10** And all the army of the Chaldeans who were with the captain of the guard broke down the walls of Jerusalem all around.

11 Then Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away captive the rest of the people who remained in the city and the defectors who had deserted to the king of Babylon, with the rest of the multitude. **12** But the captain of the guard left some of the poor of the land as vinedressers and farmers.

13 The bronze pillars that were in the house of the Lord, and the carts and the bronze Sea that were in the house of the Lord, the Chaldeans broke in pieces, and carried their bronze to Babylon. **14** They also took away the pots, the shovels, the trimmers, the spoons, and all the bronze utensils with which the priests ministered. **15** The firepans and the basins, the things of solid gold and solid silver, the captain of the guard took away. **16** The two pillars, one Sea, and the carts, which Solomon had made for the house of the Lord, the bronze of all these articles was beyond measure. **17** The height of one pillar was eighteen cubits, and the capital on it was of bronze. The height of the capital was three cubits, and the network and pomegranates all around the capital were all of bronze. The second pillar was the same, with a network.

18 And the captain of the guard took Seraiah the chief priest, Zephaniah the second priest, and the three doorkeepers. **19** He also took out of the city an officer who had charge of the men of war, five men of the king's close associates who were found in the city, the chief recruiting officer of the army, who mustered the people of the land, and sixty men of the people of the land who were found in the city. **20** So Nebuzaradan, captain of the guard, took these and brought them to the king of

Babylon at Riblah. ²¹ Then the king of Babylon struck them and put them to death at Riblah in the land of Hamath. Thus Judah was carried away captive from its own land.

Gedaliah Made Governor of Judah (Jeremiah 40:5-41:18)

²² Then he made Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, governor over the people who remained in the land of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had left. ²³ Now when all the captains of the armies, they and their men, heard that the king of Babylon had made Gedaliah governor, they came to Gedaliah at Mizpah — Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, Johanan the son of Careah, Seraiah the son of Tanhumeth the Netophathite, and Jaazaniah the son of a Maachathite, they and their men. ²⁴ And Gedaliah took an oath before them and their men, and said to them, "Do not be afraid of the servants of the Chaldeans. Dwell in the land and serve the king of Babylon, and it shall be well with you."

²⁵ But it happened in the seventh month that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, the son of Elishama, of the royal family, came with ten men and struck and killed Gedaliah, the Jews, as well as the Chaldeans who were with him at Mizpah.

²⁶ And all the people, small and great, and the captains of the armies, arose and went to Egypt; for they were afraid of the Chaldeans.

Jehoiachin Released from Prison (Jeremiah 52:31-34)

²⁷ Now it came to pass in the thirty-seventh year of the captivity of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, that Evil-Merodach king of Babylon, in the year that he began to reign, released Jehoiachin king of Judah from prison. ²⁸ He spoke kindly to him, and gave him a more prominent seat than those of the kings who were with him in Babylon. ²⁹ So Jehoiachin changed from his prison garments, and he ate bread regularly before the king all the days of his life. ³⁰ And as for his provisions, there was a regular ration given him by the king, a portion for each day, all the days of his life.

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Facts Revealed:

- ✧ In the eighth year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon made Jehoiachin's uncle Mattaniah king of Judah and changed his name to Zedekiah.

Then Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon. [2 Kings 24:17-20]

The Fall and Captivity of Judah (2 Chronicles 36:15-21; Jeremiah 52:4-30)

- ✧ In the ninth year tenth month and tenth day of the month of the reign of Zedekiah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon brought all his army and besieged Jerusalem until the eleventh year of king Zedekiah. [2 Kings 25:1-2, Jeremiah 52:4-5]
- ✧ By the ninth day of the fourth month of the famine, there was no food for the people. They broke through the wall and the king and all the men of war fled at night through a gate between two walls near the king's garden while the Chaldeans were encamped all around the city. They fled toward Jericho with the Chaldeans in swift pursuit, and they were overtaken in the plains of Jericho where all his army scattered from him. [2 Kings 25:3-5, Jeremiah 52:6-8]
- ✧ Zedekiah the king and all the party with him were taken up to the king of Babylon at Riblah where they killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes and put out the eyes of Zedekiah, bound him with bronze fetters, and took him to Babylon where he was in prison until the day of his death. [2 Kings 25:6-7, Jeremiah 52:9-11]
- ✧ The seventh day of the fifth month of the nineteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard of the king of Babylon, took his forces to

Jerusalem, burned Temple of Yahweh, the palace of the king, and all the houses of the great men of the city with fire, broke down the walls of Jerusalem and carried captive the rest of the people in the city with those who had come out to the Babylonians. He left some of the poor people as vinedressers and farmers. [2 Kings 25:8-12, Jeremiah 52:12-16]

- ✧ All the bronze work of the Temple from the time of Solomon was taken to Babylon. [2 Kings 25:13-17, Jeremiah 52:17-23]
- ✧ The Priests and officers of the city had been taken to the king of Babylon at Riblah and killed there. [2 Kings 25:18-21, Jeremiah 52:24-27]
- ✧ These are the people whom Nebuchadnezzar carried away captive: in the seventh year, three thousand and twenty-three Jews; in the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar he carried away captive from Jerusalem eight hundred and thirty-two persons; in the twenty-third year of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away captive of the Jews seven hundred and forty-five persons. All the persons were four thousand six hundred. [Jeremiah 52:28-30, 2 Chronicles 36:20-21]

Gedaliah made Governor of Judah [2 Kings 25:22-26] (Jeremiah 40:5-41:18)

- ✧ Gedaliah was appointed as governor of the people left in the land by the king of Babylon. When the military people who had escaped the Babylonians heard that Gedaliah was made governor, they came to Gedaliah at Mizpah. Gedaliah took an oath before them and their men, and said to them, "Do not be afraid of the servants of the Chaldeans. Dwell in the land and serve the king of Babylon, and it shall be well with you." [2 Kings 25:22-24, Jeremiah 40:7-9]
- ✧ But it happened in the seventh month that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, the son of Elishama, of the royal family, came with ten men and struck and killed Gedaliah, the Jews, as well as the Chaldeans who were with him at Mizpah. And all the people, small and great, and the captains of the armies, arose and went to Egypt; for they were afraid of the Chaldeans. [2 Kings 25:25-26, Jeremiah 41:1-18, 42:1-22, 43:1-7]

Jehoiachin Released from Prison (Jeremiah 52:31-34)

- ✧ Evil Merodach became king of Babylon in the 37th year of the captivity of Jehoiachin king of Judah and he set Jehoiachin free from prison and gave him a more prominent seat than the other kings with him in Babylon. Jehoiachin ate before the king of Babylon the remaining days of his life. [2 Kings 25:27-30, Jeremiah 52:31-34]