

Jeremiah 40:1-16 **Gedaliah Governor – The Remnant who came to him.**

Jeremiah with Gedaliah the Governor (2 Kings 25:22-26)

1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord after Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard had let him go from Ramah, when he had taken him bound in chains among all who were carried away captive from Jerusalem and Judah, who were carried away captive to Babylon.

2 And the captain of the guard took Jeremiah and said to him: "The Lord your God has pronounced this doom on this place. 3 Now the Lord has brought it, and has done just as He said. Because you people have sinned against the Lord, and not obeyed His voice, therefore this thing has come upon you.

4 And now look, I free you this day from the chains that were on your hand. If it seems good to you to come with me to Babylon, come, and I will look after you. But if it seems wrong for you to come with me to Babylon, remain here. See, all the land is before you; wherever it seems good and convenient for you to go, go there."

5 Now while Jeremiah had not yet gone back, Nebuzaradan said, "Go back to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, whom the king of Babylon has made governor over the cities of Judah, and dwell with him among the people. Or go wherever it seems convenient for you to go." So the captain of the guard gave him rations and a gift and let him go.

6 Then Jeremiah went to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, to Mizpah, and dwelt with him among the people who were left in the land.

7 And when all the captains of the armies who were in the fields, they and their men, heard that the king of Babylon had made Gedaliah the son of Ahikam governor in the land, and had committed to him men, women, children, and the poorest of the land who had not been carried away captive to Babylon, 8 then they came to Gedaliah at Mizpah — Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, Johanan and Jonathan the sons of Kareah, Seraiah the son of Tanhumeth, the sons of Ephai the Netophathite, and Jezaniah the son of a Maachathite, they and their men.

9 And Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, took an oath before them and their men, saying, "Do not be afraid to serve the Chaldeans. Dwell in the land and serve the king of Babylon, and it shall be well with you. 10 As for me, I will indeed dwell at Mizpah and serve the Chaldeans who come to us. But you, gather wine and summer fruit and oil, put them in your vessels, and dwell in your cities that you have taken."

11 Likewise, when all the Jews who were in Moab, among the Ammonites, in Edom, and who were in all the countries, heard that the king of Babylon had left a remnant of Judah, and that he had set over them Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, 12 then all the Jews returned out of all places where they had been driven, and came to the land of Judah, to Gedaliah at Mizpah, and gathered wine and summer fruit in abundance.

13 Moreover Johanan the son of Kareah and all the captains of the forces that were in the fields came to Gedaliah at Mizpah, 14 and said to him, "Do you certainly know that Baalis the king of the Ammonites has sent Ishmael the son of Nethaniah to murder you?" But Gedaliah the son of Ahikam did not believe them.

15 Then Johanan the son of Kareah spoke secretly to Gedaliah in Mizpah, saying, "Let me go, please, and I will kill Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and no one will know it. Why should he murder you, so that all the Jews who are gathered to you would be scattered, and the remnant in Judah perish?"

16 But Gedaliah the son of Ahikam said to Johanan the son of Kareah, "You shall not do this thing, for you speak falsely concerning Ishmael."
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Facts Revealed:

- ✧ The word that came to Jeremiah from Yahweh (the Lord) after Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard had let him go from Ramah, when he had taken him bound in chains among all who were carried away captive from Jerusalem and Judah, who were carried away captive to Babylon. [\[Jeremiah 40:1\]](#)
- ✧ In the story that follows in this chapter there is no word from Yahweh, only history of events, however Yahweh did speak to Jeremiah after he returned from Ramah before they took him to Egypt. [\[Jeremiah 42:7\]](#)
- ✧ Jeremiah had been taken from the prison in Jerusalem in chains to Ramah along with all the people taken captive from Jerusalem.
- ✧ Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon was at Riblah in the land of Hamath. [\[Jeremiah 39:5\]](#)
- ✧ And the captain of the guard took Jeremiah and said to him: "Yahweh Eloheyk (The Lord your God) has pronounced this doom on this place. Now Yahweh (the Lord) has brought it, and has done just as He said. Because you people have sinned against Yahweh (the Lord), and not obeyed His voice, therefore this thing has come upon you. [\[Jeremiah 40:2-3\]](#)
- ✧ Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard reminded Jeremiah why Jerusalem had fallen into the hands of the Chaldeans because of their sins against Yahweh.
- ✧ Gentiles knew that Yahweh is a God of His word Who did what He said He would do.
- ✧ By God's dealing with His people Israel, the Gentiles know about the name and character of Yahweh.
- ✧ And now look, I free you this day from the chains that were on your hand. If it seems good to you to come with me to Babylon, come, and I will look after you. But if it seems wrong for you to come with me to Babylon, remain here. See, all the land is before you; wherever it seems good and convenient for you to go, go there."

Now while Jeremiah had not yet gone back, Nebuzaradan said, "Go back to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, whom the king of Babylon has made governor over the cities of Judah, and dwell with him among the people. Or go wherever it seems convenient for you to go." So the captain of the guard gave him rations and a gift and let him go. [\[Jeremiah 40:4-5\]](#)

- ✧ According to the instructions of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard set Jeremiah free with the choice of going to Babylon where he would be cared for or go wherever he chooses. [\[Jeremiah 39:11-12\]](#)
- ✧ As Jeremiah delayed his return Nebuzaradan suggested he go to Gedaliah who had been appointed as governor of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar or go wherever he chooses.
- ✧ Jeremiah was given rations and a gift and released to go.

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- ✧ Then Jeremiah went to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, to Mizpah, and dwelt with him among the people who were left in the land. [\[Jeremiah 40:6\]](#)

- ✧ Jeremiah chose to take the advise of Nebuzaradan so he went to Gedaliah to dwell among his own people in their home land.
- ✧ And when all the captains of the armies who were in the fields, they and their men, heard that the king of Babylon had made Gedaliah the son of Ahikam governor in the land, and had committed to him men, women, children, and the poorest of the land who had not been carried away captive to Babylon, then they came to Gedaliah at Mizpah — Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, Johanan and Jonathan the sons of Kareah, Seraiah the son of Tanhumeth, the sons of Ephai the Netophathite, and Jezaniah the son of a Maachathite, they and their men. [[Jeremiah 40:7-8](#)]
- ✧ The captains and their armies who had escaped the Babylonians came to Gedaliah when they heard that he had been made Governor of the land over those who were not carried to Babylon.
- ✧ And Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, took an oath before them and their men, saying, "Do not be afraid to serve the Chaldeans. Dwell in the land and serve the king of Babylon, and it shall be well with you. As for me, I will indeed dwell at Mizpah and serve the Chaldeans who come to us. But you, gather wine and summer fruit and oil, put them in your vessels, and dwell in your cities that you have taken." [[Jeremiah 40:9-10](#)]
- ✧ Gedaliah's advice was to serve the king of Babylon and dwell in the land in the cities that remained. All the produce of the land was left for the remnant who were left behind and as taxes for the conqueror.
- ✧ Likewise, when all the **Jews** who were in Moab, among the Ammonites, in Edom, and who were in all the countries, heard that the king of Babylon had left a remnant of Judah, and that he had set over them Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, then all the Jews returned out of all places where they had been driven, and came to the land of Judah, to Gedaliah at Mizpah, and gathered wine and summer fruit in abundance. [[Jeremiah 40:11-12](#)]
- ✧ The people of Judah were first called Jews at the time of the Babylonian captivity. [[Jeremiah 40:11](#), [2 Kings 25:25](#)]
- ✧ The name applied to those who had escaped the Babylonians in other countries, those left in Judah, and those in Babylonian captivity and when Jeremiah purchased the property as a sign that the people would return to Judah and buy and sell property after the Captivity seventy years ended. [[Jeremiah 32:12](#)]
- ✧ The Jews returned to Gedaliah from all the countries where they had fled as refugees to escape the Babylonians.
- ✧ There was an abundance of produce of the land because there were so few people left.
- ✧ Moreover Johanan the son of Kareah and all the captains of the forces that were in the fields came to Gedaliah at Mizpah, and said to him, "Do you certainly know that Baalis the king of the Ammonites has sent Ishmael the son of Nethaniah to murder you?" But Gedaliah the son of Ahikam did not believe them.

Then Johanan the son of Kareah spoke secretly to Gedaliah in Mizpah, saying, "Let me go, please, and I will kill Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and no one will know it. Why should he murder you, so that all the Jews who are gathered to you would be scattered, and the remnant in Judah perish?"

But Gedaliah the son of Ahikam said to Johanan the son of Kareah, "You shall not do this thing, for you speak falsely concerning Ishmael." [[Jeremiah 40:13-16](#)]

✧ The soldiers who came to Gedaliah warned him of a threat to kill him.

✧ Johanan offered to protect him by killing Ishmael so the remnant might not perish but Gedaliah did not believe them and refused the offer.