

Jeremiah 41:1-18 **Murder of Gedaliah – Plan to go to Egypt**

Insurrection Against Gedaliah

1 Now it came to pass in the seventh month that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, the son of Elishama, of the royal family and of the officers of the king, came with ten men to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, at Mizpah. And there they ate bread together in Mizpah.

2 Then Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and the ten men who were with him, arose and struck Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, with the sword, and killed him whom the king of Babylon had made governor over the land.

3 Ishmael also struck down all the Jews who were with him, that is, with Gedaliah at Mizpah, and the Chaldeans who were found there, the men of war.

4 And it happened, on the second day after he had killed Gedaliah, when as yet no one knew it, 5 that certain men came from Shechem, from Shiloh, and from Samaria, eighty men with their beards shaved and their clothes torn, having cut themselves, with offerings and incense in their hand, to bring them to the house of Yahweh (the Lord).

6 Now Ishmael the son of Nethaniah went out from Mizpah to meet them, weeping as he went along; and it happened as he met them that he said to them, "Come to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam!"

7 So it was, when they came into the midst of the city, that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah killed them and cast them into the midst of a pit, he and the men who were with him.

8 But ten men were found among them who said to Ishmael, "Do not kill us, for we have treasures of wheat, barley, oil, and honey in the field." So he desisted and did not kill them among their brethren.

9 Now the pit into which Ishmael had cast all the dead bodies of the men whom he had slain, because of Gedaliah, was the same one Asa the king had made for fear of Baasha king of Israel. Ishmael the son of Nethaniah filled it with the slain.

10 Then Ishmael carried away captive all the rest of the people who were in Mizpah, the king's daughters and all the people who remained in Mizpah, whom Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard had committed to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam. And Ishmael the son of Nethaniah carried them away captive and departed to go over to the Ammonites.

11 But when Johanan the son of Kareah and all the captains of the forces that were with him heard of all the evil that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah had done,

12 they took all the men and went to fight with Ishmael the son of Nethaniah; and they found him by the great pool that is in Gibeon.

13 So it was, when all the people who were with Ishmael saw Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the captains of the forces who were with him, that they were glad.

14 Then all the people whom Ishmael had carried away captive from Mizpah turned around and came back, and went to Johanan the son of Kareah.

15 But Ishmael the son of Nethaniah escaped from Johanan with eight men and went to the Ammonites.

16 Then Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the captains of the forces that were with him, took from Mizpah all the rest of the people whom he had recovered from Ishmael the son of Nethaniah after he had murdered Gedaliah the son of Ahikam — the mighty men of war and the women and the

children and the eunuchs, whom he had brought back from Gibeon.

17 And they departed and dwelt in the habitation of Chimham, which is near Bethlehem, as they went on their way to Egypt,

18 because of the Chaldeans; for they were afraid of them, because Ishmael the son of Nethaniah had murdered Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, whom the king of Babylon had made governor in the land.
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Facts Revealed:

Johanan had warned Gedaliah of the intent of Ishmael was sent by Baalis king of the Ammonites to kill him, but Gedaliah did not believe him. [\[Jeremiah 40:13-16\]](#)

- ✧ Now Ishmael has come and killed Gedaliah along with all the Jews with him and the Chaldeans who were left as an occupying force. [\[Jeremiah 41:1-3\]](#)
- ✧ Ishmael then killed seventy of the eighty men who came from Shechem, Shiloh, and Samaria bringing offerings and incense to the House of the Lord and threw their bodies into a pit. [\[Jeremiah 41:4-9\]](#)
- ✧ Ishmael then carried away the rest of the people at Mizpah to go to Ammonites thus proving the accuracy of the warning of Johanan. [\[Jeremiah 41:10\]](#)
- ✧ Johanan and all the captains with him went to fight with Ishmael and found him by the great pool in Gibeon. All the people who were carried away captive by Ishmael turned and went to Johanan, but Ishmael and eight men with him escaped and went to the Ammonites [\[Jeremiah 41:11-15\]](#).
- ✧ Johanan took all the people of Mizpah he had recovered from Ishmael and went to Chimham which is near Bethlehem on his way to Egypt out of fear of the Chaldeans, because of the slaughter Ishmael had done at Mizpah when he killed Gedaliah and the Chaldeans there. [\[Jeremiah 41:16-18\]](#)