

# The Fall of Jerusalem

## Summary of Zedekiah's Reign

<i>2 Kings 24:18-20a</i>	<i>Jeremiah 52:1-3a</i>	<i>2 Chronicles 36:11-12</i>
<p><sup>18</sup> Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah.</p> <p><sup>19</sup> And he did what was evil in the sight of YHWH, according to all that Jehoiakim had done.</p> <p><sup>20a</sup> For because of the anger of YHWH <i>this</i> happened in Jerusalem and in Judah, that he cast them out from his presence.</p>	<p><sup>1</sup> Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> And he did what was evil in the sight of YHWH, according to all that Jehoiakim had done.</p> <p><sup>3a</sup> For because of the anger of YHWH <i>this</i> happened in Jerusalem and Judah, that he cast them out from his presence.</p>	<p><sup>11</sup> Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem.</p> <p><sup>12</sup> And he did what was evil in the sight of YHWH his God.</p> <p>He did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet— from the mouth of YHWH.</p>

## Zedekiah Rebels Against Nebuchadnezzar

<i>2 Kings 24:20b</i>	<i>Jeremiah 52:3b</i>	<i>2 Chronicles 36:13</i>
<p><sup>20b</sup> And Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.</p>	<p><sup>3b</sup> And Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.</p>	<p><sup>13</sup> Also against King Nebuchadnezzar he rebelled, who made him swear <i>loyalty</i> by God. And he became stiff-necked and hardened his heart to returning to YHWH, the God of Israel.</p>

## The Stubbornness of the Leaders of Jerusalem (2 Chronicles 36:14-16)

<sup>14</sup> Even the leaders of the priests and the people became more and more unfaithful, according to all the abominations of the nations. And they defiled the house of YHWH, which he had made holy, in Jerusalem. <sup>15</sup> YHWH, the God of their fathers, sent *word* to them by the hand of his messengers—and sent persistently—for he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place. <sup>16</sup> But they *kept* mocking the messengers of God, and despising his words, and scoffing at his prophets, until the wrath of YHWH rose against his people, until there was no recovery.

## The Siege Against Jerusalem Begins, 588 B.C.

<i>2 Kings 25:1</i>	<i>Jeremiah 52:4</i>	<i>Jeremiah 39:1</i>
<p><sup>1</sup> And it came to pass in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came, he and all his army, against Jerusalem, and laid siege to it. And they built siegeworks all around it.</p>	<p><sup>4</sup> And it came to pass in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came, he and all his army, against Jerusalem, and laid siege to it. And they built siegeworks all around it.</p>	<p><sup>1</sup> In the ninth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the tenth month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came, and all his army against Jerusalem, and laid siege to it.</p>

## Jerusalem Breached/Zedekiah Captured, 586 B.C.

<i>2 Kings 25:2-7</i>	<i>Jeremiah 52:5-11</i>	<i>Jeremiah 39:2-7</i>
<p><sup>2</sup> And the city came under siege until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah.</p> <p><sup>3</sup> On the ninth day of the month the famine was so severe in the city that there was no food for the people of the land.</p> <p><sup>4</sup> And the city was breached.</p> <p>And all the men of war [fled] by night by the way of the gate between the two walls, that are by the king's garden.</p> <p>And the Chaldeans were around the city. And they went toward the Arabah.</p> <p><sup>5</sup> And the army of the Chaldeans followed after the king and overtook him in the plains of Jericho, and all his army was scattered from him.</p> <p><sup>6</sup> And they captured the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah, and they passed sentence on him.</p> <p><sup>7</sup> They slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes.</p> <p>And he put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him in chains and he took him to Babylon.</p>	<p><sup>5</sup> And the city came under siege until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah.</p> <p><sup>6</sup> In the fourth month on the ninth day of the month the famine was so severe in the city that there was no food for the people of the land.</p> <p><sup>7</sup> And the city was breached.</p> <p>And all the men of war fled, and went out from the city by night by the way of the gate between the two walls, that are by the king's garden.</p> <p>And the Chaldeans were around the city. And he went toward the Arabah.</p> <p><sup>8</sup> And the army of the Chaldeans followed after the king and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho, and all his army was scattered from him.</p> <p><sup>9</sup> And they captured the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah, in the land of Hamath, and he passed sentence on him.</p> <p><sup>10</sup> The king of Babylon slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes. And he slaughtered all the officials of Judah at Riblah.</p> <p><sup>11</sup> And he put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him in chains, and the king of Babylon took him to Babylon, and put him in prison until the day of his death.</p>	<p><sup>2</sup> In the eleventh year of Zedekiah, in the fourth month, on the ninth day of the month, the city was breached.</p> <p><sup>3</sup> And all the officials of the king of Babylon came and sat in the middle gate: Nergal-sar-ezer of Samgar, Nebu sar-sekim the Rab-saris, Nergal-sar-ezer the Rab-mag, with all the rest of the officers of the king of Babylon.</p> <p><sup>4</sup> And it came to pass that Zedekiah king of Judah and all the men of war saw them. And they fled and went out by night from the city by the way of the king's garden through the gate between the two walls.</p> <p>And they went out toward the Arabah.</p> <p><sup>5</sup> And the army of the Chaldeans followed after them and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho.</p> <p>And they took him and brought him up to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, at Riblah, in the land of Hamath, and he passed sentence on him.</p> <p><sup>6</sup> The king of Babylon slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah at Riblah before his eyes. And the king of Babylon slaughtered all the nobles of Judah.</p> <p><sup>7</sup> And he put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him in chains to take him to Babylon.</p>

## The Destruction of the Temple/Resettlement of the Land

<i>2 Kings 25:8-12</i>	<i>Jeremiah 52:12-16</i>	<i>Jeremiah 39:8-10</i>
<p><sup>8</sup> In the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month—that was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon—Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, entered Jerusalem.</p> <p><sup>9</sup> And he burned the house of YHWH and the house of the king and all the houses of Jerusalem; every great house he burned with fire.</p> <p><sup>10</sup> And the walls of Jerusalem around, all the army of the Chaldeans, who were with the captain of the guard, broke down.</p> <p><sup>11</sup> And the rest of the people who were left in the city, and the deserters who had deserted to the king of Babylon, and the rest of the multitude, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard exiled.</p> <p><sup>12</sup> And from the poor of the land, the captain of the guard left to be vinedressers and farmers.</p>	<p><sup>12</sup> In the fifth month, on the tenth day of the month—that was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon—Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard, who stood before the king of Babylon, entered into Jerusalem.</p> <p><sup>13</sup> And he burned the house of YHWH and the house of the king and all the houses of Jerusalem; every great house he burned with fire.</p> <p><sup>14</sup> And all the walls of Jerusalem around, all the army of the Chaldeans, who were with the captain of the guard, broke down.</p> <p><sup>15</sup> And some of the poor people and the rest of the people who were left in the city, and the deserters who had deserted to the king of Babylon, and the rest of the craftsman, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard exiled.</p> <p><sup>16</sup> And from the poor of the land, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard left to be vinedressers and farmers.</p>	<p><sup>8</sup> And the house of the king and the house of the people the Chaldeans burned with fire. And the walls of Jerusalem they broke down.</p> <p><sup>9</sup> And the rest of the people who were left in the city, and the deserters who had deserted to him, and the rest of the people who remained, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard exiled to Babylon.</p> <p><sup>10</sup> And from the poor people who had nothing, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard left in the land of Judah, and he gave them vineyards and farmland on that day.</p>

## The Plundering of the Temple

<i>2 Kings 25:13-17</i>	<i>Jeremiah 52:17-23</i>
<p><sup>13</sup> And the pillars of bronze that <i>were in</i> the house of YHWH, and the stands and the bronze sea that <i>were in</i> the house of YHWH, the Chaldeans broke in pieces, and they carried away the bronze to Babylon.</p> <p><sup>14</sup> And the pots and the shovels and the snuffers and the bowls and all the vessels of bronze with which they used, they took;</p> <p><sup>15</sup> and the fire pans and the sprinkling bowls.</p> <p>What was gold as gold, and what was silver as silver, the captain of the guard took.</p>	<p><sup>17</sup> And the pillars of bronze that <i>were in</i> the house of YHWH, and the stands and the bronze sea that <i>were in</i> the house of YHWH, the Chaldeans broke in pieces, and they carried away all the bronze to Babylon.</p> <p><sup>18</sup> And the pots and the shovels and the snuffers and the sprinkling bowls and the bowls and all the vessels of bronze with which they used, they took;</p> <p><sup>19</sup> and the small bowls and the fire pans and the sprinkling bowls and the pots and the lampstands and the bowls and the libation bowls.</p> <p>What was gold as gold, and what was silver as silver, the captain of the guard took.</p>

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<sup>16</sup> The two pillars, the one sea,  
and the stands that Solomon made for the house  
of YHWH—there was no weighing the bronze *of* all  
these vessels.

<sup>17</sup> The height of the one pillar *was* eighteen cubits.

And a capital of bronze was upon it. And the height  
of the capital *was* three cubits.  
And latticework and pomegranates all of bronze *were*  
on the capital all around. And the second pillar likewise,  
on the latticework.

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<sup>20</sup> The two pillars, the one sea,  
and the twelve bronze bulls that were under [the sea],  
the stands that king Solomon made for the house  
of YHWH—there was no weighing the bronze *of* all  
these vessels.

<sup>21</sup> As for the pillars,  
the height of the one pillar *was* eighteen cubits,  
its circumference was twelve cubits, and its thickness  
*was* four fingers; *it was* hollow.

<sup>22</sup> And a capital of bronze was upon it. And the height  
of the one capital *was* five cubits.  
And latticework and pomegranates all of bronze *were*  
on the capital all around. And the second pillar likewise,  
with pomegranates.

<sup>23</sup> So there were ninety-six pomegranates on the sides;  
all the pomegranates *were* a hundred upon the  
latticework all around.

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### The Fate of Jerusalem's Nobility

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#### ***2 Kings 25:18-21***

<sup>18</sup> And the captain of the guard took Seraiah the chief  
priest and Zephaniah the second priest and the three  
keepers of the threshold, <sup>19</sup> and from the city he took  
one official who was an overseer over the men of war,  
and five men of the king's council who were found in  
the city, and the secretary of the commander 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.

<sup>20</sup> And Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard took them  
and brought them before the king of Babylon at Riblah.

<sup>21</sup> And the king of Babylon struck them down and put  
them to death at Riblah in the land of Hamath.  
So Judah was exiled out of its land.

#### ***Jeremiah 52:24-30***

<sup>24</sup> And the captain of the guard took Seraiah the chief  
priest and Zephaniah the second priest and the three  
keepers of the threshold, <sup>25</sup> and from the city he took  
one official who was an overseer over the men of war,  
and seven men of the king's council who were found in  
the city, and the secretary of the commander of the  
army, who mustered the people of the land, and sixty  
men of the people of the land, who were found  
in the midst of the city.

<sup>26</sup> And Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard took them  
and brought them to the king of Babylon at Riblah.

<sup>27</sup> And the king of Babylon struck them down and put  
them to death at Riblah in the land of Hamath.  
So Judah was exiled out of its land.

<sup>28</sup> This is the number of the people whom  
Nebuchadnezzar exiled:

in the seventh year, 3,023 Judeans;

<sup>29</sup> in the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar,  
from Jerusalem, 832 persons;

<sup>30</sup> in the twenty-third year of Nebuchadnezzar,  
Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard exiled

745 Judean persons;  
all the persons: 4,600.

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### The Chronicler's Account of the Destruction of Jerusalem (2 Chronicles 36:17-21)

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<sup>17</sup> So he brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans and killed their young  
men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary and did not have compassion on  
young man or virgin, old man or the infirm. He gave them all into his hand.

<sup>18</sup> And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the  
house of YHWH, and the treasures of the king and of his officials, all of them he  
brought to Babylon. <sup>19</sup> And they burned the house of God and broke down the wall of  
Jerusalem and burned all its palaces with fire and destroyed all its precious vessels.

<sup>20</sup> And he exiled those who escaped the sword to Babylon, and they became servants  
to him and to his sons until the rise of the kingdom of Persia, <sup>21</sup> to fulfill the word of  
YHWH by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths. All the days  
of its desolation, it kept the Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.