

**BOOK OF 2 KINGS**  
**JUDAH IS LEFT DESOLATE**  
**2 KINGS 25:22-26; JEREMIAH 40,41**

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**Introduction**

Let me briefly review what we saw here last...

**WE SAW THE KING DETHRONED...25:1-7**

After about a year and a half siege against **JERUSALEM** that caused famine and suffering, the **BABYLONIANS** finally invaded and destroyed the city of **JERUSALEM!** **JUDAH'S last king, ZEDEKIAH,** fled the city, but was pursued and captured in the plains of **JERICHO** by the **CHALDEAN** army! Whatever army **ZEDEKIAH** had with him scattered from him leaving him behind to face the **CHALDEANS** who overtook him and captured him!

**ZEDEKIAH** and his sons were bound and carried to the town of **RIBLAH** which was about 150 miles north of where he was captured. He was carried there to have a face to face meeting with **KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR** of **BABYLON!**

That meeting did not go well for **ZEDEKIAH!** He was judged right then and right there. **The first part of his judgment was for his sons to be killed while he looked on!** Can you imagine? That was the last thing that he saw as his eyes were then put out, he was bound with fetters of brass, and carried to **BABYLON** where he was imprisoned until his death!

**ZEDEKIAH** had been warned of the **LORD** by **JEREMIAH** the **PROPHET** to no avail! It didn't have to be this way! But, he continued in his rebellion until there was no more remedy!

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**WE SAW THE CITY OF JERUSALEM WAS DESTROYED...25:8-10**

**JERUSALEM** was ransacked! All the houses in **JERUSALEM** were burned including the **KING'S HOUSE** and the **TEMPLE!** The wall around the city was also broken down!

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**WE SAW THE PEOPLE WERE DEPORTED...25:11-12**

The rest of the people that were left in the city, except for the poor of the land were carried away captive.

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**WE SAW THE TEMPLE OF THE LORD WAS DISGRACED...25:13-17**

The **TEMPLE** was disgraced before it was burned and broken up!

The **BABYLONIAN** soldiers stripped the **TEMPLE** of all its wealth. The objects in the **TEMPLE** that were too large to carry away whole, were broken up into pieces. The brass, gold, and silver vessels that had been dedicated to the **LORD** were carried away into the heathen land of **BABYLON.**

In **JEREMIAH 7,** we read how the people of **JUDAH** thought the **LORD GOD** would protect them from invasion because of the presence of the **TEMPLE!** The **FALSE PROPHETS** and the **WORLDLY PRIESTS** had the people believing lies! *(By the way, it is not much different today in our nation! Many people don't believe the **LORD** will **JUDGE** our nation because we have been known as a **CHRISTIAN** nation and there have been and still are so many missionaries sent around the world from our nation that some think that we are somehow protected from judgment...don't believe it! )*

The vessels of the **HOUSE OF THE LORD** that had been dedicated to **HIM** and had been used in the past for **GOD'S GLORY,** were carried to **BABYLON** to embellish the temples of the idols! *(2 Chronicles 36:7)*

The presence of the **TEMPLE** could not and did not save the nation of **JUDAH!** The **LORD** was looking for there to be **SINCERE CONFESSION** and **REPENTANCE** from the **HEART.**

The **LORD** had been very **LONGSUFFERING** with **HIS** people and her **KINGS,** but at this point, it was too late! **JUDAH** and her **KINGS** had *"mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people...till there was no remedy."* *(2 Chronicles 36:16)*

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**WE SAW THE NOBLES MET THEIR DEATH...25:18-21**

The **BABYLONIAN** captain of the guard, gathered together the **chief priest, the second priest, the three keepers of the door of the TEMPLE** along with a number of nobles that were left and carried them to **RIBLAH** to **NEBUCHADNEZZAR** who had them slain. So, all that remained in the land were the poorest people.

**Now we pick up and see what happened next?...2 KINGS 25:22-30**

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**I. WE SEE NEBUCHADNEZZAR APPOINTED GEDALIAH TO BE GOVERNOR OVER JUDAH AND THE POOR THAT WERE LEFT BEHIND. (2 KINGS 25:22)**  
**GEDALIAH** was chosen by **NEBUCHADNEZZAR** which probably helped seal his fate (as we will see that his rule was very short.)

**GEDALIAH'S** had a good name that means "***JEHOVAH is great***". **GEDALIAH'S** father, **AHIKAM** the son of **SHAPHAN**, had helped protect **JEREMIAH** from being killed!

*Jeremiah 26:24*—“Nevertheless the hand of Ahikam the son of Shaphan was with Jeremiah, that they should not give him into the hand of the people to put him to death.”

Last week we saw that **NEBUCHADNEZZAR** gave a commandment to **NEBUZARADAN**, the captain of his guard to secure **JEREMIAH** from the court of the prison and to make sure no harm came to him and to do with **JEREMIAH** whatever he requested.

When they took **JEREMIAH** out of the court of the prison they committed him to **GEDALIAH** to carry him home.  
(*Jeremiah 39:14; Jeremiah 40:4-6*)

**II. WE SEE THE CAPTAINS OF ZEDEKIAH'S FORCES WHICH SCATTERED FROM HIM CAME TO MEET WITH GEDALIAH THE GOVERNOR. (2 KINGS 25:23, JEREMIAH 40:7-8)**

These captains had scattered from **ZEDEKIAH** when the **CHALDEANS** chased him down and captured him. They had been “*laying low*” (i.e. *hiding out*) to see what the **CHALDEANS** were going to do after carrying away **ZEDEKIAH**.

Understand that these captains would have shared **ZEDEKIAH'S** anti-**CHALDEAN** views while **GEDALIAH** shared **JEREMIAH'S** views (which were the **LORD'S** views)!

**III. WE SEE GEDALIAH'S INSTRUCTION TO THESE CAPTAINS! (2 KINGS 25:24; JEREMIAH 40:9-10)**

Of course this was **NOT** what these men wanted to hear. That's because it was the same message that **JEREMIAH** had given them from the **LORD** that they had soundly rejected causing all of this!

**IV. WE SEE THE RETURN OF JEWS THAT HAD SCATTERED TO NEARBY NATIONS! (JEREMIAH 40:11-12)**

**V. WE SEE SOME TRIED TO WARN GEDALIAH THAT THERE WAS A PLOT BY THE AMMONITES TO KILL HIM, BUT HE DIDN'T BELIEVE THEM! (JEREMIAH 40:13-14)**

**VI. WE SEE JOHANAN OFFERED TO GO SLAY ISHMAEL BEFORE HE COULD SLAY GEDALIAH BUT GEDALIAH REJECTED THAT AND CALLED JOHANAN A LIAR! (JEREMIAH 40:15-16)**

**VII. WE SEE ISHMAEL AND HIS GANG FOLLOWED THROUGH ON THE PLOT AND KILLED GEDALIAH AND OTHERS AND CARRIED SOME AWAY! (JEREMIAH 41:1-10; 2 KINGS 25:25)**

**VIII. WE SEE JOHANAN AND THE CAPTAINS WITH HIM FOUGHT AGAINST ISHMAEL. (JEREMIAH 41:11-15)**

**IX. WE SEE JUDAH FORSAKEN AND LEFT DESOLATE! (JEREMIAH 41:16-18; 2 KINGS 25:26)**

So, when **GEDALIAH** was murdered, **ALL** of the people that remained in the land fled to **EGYPT** for safety out of fear that the **CHALDEANS** would return! So the land of **JUDAH** was left **DESOLATE!**

*2 Chronicles 36:20–21* tells us that the seventy years of captivity (*Jeremiah 29:10*) were calculated from the “*sabbatical years*” of *Leviticus 25*. Every seventh year, the Jews were supposed to let the land rest, but they had not obeyed that law for centuries.

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Note also that the **LORD** promised to punish them for their sins “*seven times over*” (*Leviticus 26:18, 21, 28*), so the number seven plays an important role in the captivity.

The twenty kings of **JUDAH** (during the divided kingdom) reigned altogether approximately 390 years; and the total years of **DAVID**, **SOLOMON**, and **SAUL** is 120, making a grand total of 510 years for the monarchy. However, in some instances a father and son reigned together so that years overlapped. This means that we have less than 500 years for the kingdom of **JUDAH** from **SAUL** to **ZEDEKIAH**, and 500 divided by seven (for the sabbatical years) gives us approximately 70 years.

Just as **ISRAEL** chose 40 years of wandering in the wilderness by spying out the land forty days, so her neglect of the sabbatical years for nearly five centuries brought her 70 years of captivity.

Everything that the **LORD** had given the **JEWS** was taken from them.

**THEY HAD NO KING** on **DAVID’S** throne, and today they still do not have one!

**THEY HAD NO TEMPLE**, for it had been burned and its sacred vessels confiscated. And though the **TEMPLE** was rebuilt after the captivity, it was destroyed last in **A.D. 70** in such a way that they have no **TEMPLE** today.

**THEIR HOLY CITY WAS DESTROYED**, and ever since that time it has been the focal point for war and unrest in the **MIDDLE EAST**.

**THEIR LAND WAS TAKEN FROM THEM**, and they were scattered among the nations.

Of course, this awful siege was but a forerunner of the terrible destruction of **JERUSALEM** in **A.D. 70** after she rejected her **MESSIAH!**