

2 Kings 25

Verses 1 - 7

Now in the ninth year of his reign, on the tenth day of the tenth month, Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon came, he and all his army, against Jerusalem, camped against it, and built a siege wall all around it. ² So the city was under siege until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah. ³ On the ninth day of the *fourth* month the famine was so severe in the city that there was no food for the people of the land. ⁴ Then the city was broken into, and all the men of war *fled* by night by way of the gate between the two walls that were beside the king's garden, though the Chaldeans were all around the city. And they went by way of the Arabah. ⁵ But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king and overtook him in the plains of Jericho, and all his army was scattered from him. ⁶ Then they captured the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah, and he passed sentence on him. ⁷ And they slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, then put out Zedekiah's eyes and bound him with bronze shackles, and brought him to Babylon.

Now in the ninth year of his reign, on the tenth day of the tenth month, Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon came, he and all his army, against Jerusalem, camped against it, and built a siege wall all around it.

See chart 2505

| Southern Kings | | | | | |
|----------------|------------|---------|-------|----------|----------|
| | King | Began | Ended | Years | Co-reign |
| 10 | Jotham | 750/740 | 731 | 16 | 10 years |
| 11 | Ahaz | 743/731 | 715 | 16 | 12 years |
| 12 | Hezekiah | 728/715 | 686 | 29 | 13 years |
| 13 | Manasseh | 696/686 | 642 | 55 | 10 years |
| 14 | Amon | 642 | 640 | 2 | |
| 15 | Josiah | 640 | 609 | 31 | |
| 16 | Jehoahaz | 609 | 609 | 3 months | |
| 17 | Jehoiakim | 609 | 598 | 11 | |
| 18 | Jehoiachin | 598 | 597 | 3 months | |
| 19 | Zedekiah | 597 | 586 | 11 | |

The 9th year of Zedekiah would be 588 BC.

A siege wall prevented any supplies from coming into the city and eventually starvation would overtake the people of the city.

² So the city was under siege until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah.

The year would be 586 BC. See chart 2505 above.

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

The siege began on 10-10-588 and it is now 4-9-586. It took 1and1/2 years to starve the city of Jerusalem.

⁴ Then the city was broken into, and all the men of war *fled* by night by way of the gate between the two walls that were beside the king's garden, though the Chaldeans were all around the city. And they went by way of the Arabah.

The King's Garden was at the southeast end of the walled city. From there the men had to make their way thru the Arabah (desert terrain) on their way to Jericho.

See map 2510



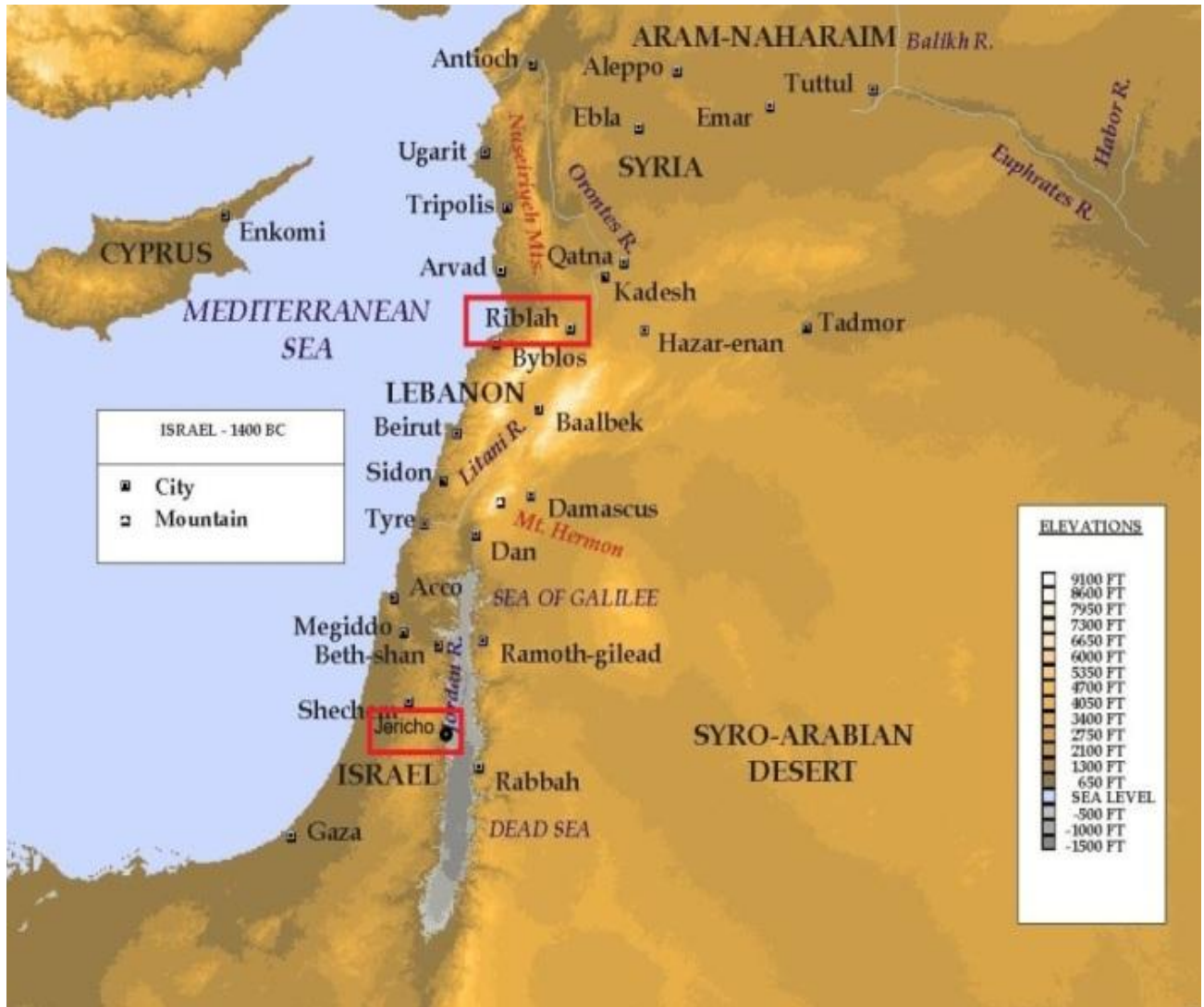
This current pic from google earth shows the Arabah terrain in a vivid way.

See pic 2515



⁵ But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king and overtook him in the plains of Jericho, and all his army was scattered from him. ⁶ Then they captured the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah, and he passed sentence on him.

See Map 2520 Jericho to Riblah



Nebuchadnezzar passed judgment on Zedekiah on the way back to Babylon.

7 And they slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, then put out Zedekiah's eyes and bound him with bronze shackles, and brought him to Babylon.

This judgment on Zedekiah confirmed a prophecy that was given by Ezekiel.

See Ezekiel 12:13

13 I will also spread My net over him, and he will be caught in My net. And I will bring him to Babylon in the land of the Chaldeans; yet he will not see it, though he will die there.

Verses 8 - 12

⁸ Now on the seventh *day* of the fifth month, which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan the captain of the bodyguards, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. ⁹ And he burned the house of the Lord, the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem; even every great house he burned with fire. ¹⁰ So all the army of the Chaldeans who *were with* the captain of the bodyguards tore down the walls around Jerusalem. ¹¹ Then Nebuzaradan, the captain of the bodyguards, led into exile 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 people. ¹² But the captain of the bodyguards left some of the poorest of the land to be vinedressers and farmers.

⁸ Now on the seventh *day* of the fifth month, which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan the captain of the bodyguards, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem.

See Chart 2525

| Kings of Babylon | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| King | Reign |
| Nabopolassar | 630 - 605 |
| Nebuchadnezzar | 605 - 561 |
| Belshazzar | 550 - 539 |

605 - 19 = 586

Nebuzaradan was one of the generals in command of the Babylon army.

⁹ And he burned the house of the Lord, the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem; even every great house he burned with fire. ¹⁰ So all the army of the Chaldeans who *were with* the captain of the bodyguards tore down the walls around Jerusalem.

This was the end of Israel as a nation. God will bring a small remnant back in 70 years (if one counts from the first deportation in 605 BC).

No son of David on the throne, no temple to worship at, and several generations of the Jewish people living in a foreign land.

¹¹ Then Nebuzaradan, the captain of the bodyguards, led into exile 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 people. ¹² But the captain of the bodyguards left some of the poorest of the land to be vinedressers and farmers.

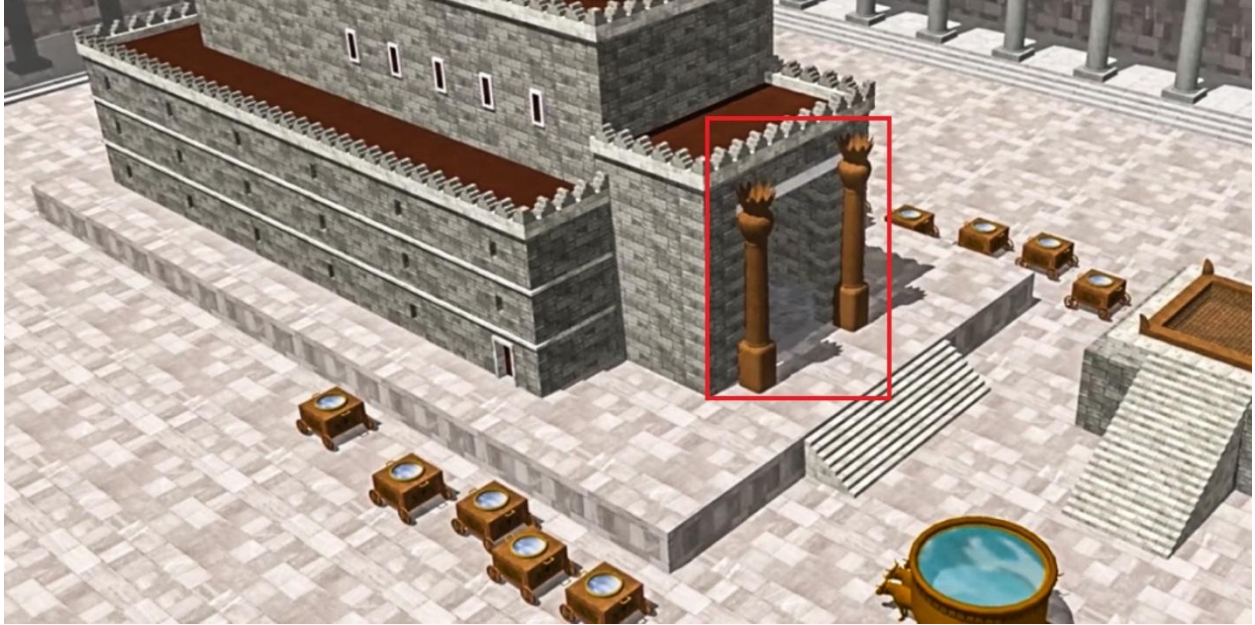
It seems only fitting that the small group of Jewish people who remained in Judah were those that had been preyed upon by the unfaithful that had ignored God and his covenant. They were poor but they still had a home in the Promised Land.

Verses 13 - 17

¹³ Now the Chaldeans smashed to pieces the bronze pillars which were in the house of the Lord, and the stands and the bronze Sea which were in the house of the Lord, and carried the bronze to Babylon. ¹⁴ And they took away the pots, the shovels, the shears, the spoons, and all the bronze utensils which were used in temple service. ¹⁵ The captain of the bodyguards also took away the firepans and the basins, what was fine gold and what was fine silver. ¹⁶ The two pillars, the one Sea, and the stands which Solomon had made for the house of the Lord—the bronze of all these articles was too heavy to weigh. ¹⁷ The height of the one pillar was eighteen cubits, and a bronze capital was on it; the height of the capital was three cubits, with latticework and pomegranates on the capital all around, all of bronze. And the second pillar was like these, same *features* with latticework.

¹³ Now the Chaldeans smashed to pieces the bronze pillars which were in the house of the Lord, and the stands and the bronze Sea which were in the house of the Lord, and carried the bronze to Babylon.

See Pics 2530 and 2535



It's interesting that the writer says these things were **in** the house of the Lord. These items are not literally "in the house of the Lord" (the building composed of the Holy Place and the Most Holy place) but they are part of the overall structure that was referred to as "the House of the Lord".

¹⁴ **And they took away the pots, the shovels, the shears, the spoons, and all the bronze utensils which were used in temple service. ¹⁵ The captain of the bodyguards also took away the firepans and the basins, what was fine gold and what was fine silver.**

The temple was full of various items made from bronze, silver and gold. Much of this was put in the house of the king's god in Babylon and was later brought back when the remnant returned to Jerusalem.

See Ezra 1:7 – 11

⁷ **Also King Cyrus brought out the articles of the house of the Lord, which Nebuchadnezzar had carried away from Jerusalem and put in the house of his gods;** ⁸ **and Cyrus, king of Persia, had them brought out by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and he counted them out to Sheshbazzar, the leader of Judah. ⁹ Now this was their number: thirty gold dishes, a thousand silver dishes, twenty nine duplicates; ¹⁰ thirty gold bowls, 410 silver bowls of a second kind, and a thousand other articles. ¹¹ All the articles of gold and silver totaled 5,400. Sheshbazzar brought them all up with the exiles who went up from Babylon to Jerusalem.**

Verses 18 - 21

¹⁸ **Then the captain of the bodyguards took Seraiah the chief priest and Zephaniah the second priest, with the three doorkeepers.** ¹⁹ **And from the city he took one official who was overseer of the men of war, and five of the king's advisers who were found in the city; and the scribe of the captain 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 **Nebuzaradan the captain of the bodyguards took them and brought them to the king of Babylon at Riblah. ²¹ Then the king of Babylon struck them down and put them to death at Riblah in the land of Hamath.** So Judah went into exile from its land.

A total of 72 men were taken to the king of Babylon at Riblah and he had them put to death. The number of executions recorded here were limited considering the number of people living in Jerusalem.

Jeremiah was among the captives taken to Babylon but he was treated well.

See Jeremiah 39:11 – 14

¹¹ Now Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon gave orders regarding Jeremiah through Nebuzaradan the captain of the bodyguard, saying, ¹² “Take him and look after him, and do not do anything harmful to him, but rather deal with him just as he tells you.” ¹³ So Nebuzaradan the captain of the bodyguard sent *word*, along with Nebushazban the Rab-saris, Nergal-sar-ezer the Rab-mag, and all the leading officers of the king of Babylon; ¹⁴ they even sent *word* and took Jeremiah out of the courtyard of the guardhouse and entrusted him to Gedaliah, the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, to take him home. So he stayed among the people.

Verses 22 - 26

²² Now *as for* the people who were left in the land of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had left, he appointed Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan over them. ²³ When all the captains of the forces, they and *their* men, heard that the king of Babylon had appointed Gedaliah *governor*, they came to Gedaliah at Mizpah, namely, Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, Johanan the son of Kareah, Seraiah the son of Tanhumeth the Netophathite, and Jaazaniah the son of the Maacathite, they and their men. ²⁴ And Gedaliah swore to them and their men and said to them, “Do not be afraid of the servants of the Chaldeans; live in the land and serve the king of Babylon, and it will go well for 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 Gedaliah down so that he died along with the Jews and the Chaldeans who were with him at Mizpah. ²⁶ Then all the people, from the small to the great, and the captains of the forces set out and came to Egypt; for they were afraid of the Chaldeans.

²² Now *as for* the people who were left in the land of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had left, he appointed Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan over them.

Gedaliah was a member of a prominent family in Judah that supported the reforms of Josiah and was helpful to Jeremiah.

See Jeremiah 26:24

²⁴ But the hand of Ahikam the son of Shaphan was with Jeremiah, so that he was not handed over to the people to put him to death.

²³ When all the captains of the forces, they and *their* men, heard that the king of Babylon had appointed Gedaliah *governor*, they came to Gedaliah at Mizpah,....

See Map 2540



The advice they received from Gedaliah was the same advice that the Jews in Babylon had received from Jeremiah in a letter he sent to them.

See Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

Now these are the words of the letter which Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the rest of the elders of the exile, the priests, the prophets, and all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

⁴ “This is what the Lord of armies, the God of Israel, says to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵ **‘Build houses and live in them; and plant gardens and eat their produce.** ⁶ **Take wives and father sons and daughters, and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, so that they may give birth to sons and daughters; and grow in numbers there and do not decrease.** ⁷ **Seek the prosperity of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord in its behalf; for in its prosperity will be your prosperity.’**

It was not a time to rebel against the government of Babylon but rather a time to raise a family, make a living, and ask the Lord to bless the city where they had been taken.

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 Gedaliah down so that he died along with the Jews and the Chaldeans who were with him at Mizpah. ²⁶ Then all the people, from the small to the great, and the captains of the forces set out and came to Egypt; for they were afraid of the Chaldeans.

Ishmael's murder of Gedaliah was probably done out of jealousy since he was from the royal family. However, this was a big mistake and it caused all the people to flee to Egypt fearing the wrath of Nebuchadnezzar.

Verses 27 - 30

²⁷ Now it came about in the thirty-seventh year of the exile 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 became king, released Jehoiachin king of Judah from prison; ²⁸ and he spoke kindly to him and set his throne above the throne of the kings who were with him in Babylon. ²⁹ So Jehoiachin changed his prison clothes, and had his meals in the king's presence regularly all the days of his life; ³⁰ and as his allowance, a regular allowance was given to him by the king, a portion for each day, all the days of his life.

Now it came about in the 37th year of the exile of Jehoiachin king of Judah, that Evil-merodach king of Babylon, in the year that he became king, released Jehoiachin king of Judah from prison

See chart 2545

| | King | Began | Ended | Years | Co-reign |
|----|------------|---------|-------|----------|----------|
| 10 | Jotham | 750/740 | 731 | 16 | 10 years |
| 11 | Ahaz | 743/731 | 715 | 16 | 12 years |
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Jehoiachin was 18 years old when he took the throne so at the age of 55 (18 + 37) he had spent 2/3 of his life in prison. This may be why the king of Babylon decided to release him along with the fact that he had only served as king of Judah for 3 months.

²⁹ So Jehoiachin changed his prison clothes, and had his meals in the king's presence regularly all the days of his life; ³⁰ and as his allowance, a regular allowance was given to him by the king, a portion for each day, all the days of his life.

Jehoiachin was due for some good in his life considering the hardship he had suffered for so many years..