

<p>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 to the king of Babylon at Riblah, and he passed sentence on him.</p> <p>7 They slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes,</p> <p>then put out the eyes of Zedekiah and bound him with bronze fetters and brought him to Babylon.</p>	<p>and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho; and they seized him and brought him up to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon at Riblah in the land of Hamath, and he passed sentence on him. 6 Then the king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes at Riblah; the king of Babylon also slew all the nobles of Judah.</p> <p>7 He then blinded Zedekiah's eyes and bound him in fetters of bronze to bring him to Babylon.</p>	<p>and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho, and all his army was scattered from him. 9 Then 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>10 The king of Babylon slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and he also slaughtered all the princes of Judah in Riblah.</p> <p>11 Then he blinded the eyes of Zedekiah; and the king of Babylon bound him with bronze fetters and brought him to Babylon and put him in prison until the day of his death.</p>	
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Nebuzaradan Oversees the Pillaging and Destruction of Jerusalem (August 25–28, 587 BC)

2 Kings 25:8–10, 13–17	Jeremiah 39:8	Jeremiah 52:12–14, 17–23	2 Chronicles 36:18–19
<p>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 guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. 13 Now the bronze pillars which were in the house of the LORD,</p>		<p>12 Now on the tenth <i>day</i> of the fifth month, which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan the captain of the bodyguard, who was in the service of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. 17 Now the bronze pillars which belonged to the house of the LORD</p>	

<p>and the stands and the bronze sea which were in the house of the LORD, the Chaldeans broke in pieces and carried the bronze to Babylon.</p> <p>14 They took away the pots, the shovels, the snuffers, the spoons, and all the bronze vessels which were used in <i>temple service</i>.</p> <p>15 The captain of the guard also took away the firepans and the basins,</p> <p>what was fine gold and what was fine silver.</p> <p>16 The two pillars, the one sea,</p> <p>and the stands which Solomon had made for the house of the LORD—the bronze of all these vessels was beyond weight.</p> <p>17 The height of the one pillar was eighteen cubits,</p> <p>and a bronze</p>		<p>and the stands and the bronze sea, which were in the house of the LORD, the Chaldeans broke in pieces and carried all their bronze to Babylon.</p> <p>18 They also took away the pots, the shovels, the snuffers, the basins, the pans and all the bronze vessels which were used in <i>temple service</i>.</p> <p>19 The captain of the guard also took away the bowls, the firepans, the basins, the pots, the lampstands, the pans and the drink offering bowls, what was fine gold and what was fine silver.</p> <p>20 The two pillars, the one sea, and the twelve bronze bulls that were under the sea, <i>and</i> the stands, which King Solomon had made for the house of the LORD—the bronze of all these vessels was beyond weight.</p> <p>21 As for the pillars, the height of each pillar <i>was</i> eighteen cubits, and it <i>was</i> twelve cubits in circumference and four fingers in thickness, <i>and</i> hollow.</p> <p>22 Now a capital of</p>	<p>18 All the articles of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king and of his officers, he brought <i>them</i> all to Babylon.</p>
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<p>capital was on it; the height of the capital was three cubits, with a network and pomegranates on the capital all around, all of bronze. And the second pillar was like these</p> <p>with network.</p> <p>9 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.</p> <p>10 So all the army of the Chaldeans who <i>were with</i> the captain of the guard broke down the walls around Jerusalem.</p>	<p>8 The Chaldeans also burned with fire the king's palace and the houses of the people, and they broke down the walls of Jerusalem.</p>	<p>bronze was on it; and the height of each capital was five cubits, with a network and pomegranates on the capital all around, all of bronze. And the second pillar was like these, including pomegranates.</p> <p>23 There were ninety-six exposed pomegranates; all the pomegranates <i>numbered</i> a hundred on the network all around.</p> <p>13 He burned the house of the LORD, the king's house and all the houses of Jerusalem; even every large house he burned with fire.</p> <p>14 So all the army of the Chaldeans who <i>were with</i> the captain of the guard broke down all the walls around Jerusalem.</p>	<p>19a Then they burned the house of God</p> <p>19c and burned all its fortified buildings with fire and destroyed all its valuable articles.</p> <p>19b and broke down the wall of Jerusalem,</p>
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Jerusalem's Leaders Executed and the City Exiled to Babylon (August 25–28, 587 BC)

2 Kings 25:11–12, 18–21	Jeremiah 39:9–10	Jer 52:15–16, 24–28a, 29	2 Chronicles 36:20a
<p>18 Then the captain of the guard took Seraiah the chief priest and Zephaniah the second priest, with the three officers of the temple.</p> <p>19 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</p>		<p>24 Then the captain of the guard took Seraiah the chief priest and Zephaniah the second priest, with the three officers of the temple.</p> <p>25 He also took from the city one official who was overseer of the men of war, and seven of the king's advisers who were found in the city, and the scribe 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</p>	

<p>in the city. 20 Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard took them and brought them to the king of Babylon at Riblah. 21a Then the king of Babylon struck them down and put them to death at Riblah in the land of Hamath. 11 Then 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, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away into exile. 12 But the captain of the guard left some of the poorest of the land to be vinedressers and plowmen. 21b So Judah was led away into exile from its land.</p>	<p>9 As for the rest of the people who were left in the city, the deserters who had gone over to him and the rest of the people who remained, Nebuzaradan the captain of the bodyguard carried <i>them</i> into exile in Babylon. 10 But some of the poorest people who had nothing, Nebuzaradan the captain of the bodyguard left behind in the land of Judah, and gave them vineyards and fields at that time.</p>	<p>in the midst of the city. 26 Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard took them and brought them to the king of Babylon at Riblah. 27a Then the king of Babylon struck them down and put them to death at Riblah in the land of Hamath. 15 Then Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away into exile some of the poorest of the people, the rest of the people who were left in the city, the deserters who had deserted to the king of Babylon and the rest of the artisans. 16 But Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard left some of the poorest of the land to be vinedressers and plowmen. 27b So Judah was led away into exile from its land. 28a These are the people whom Nebuchadnezzar carried away into exile: 29 in the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar 832 persons from Jerusalem;</p>	<p>20a Those who had escaped from the sword he carried away to Babylon;</p>
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Gedaliah Appointed Governor of Judah (c. September 587 BC)

2 Kings 25:22

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.

Jeremiah's Release (c. September 587 BC)

Jeremiah 39:11–14; 40:1–6

Jeremiah Released at Nebuchadnezzar's Personal Command

39:11 Now Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon gave orders about Jeremiah through Nebuzaradan the captain of the bodyguard, saying,

12 "Take him and look after him, and do nothing 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, and Nergal-sar-ezer the Rab-mag, and all the leading officers of the king of Babylon;

14a they even sent and took Jeremiah out of the court of the guardhouse and entrusted him to Gedaliah, the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, to take him home.

Jeremiah Mingles With the Deportees and Ends Up Being Taken With Them to Ramah

14b So he stayed among the people.

40:1 The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD after Nebuzaradan captain of the bodyguard had released him from Ramah, when he had taken him bound in chains among all the exiles of Jerusalem and Judah who were being exiled to Babylon.

Nebuzaradan Personally Oversees Jeremiah's Release

2 Now the captain of the bodyguard had taken Jeremiah and said to him, "The LORD your God promised this calamity against this place;

3 and the LORD has brought *it* on and done just as He promised. Because you *people* sinned against the LORD and did not listen to His voice, therefore this thing has happened to you.

4 But now, behold, I am freeing you today from the chains which are on your hands. If you would prefer to come with me to Babylon, come *along*, and I will look after you; but if you would prefer not to come with me to Babylon, never mind. Look, the whole land is before you; go wherever it seems good and right for you to go."

5 As Jeremiah was still not going back, *he said*, "Go on back then to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, whom the king of Babylon has appointed over the cities of Judah, and stay with him among the people; or else go anywhere it seems right for you to go." So the captain of the bodyguard gave him a ration and a gift and let him go.

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

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Chronological Notes

- 1) For the calculation of the date of the fall of Jerusalem, see the following definitive paper: Rodger C. Young, "When Did Jerusalem Fall?" *JETS* 47.1 (Mar 2004): 21–38.
- 2) From that article, the following paragraphs are important to understand today's reading: "The writings of Jeremiah end with chapter 51 (Jer 51:64), so his methods of dating are not automatically applicable to the contents of chapter 52. The contents of that chapter, except for verses 28 through 30, are all parallel to passages in the last two chapters of 2 Kings, so the methods already determined for these chapters in 2 Kings (Tishri, non-accession reckoning) can be applied to the corresponding verses in Jeremiah 52. Verses 28 through 30 are independent of the Book of Kings and are interesting enough to require special

consideration. Jer 52:28–30 gives the number of captives taken by Nebuchadnezzar in his seventh, eighteenth, and twenty-third years. There is one thing certain about the counting of captives—the captives themselves are in no position to do it. Every king and pharaoh must have had an official assigned to this task, so that the number of those vanquished could be recorded on a stela or in the annals glorifying the king's exploits. Thus the list of captives in Jer 52:28–30 could not have originated in a Judean record—it came from the official records of Nebuchadnezzar. The years of the monarch would therefore be the Nisan, accession years used in Babylon. This is an independent verification of the use of non-accession years when Jeremiah and the author of the last two chapters of 2 Kings referred to Nebuchadnezzar: the seventh (accession) year of Jer 52:28 corresponds to the eighth (non-accession) year of 2 Kgs 24:12, and the eighteenth (accession) year of Jer 52:29 corresponds to the nineteenth (non-accession) year of 2 Kgs 25:8. These are not mistakes, as some have assumed. They are a valuable clue that the synchronisms to Nebuchadnezzar in 2 Kings were to be taken in a non-accession sense, and this conclusion could have been reached from these texts alone without going through the more thorough analysis of the present article” (p. 36).