

Ezekiel's Prophecy to the Exiles—Egypt's Broken Arm (April 29, 587 BC)

Ezekiel 30:20–26

20 And it came to pass in the eleventh year, in the first *month*, in the seventh *day* of the month, *that* the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

21 Son of man, I have broken the arm of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and, lo, it shall not be bound up to be healed, to put a roller to bind it, to make it strong to hold the sword.

22 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I *am* against Pharaoh king of Egypt, and will break his arms, the strong, and that which was broken; and I will cause the sword to fall out of his hand.

23 And I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations, and will disperse them through the countries.

24 And I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon, and put my sword in his hand: but I will break Pharaoh's arms, and he shall groan before him with the groanings of a deadly wounded *man*.

25 But I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon, and the arms of Pharaoh shall fall down; and they shall know that I *am* the LORD, when I shall put my sword into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall stretch it out upon the land of Egypt.

26 And I will scatter the Egyptians among the nations, and disperse them among the countries; and they shall know that I *am* the LORD.

Ezekiel's Prophecy to the Exiles—Fall of the Great Tree (June 21, 587 BC)

Ezekiel 31

Description of the Great Tree

1 And it came to pass in the eleventh year, in the third *month*, in the first *day* of the month, *that* the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

2 Son of man, speak unto Pharaoh king of Egypt, and to his multitude; Whom art thou like in thy greatness?

3 Behold, the Assyrian *was* a cedar in Lebanon with fair branches, and with a shadowing shroud, and of an high stature; and his top was among the thick boughs.

4 The waters made him great, the deep set him up on high with her rivers running round about his plants, and sent out her little rivers unto all the trees of the field.

5 Therefore his height was exalted above all the trees of the field, and his boughs were multiplied, and his branches became long because of the multitude of waters, when he shot forth.

6 All the fowls of heaven made their nests in his boughs, and under his branches did all the beasts of the field bring forth their young, and under his shadow dwelt all great nations.

7 Thus was he fair in his greatness, in the length of his branches: for his root was by great waters.

8 The cedars in the garden of God could not hide him: the fir trees were not like his boughs, and the chesnut trees were not like his branches; nor any tree in the garden of God was like unto him in his beauty.

9 I have made him fair by the multitude of his branches: so that all the trees of Eden, that *were* in the garden of God, envied him.

Fall of the Great Tree

10 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou hast lifted up thyself in height, and he hath shot up his top among the thick boughs, and his heart is lifted up in his height;

11 I have therefore delivered him into the hand of the mighty one of the heathen; he shall surely deal with him: I have driven him out for his wickedness.

12 And strangers, the terrible of the nations, have cut him off, and have left him: upon the mountains and in all the valleys his branches are fallen, and his boughs are broken by all the rivers of the land; and all the people of the earth are gone down from his shadow, and have left him.

13 Upon his ruin shall all the fowls of the heaven remain, and all the beasts of the field shall be upon his branches:

14 To the end that none of all the trees by the waters exalt themselves for their height, neither shoot up their top among the thick boughs, neither their trees stand up in their height, all that drink water: for they are all delivered unto death, to the nether parts of the earth, in the midst of the children of men, with them that go down to the pit.

15 Thus saith the Lord GOD; In the day when he went down to the grave I caused a mourning: I covered the deep for him, and I restrained the floods thereof, and the great waters were stayed: and I caused Lebanon to mourn for him, and all the trees of the field fainted for him.

16 I made the nations to shake at the sound of his fall, when I cast him down to hell with them that descend into the pit: and all the trees of Eden, the choice and best of Lebanon, all that drink water, shall be comforted in the nether parts of the earth.

17 They also went down into hell with him unto *them that be* slain with the sword; and *they that were* his arm, *that* dwelt under his shadow in the midst of the heathen.

18 To whom art thou thus like in glory and in greatness among the trees of Eden? yet shalt thou be brought down with the trees of Eden unto the nether parts of the earth: thou shalt lie in the midst of the uncircumcised with *them that be* slain by the sword. This is Pharaoh and all his multitude, saith the Lord GOD.

The Fall of Jerusalem (July 29, 587 BC)

2 Kings 25:2–7	Jeremiah 39:2–7	Jeremiah 52:5–11	2 Chronicles 36:17b
<p>2 And the city was besieged unto the eleventh year of king Zedekiah.</p> <p>3 And on the ninth <i>day</i> of the <i>fourth</i> month the famine prevailed in the city, and there was no bread for the people of the land.</p> <p>4 And the city was broken up,</p> <p>and all the men of war <i>fled</i> by night by the way of the gate between two walls, which <i>is</i> by the king's garden: (now the Chaldees <i>were</i> against the city round about:) and <i>the king</i> went the way toward the plain.</p> <p>5 And the army of the Chaldees pursued after the king, and overtook him in the plains of Jericho: and all his army were scattered from him.</p> <p>6 So they took the king, and brought him up to the king of Babylon to Riblah;</p> <p>and they gave judgment upon him.</p> <p>7 And they slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes,</p>	<p>2 <i>And</i> in the eleventh year of Zedekiah, in the fourth month, the ninth <i>day</i> of the month,</p> <p>the city was broken up.</p> <p>3 And all the princes of the king of Babylon came in, and sat in the middle gate, <i>even</i> Nergalsharezer, Samgarnebo, Sarsechim, Rabсарis, Nergalsharezer, Rabmag, with all the residue of the princes of the king of Babylon.</p> <p>4 And it came to pass, <i>that</i> when Zedekiah the king of Judah saw them, and all the men of war, then they fled, and went forth out of the city by night, by the way of the king's garden, by the gate betwixt the two walls:</p> <p>and he went out the way of the plain.</p> <p>5 But the Chaldeans' army pursued after them, and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho:</p> <p>and when they had taken him, they brought him up to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon to Riblah in the land of Hamath, where he gave judgment upon him.</p> <p>6 Then the king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedekiah in Riblah before his eyes: also the king of Babylon slew all the nobles of Judah.</p>	<p>5 So the city was besieged unto the eleventh year of king Zedekiah.</p> <p>6 And in the fourth month, in the ninth <i>day</i> of the month, the famine was sore in the city, so that there was no bread for the people of the land.</p> <p>7 Then the city was broken up,</p> <p>and all the men of war fled, and went forth out of the city by night by the way of the gate between the two walls, which <i>was</i> by the king's garden; (now the Chaldeans <i>were</i> by the city round about:) and they went by the way of the plain.</p> <p>8 But the army of the Chaldeans pursued after the king, and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho; and all his army was scattered from him.</p> <p>9 Then they took the king, and carried him up unto the king of Babylon to Riblah in the land of Hamath; where he gave judgment upon him.</p> <p>10 And the king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes: he slew also all the princes of Judah in Riblah.</p>	<p>17b who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave <i>them</i> all into his hand.</p>

and put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him with fetters of brass, and carried him to Babylon.	7 Moreover he put out Zedekiah's eyes, and bound him with chains, to carry him to Babylon.	11 Then he put out the eyes of Zedekiah; and the king of Babylon bound him in chains, and carried him to Babylon, and put him in prison till the day of his death.	
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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 And in the fifth month, on the seventh <i>day</i> of the month, which <i>is</i> the nineteenth year of king Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, came Nebuzaradan, captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, unto Jerusalem:</p> <p>13 And the pillars of brass that <i>were</i> in the house of the LORD, and the bases, and the brazen sea that <i>was</i> in the house of the LORD, did the Chaldees break in pieces, and carried the brass of them to Babylon.</p> <p>14 And the pots, and the shovels, and the snuffers, and the spoons, and all the vessels of brass wherewith they ministered, took they away.</p> <p>15 And the firepans, and the bowls, and such things as <i>were</i> of gold, <i>in</i> gold, and of silver, <i>in</i> silver, the captain of the guard took away.</p> <p>16 The two pillars, one sea, and the bases which Solomon had made</p>		<p>12 Now in the fifth month, in the tenth <i>day</i> of the month, which <i>was</i> the nineteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, came Nebuzaradan, captain of the guard, <i>which</i> served the king of Babylon, into Jerusalem,</p> <p>17 Also the pillars of brass that <i>were</i> in the house of the LORD, and the bases, and the brazen sea that <i>was</i> in the house of the LORD, the Chaldeans brake, and carried all the brass of them to Babylon.</p> <p>18 The caldrons also, and the shovels, and the snuffers, and the bowls, and the spoons, and all the vessels of brass wherewith they ministered, took they away.</p> <p>19 And the basins, and the firepans, and the bowls, and the caldrons, and the candlesticks, and the spoons, and the cups; <i>that</i> which <i>was</i> of gold <i>in</i> gold, and <i>that</i> which <i>was</i> of silver <i>in</i> silver, took the captain of the guard away.</p> <p>20 The two pillars, one sea, and twelve brazen bulls that <i>were</i> under the bases, which king Solomon had made</p>	<p>18 And all the vessels 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 princes; all <i>these</i> he brought to Babylon.</p>

<p>for the house of the LORD; the brass of all these vessels was without weight.</p> <p>17 The height of the one pillar <i>was</i> eighteen cubits,</p> <p>and the capital upon it <i>was</i> brass: and the height of the capital three cubits; and the wreathen work, and pomegranates upon the capital round about, all of brass: and like unto these had the second pillar with wreathen work.</p> <p>9 And he burnt the house of the LORD, and the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem, and every great <i>man's</i> house burnt he with fire.</p> <p>10 And all the army of the Chaldees, that <i>were with</i> the captain of the guard, brake down the walls of Jerusalem round about.</p>	<p>8 And the Chaldeans burned the king's house, and the houses of the people, with fire, and brake down the walls of Jerusalem.</p>	<p>in the house of the LORD: the brass of all these vessels was without weight. 21 And <i>concerning</i> the pillars, the height of one pillar <i>was</i> eighteen cubits; and a fillet of twelve cubits did compass it; and the thickness thereof <i>was</i> four fingers: <i>it was</i> hollow. 22 And a capital of brass <i>was</i> upon it; and the height of one capital <i>was</i> five cubits, with network and pomegranates upon the capital round about, all of brass. The second pillar also and the pomegranates <i>were</i> like unto these. 23 And there were ninety and six pomegranates on a side; <i>and</i> all the pomegranates upon the network <i>were</i> an hundred round about. 13 And burned the house of the LORD, and the king's house; and all the houses of Jerusalem, and all the houses of the great <i>men</i>, burned he with fire: 14 And all the army of the Chaldeans, that <i>were with</i> the captain of the guard, brake down all the walls of Jerusalem round about.</p>	<p>19a And they burnt the house of God, 19c and burnt all the palaces thereof with fire, and destroyed all the goodly vessels thereof. 19b and brake 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 And the captain of the guard took Seraiah the chief priest, and Zephaniah the second priest, and the three keepers of the door: 19 And out of the city he took an officer that was set over the men of war, and five men of them that were in the king's presence, which were found in the city, and the principal scribe of the host, which mustered the people of the land, and threescore men of the people of the land <i>that were</i> found in</p>		<p>24 And the captain of the guard took Seraiah the chief priest, and Zephaniah the second priest, and the three keepers of the door: 25 He took also out of the city an eunuch, which had the charge of the men of war; and seven men of them that were near the king's person, which were found in the city; and the principal scribe of the host, who mustered the people of the land; and threescore men of the people of the land, that were found in</p>	

<p>the city: 20 And Nebuzaradan captain of the guard took these, and brought them to the king of Babylon to Riblah: 21a And the king of Babylon smote them, and slew them at Riblah in the land of Hamath. 11 Now the rest of the people <i>that were</i> left in the city, and the fugitives that fell away to the king of Babylon, with the remnant of the multitude, did Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carry away.</p> <p>12 But the captain of the guard left of the poor of the land</p> <p><i>to be</i> vinedressers and husbandmen. 21b So Judah was carried away out of their land.</p>	<p>9 Then Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away captive into Babylon</p> <p>the remnant of the people that remained in the city, and those that fell away, that fell to him, with the rest of the people that remained.</p> <p>10 But Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard left of the poor of the people, which had nothing, in the land of Judah, and gave them vineyards and fields at the same time.</p>	<p>the midst of the city. 26 So Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard took them, and brought them to the king of Babylon to Riblah. 27a And the king of Babylon smote them, and put them to death in Riblah in the land of Hamath. 15 Then Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away captive <i>certain</i> of the poor of the people, and the residue of the people that remained in the city, and those that fell away, that fell to the king of Babylon, and the rest of the multitude.</p> <p>16 But Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard left <i>certain</i> of the poor of the land</p> <p>for vinedressers and for husbandmen. 27b Thus Judah was carried away captive out of his own land. 28a This <i>is</i> the people whom Nebuchadnezzar carried away captive: 29 In the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar he carried away captive from Jerusalem eight hundred thirty and two persons:</p>	<p>20a And them that had escaped from the sword carried he away to Babylon;</p>
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Scripture quotations are from The King James Version (KJV). The KJV is in the public domain.

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).