

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

Ezekiel 30:20–26

20 And then in the eleventh year, in the first *month*, on the seventh *day* of the month, the word of Yahweh came to me, saying,
 21 “Son of man, the arm of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, I have broken. And look, it has not been bound up for giving of a remedy, or for *the* placing of a splint to bind it *up* to make it strong to take hold of the sword.”
 22 Therefore thus says the Lord Yahweh: “Look! I *am* against Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, and I will break his strong arm and the broken *arm*, and I will let the sword fall from his hand.
 23 And I will scatter Egypt among the nations, and I will disperse them among the countries.
 24 And I will strengthen the arm of the king of Babylon, and I will give my sword into his hand, and I will break the arms of Pharaoh, and he will groan *with the* groaning of *the* mortally wounded before him.
 25 And I will strengthen the arm of the king of Babylon, and the arms of Pharaoh will fall. And they will know that I *am* Yahweh when I give my sword into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he will stretch it out to the land of Egypt.
 26 And I will scatter Egypt among the nations, and I will disperse them into the countries, and they will know that I *am* Yahweh.”

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

Ezekiel 31

Description of the Great Tree

1 And then in the eleventh year, in the third *month*, on the first *day* of the month, the word of Yahweh came to me, saying,
 2 “Son of man, say to Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, and to his crowd,

‘To whom are you like in your greatness?

- 3 Look! Assyria *was* a cedar in Lebanon,
with beautiful branches and a forest giving shade,
 and very high,
 and its treetop *was* between *the* clouds.
 4 Waters made it great,
 the deep made it grow high;
 its rivers *were* going all around its planting area,
 and its channels it sent *out*
 to all of the trees of the field.
 5 Therefore it became tall,
with its height more than all of the trees of the field,
 and its branches became numerous,
 and its branches became long
 from its sending its shoots from abundant water.
 6 In its branches all the birds of the heaven made their nest,
 and under its branches all the animals of the field gave birth,
 and in its shadow all *the* many nations lived.
 7 And it was beautiful in its greatness,
 in the length of its branches,
 for its root *was* toward much water.
 8 Cedars in the garden of God
 could not *be* equal to it;
 fir trees could not resemble its branches,
 and plane trees were not *even* like its branches;
 any tree *even* in the garden of God
 could not resemble it in its beauty.
 9 I made it beautiful with the abundance of its branches,
 and all of the trees of Eden that *were* in the garden of God envied it.”

Fall of the Great Tree

10 Therefore thus says the Lord Yahweh: “Because it was tall in height and it set its treetop between thick clouds, and he took pride in his tallness,
 11 then I gave it into *the* hand of *the* leader of nations; he dealt thoroughly with it according to its wickedness. I drove it *out*.
 12 And strangers cut it off, *the most* ruthless of nations, and they abandoned it. On the mountains and in all *of the* valleys its branches fell, and its branches were broken in all the river channels of the land, and all the peoples of the world went out from its shadow, and they abandoned it.
 13 On its fallen trunk all the birds of the heaven *now* dwell, and all the animals of the field were on its branches.

14 *This occurred* so that all of *the trees with abundant water* will not become tall, and they will not set their treetop between *their* thick foliage, and *so that* all of the trees that are abundantly watered will not stand up to them in their tallness, for all of them, they have been given *over* to death, to *the world* below in the midst of mortals, to *the people* going down to the grave.”

15 Thus says the Lord Yahweh: “On the day of its going down to Sheol, I caused mourning; I covered over it *with* the deep, and I withheld its rivers, and many waters were restrained, and I brought gloom over it; Lebanon and all of the trees of the field, they *had* fainted because of it.

16 From the sound of its downfall I caused nations to shake when I made it go down to Sheol, with *the people* going down to *the* grave, and *so in the world* below all of the trees of Eden, *the* choice and the best of Lebanon, all the well-watered trees were comforted!

17 They also went down with it to Sheol to those who died by the sword, and its army *who had* lived in its shadow in the midst of nations.

18 To whom could you be compared, whether in glory or in majesty among the trees of Eden? And yet you will be brought down with the trees of Eden to *the world* below; in the midst of *the* uncircumcised you will lie with those who died by the sword. That is Pharaoh and his entire crowd!” declares the Lord Yahweh.

The Fall of Jerusalem (July 29, 587 BC)

2 Kings 25:2–7	Jeremiah 38:28b; 39:2–7	Jeremiah 52:5–11	2 Chronicles 36:17b
<p>2 So the city came under siege until the eleventh year of the king.</p> <p>3 In the ninth [<i>day of the</i>] month the famine became severe in the city, and there was no food for the people of the land.</p> <p>4 Then the city was breached,</p>	<p>38:28b And it happened that Jerusalem was captured.</p> <p>39:2 In the eleventh year of Zedekiah, in the fourth month, on <i>the ninth day</i> of the month,</p> <p>the city was taken by assault.</p> <p>3 And all the officials of the king of Babylon came and sat in the Middle Gate: Nergal-sharezer, Samgar-nebo, Sarsechim <i>the</i> chief officer, Nergal-sharezer <i>the</i> high official, with all the rest of the officials of the king of Babylon.</p> <p>4 And then when Zedekiah the king of Judah saw them, and all the soldiers <i>with him</i>, they fled and went out <i>at night</i> from the city <i>by the way of the garden of the king through the gate</i> between the walls.</p> <p>And they went out toward the Jordan Valley.</p> <p>5 But the army of <i>the</i></p>	<p>5 So the city came under siege until <i>the</i> eleventh year of King Zedekiah.</p> <p>6 In the fourth month, on <i>the ninth day</i> of the month, the famine in the city became severe and there was no food for the people of the land.</p> <p>7 Then the city was breached,</p> <p>and all the soldiers fled and went out from the city <i>by night by the way of the gate</i> between the two walls that <i>are</i> at the garden of the king, though <i>the</i> Chaldeans <i>were</i> all around the city.</p> <p>And they went <i>in</i> the direction of the Jordan Valley.</p> <p>8 But the army of <i>the</i></p>	<p>17b and he killed their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary. He showed no mercy on a young man, a virgin, <i>the</i> elderly, or decrepit. He delivered all into his hand.</p>
<p>and all of the men of war <i>entered</i></p> <p>by night by way of the gate between the wall which was by the garden of the king, and the Chaldeans <i>were</i> against the city all around, so he left by the way of the Arabah.</p> <p>5 But the army of the</p>	<p>the king of Judah saw them, and all the soldiers <i>with him</i>, they fled and went out <i>at night</i> from the city <i>by the way of the garden of the king through the gate</i> between the walls.</p> <p>And they went out toward the Jordan Valley.</p> <p>5 But the army of <i>the</i></p>	<p>and all the soldiers fled and went out from the city <i>by night by the way of the gate</i> between the two walls that <i>are</i> at the garden of the king, though <i>the</i> Chaldeans <i>were</i> all around the city.</p> <p>And they went <i>in</i> the direction of the Jordan Valley.</p> <p>8 But the army of <i>the</i></p>	<p>17b and he killed their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary. He showed no mercy on a young man, a virgin, <i>the</i> elderly, or decrepit. He delivered all into his hand.</p>

<p>Chaldeans pursued the king, and they overtook him in the Arabah of Jericho, and all of his army scattered from him.</p> <p>6 So they captured the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah, and they passed sentence on him.</p> <p>7 They slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes;</p> <p>then they blinded the eyes of Zedekiah and bound him in bronze fetters</p> <p>and brought him to Babylon.</p>	<p>Chaldeans pursued after them and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho.</p> <p>And they took him and brought him up to Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon at Riblah in the land of Hamath. And he pronounced sentence on him.</p> <p>6 And the king of Babylon slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah at Riblah before his eyes. The king of Babylon also slaughtered all the nobles of Judah.</p> <p>7 Then he blinded the eyes of Zedekiah and tied him up with bronze fetters</p> <p>to bring him to Babylon.</p>	<p>Chaldeans pursued after the king and they overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho, and all his army was scattered from him.</p> <p>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 And the king of Babylon slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and he also slaughtered all the officials of Judah at Riblah.</p> <p>11 Then he made blind the eyes of Zedekiah, and they tied him up with bronze fetters, and the king of Babylon brought him to Babylon. And he put him in prison until the day of his death.</p>	
--	--	--	--

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 In the fifth month, on the seventh of the month, that is, the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan, a commander of the imperial guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem.</p> <p>13 The bronze pillars which were in the temple of Yahweh, the water carts, and the bronze sea that was in the temple of Yahweh, the Chaldeans broke into pieces and carried their bronze to Babylon.</p> <p>14 The pots, the shovels, the snuffers, the dishes, and the vessels of bronze</p>		<p>12 Now in the fifth month, on the tenth day of the month, which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard, who stood before the king of Babylon, entered into Jerusalem.</p> <p>17 And the Chaldeans broke the pillars of bronze that were in the temple of Yahweh, and the kettle stands and the sea of bronze that were in the temple of Yahweh, and they carried all their bronze to Babylon.</p> <p>18 And they took with them the pots, and the shovels, and the snuffers, and the sprinkling bowls, and the pans, and all the vessels of bronze</p>	<p>18 And all the vessels of the house of God, the great and the small, the storehouses of the house of Yahweh, and the storehouses of the king and his princes, these all he brought to Babylon.</p>

<p>with which they served there, they took. 15 The firepans and the basins, whatever was gold, the commander of the imperial guard took <i>for</i> the gold and whatever was silver, <i>for</i> the silver.</p> <p>16 The two pillars, the one sea, and the water cart</p> <p>which Solomon had made for the temple of Yahweh, there was no weighing to the bronze of all of these vessels.</p> <p>17 The height of the one pillar <i>was</i> eighteen cubits;</p> <p>a bronze capital was on it, with the height of the capital <i>being</i> three cubits. The latticework and pomegranates on the capital all around were bronze, and likewise on the latticework for the second pillar.</p>		<p>which <i>were used in temple</i> service. 19 And <i>the</i> captain of <i>the</i> guard <i>took</i> the bowls, and the firepans, and the sprinkling bowls, and the pots, and the lampstands, and the pans, and the libation bowls, those made of solid gold and those made of solid silver. 20 The two pillars, the one sea, and the twelve bronze oxen that <i>were</i> under the kettle stands which King Solomon had made for the temple of Yahweh— there was not a weight for the bronze of all these vessels! 21 Now the pillars, <i>the</i> height of one pillar <i>was</i> eighteen cubits, and a thread of twelve cubits surrounded it, and its thickness <i>was</i> four fingers, hollowed out. 22 And a capital upon it <i>was</i> bronze and the height of the one capital <i>was</i> five cubits, and latticework and pomegranates <i>were</i> on the capital on all sides, all <i>of</i> bronze. And like these <i>was</i> the second pillar with pomegranates. 23 And there were ninety-six pomegranates on the sides; all the pomegranates on the latticework on all sides <i>were</i> a hundred.</p>	
<p>9 He burned the temple of Yahweh, the palace of the king, and all of the houses of Jerusalem; every large house he burned with fire.</p>	<p>8 And the Chaldeans burned the palace of the king and the houses of the people with fire</p>	<p>13 And he burned the temple of Yahweh, and the palace of the king, and all the houses of Jerusalem, even every great house he burned with fire.</p>	<p>19a And they burned the house of God. 19c and burned its citadels with fire and destroyed all the vessels of its treasuries. 19b And they</p>
<p>10 He and all the army of <i>the</i> Chaldeans who <i>were with</i> the imperial guard tore down the wall of Jerusalem all around.</p>	<p>and broke down the walls of Jerusalem.</p>	<p>14 And all the army of <i>the</i> Chaldeans who <i>were with the</i> captain of <i>the</i> guard broke down all the walls of Jerusalem all around.</p>	<p>shattered the walls of Jerusalem</p>

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
18 Then the commander of the imperial guard took Seraiah		24 Then <i>the</i> captain of <i>the</i> guard took Seraiah	

<p>the chief priest, Zephaniah the second priest, and three of the threshold keepers. 19 From the city he took one court official who <i>was</i> chief officer over the men of war, five men from the king’s council who were found in the city, the secretary of the commander of the army who mustered the people of the land, and sixty men from the people of the land being found in the city. 20 Nebuzaradan commander of the imperial guard took them and brought them to the king of Babylon at Riblah. 21a Then the king of Babylon struck them down and killed them at Riblah in the land of Hamath; 11 The remainder of the people left in the city, the deserters who had deserted to the king of Babylon, and the remainder of the multitude, Nebuzaradan the commander of the imperial guard deported. 12 But the poor of the land the commander of the imperial guard left for the vineyards and for tilling. 21b thus Judah was removed from its land.</p>	<p>9 Then the rest of the people who were left in the city, and those deserting who had deserted to him, and the rest of the people who remained, Nebuzaradan, <i>the</i> captain of <i>the</i> guard, deported <i>to</i> Babylon. 10 And some of the poor people, who had nothing, Nebuzaradan, <i>the</i> captain of <i>the</i> guard, left in the land of Judah. And he gave them vineyards and fields on that day.</p>	<p>the chief priest, and Zephaniah the second priest, and three keepers of the threshold. 25 And from the city he took one high official who was chief officer over the soldiers, and seven men of the king’s advisors who were found in the city, and the secretary of the commander of the army who levied for military service the people of the land, and sixty men of the people of the land who were found in the midst of the city. 26 Then Nebuzaradan <i>the</i> captain of <i>the</i> guard took them and brought them to the king of Babylon <i>at</i> Riblah. 27a And the king of Babylon struck them down and killed them at Riblah in the land of Hamath. 15 And Nebuzaradan <i>the</i> captain of <i>the</i> guard deported <i>some</i> of the poor of the people, and the rest of the people who were left in the city, and the deserters who deserted to the king of Babylon, along with the rest of the craftsmen. 16 But Nebuzaradan <i>the</i> captain of <i>the</i> guard left <i>some</i> of the poor of the land <i>to</i> serve as vinedressers and farmers. 27b So Judah left from its land. 28a <i>This is the number of</i> the people whom Nebuchadnezzar deported: 29 in <i>the</i> eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar, eight hundred and thirty-two persons from Jerusalem;</p>	<p>20a And he took those who escaped the sword to Babylon.</p>
--	--	---	--

Scripture quotations are from the [Lexham English Bible \(LEB\)](#). Copyright 2012 [Logos Bible Software](#). Lexham is a registered trademark of [Logos Bible Software](#).

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).