

**Gedaliah Appointed Governor of Judah (c. September 587 BC)**

2 Kings 25:22

22 Now *as far as* the people left in Judah whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon left behind, 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 And Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon commanded concerning Jeremiah through Nebuzaradan, *the* captain of *the* guard, saying,

12 "Take him and set your eyes on him. And you must not do something bad to him, but only that which he speaks to you, so do with him."

13 So Nebuzaradan, *the* captain of *the* guard, sent *word*, along with Nebushazban *the* chief officer, and Nergal-sharezer *the* high official, and all the chief officers of the king of Babylon.

14a And they sent and took Jeremiah from the courtyard of the guard and gave him to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, to take him to the house,

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

14b so he stayed in the midst of the people.

40:1 The word that came to Jeremiah from Yahweh after Nebuzaradan, *the* captain of *the* guard, had let him go from Ramah, where he had been taken bound in chains in the midst of all the exiles of Jerusalem and Judah who were being deported *to* Babylon.

**Nebuzaradan Personally Oversees Jeremiah's Release**

2 And *the* captain of *the* guard took Jeremiah and said to him, "Yahweh your God threatened this disaster to this place, 3 and *now* he has brought *it about*, and Yahweh has done just as he threatened. Because you sinned against Yahweh and did not listen to his voice, so this thing *has* happened to you.

4 And so then look, I have released you today from the chains that *were* on your hands. If it is good in your eyes to come with me *to* Babylon, *then* come, and I will take care of you. But if it is bad in your eyes to come with me *to* Babylon, *then* refrain. Look, the whole land *is* before you. *To wherever it is* good and right in your eyes to go, *then* go there."

5 While he still had not turned back, *Nebuzaradan* added, "Return to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, whom the king of Babylon has appointed *in an official position* over the towns of Judah, and stay with him in the midst of the people. Or *to wherever it is* right in your eyes to go, *then* go there." Then *the* captain of *the* guard gave him an allowance of provisions and a present, and let him go.

6 So Jeremiah went to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, *at* Mizpah and stayed with him in the midst of the people who were left in the land.

**Arise, O God, Defend Your Cause (c. September 587 BC)**

Psalm 74

**A maskil of Asaph.**

- 1 Why, O God, have you rejected *us* forever?  
*Why* does your anger smoke  
against the sheep of your pasture?
- 2 Remember your congregation *that* you bought long ago,  
*when* you redeemed the tribe of your inheritance.  
*Remember* Mount Zion where you have dwelt.
- 3 Lift your steps to the perpetual ruins,  
*to all that the* enemy has ruined in the sanctuary.
- 4 Your enemies have roared in the midst of your meeting place;  
they have set up their signs *for* signs.
- 5 They are known *to be* like *those who* wield  
axes in a thicket of trees.
- 6 And now its carved works altogether  
they have smashed with axe and hammer.
- 7 They have set fire to your sanctuary.  
They have defiled to the ground,

- the dwelling place for your name.
- 8 They have said in their heart,  
“We will completely oppress them.”  
They burned all the meeting places of God in the land.
- 9 We do not see our signs,  
and there is no longer a prophet.  
No one with us knows how long.
- 10 How long, O God, will *the* adversary taunt?  
Will *the* enemy treat your name with contempt forever?
- 11 Why do you draw back your hand, even your right hand?  
*Take it* from your bosom; destroy *them!*
- 12 But God *has been* my king from long ago,  
working salvation in the midst of the earth.
- 13 You split open *the* sea by your strength;  
You broke *the* heads of *the* sea monsters in the waters.
- 14 You crushed the heads of Leviathan;  
you gave him *as* food to *the* desert dwelling creatures.
- 15 You split open spring and wadi.  
You dried up ever-flowing rivers.
- 16 Yours *is the* day, yours *is the* night also.  
You established light and *the* sun.
- 17 You defined all *the* boundaries of *the* earth;  
Summer and winter—you formed them.
- 18 O Yahweh, remember this: *the* enemy taunts,  
and foolish people treat your name with contempt.
- 19 Do not give to beasts the life of your dove;  
do not ever forget the life of your afflicted ones.
- 20 Have regard for the covenant,  
because *the* dark places of *the* land are full of  
*the* haunts of violence.
- 21 Do not let *the* oppressed turn back humiliated;  
let *the* poor and needy praise your name.
- 22 Rise up, O God, plead your cause;  
remember the reproaching of you by *the* foolish all day long.
- 23 Do not forget the sound of your adversaries,  
the roar of those rising up against you ascending continually.

## How Long, O Lord? (c. September 587 BC)

### Psalm 79

#### A psalm of Asaph.

- 1 O God, *the* nations have entered your inheritance;  
they have defiled your holy temple;  
they have reduced Jerusalem to ruins.
- 2 They have given the bodies of your servants  
as food for the birds of the heavens,  
the flesh of your faithful to *the* beasts of *the* earth.
- 3 They have poured out their blood like water  
all around Jerusalem,  
and there was none to bury *them*.
- 4 We have become a taunt to our neighbors,  
a derision and a scorn to those around us.
- 5 How long, O Yahweh? Will you be angry forever?  
Will your jealousy burn like fire?
- 6 Pour out your anger on the nations  
that do not know you,  
and on *the* kingdoms  
that do not call on your name,

- 7 because they have devoured Jacob  
and have laid waste his habitation.
- 8 Do not remember against us former iniquities;  
let your mercies meet us quickly  
because we are brought very low.
- 9 Help us, O God of our salvation,  
for the glory of your name;  
and deliver us and forgive our sins  
for the sake of your name.
- 10 Why should the nations say,  
“Where *is* their God?”  
Let it be known among the nations before our eyes,  
*by* the avenging of the blood of your servants  
that was poured out.
- 11 Let the groaning of the prisoner come before you.  
According to the greatness of your power,  
spare *the* children *appointed to* death.
- 12 And return to our neighbors sevenfold upon them  
their taunts *with* which they taunted you, O Lord.
- 13 Then we, your people and the flock of your pasture,  
we will give thanks to you forever.  
Generation after generation  
we will tell of your praise.

### How Shall We Sing the Lord’s Song? (c. September 587 BC)

#### Psalm 137

- 1 By the rivers of Babylon,  
there we sat, yes, we wept,  
when we remembered Zion.
- 2 On *the* willows in her midst,  
we hung up our lyres.
- 3 For there our captors asked of us  
words of a song,  
and our tormentors *asked of us* jubilation,  
“Sing for us from a song of Zion.”
- 4 How could we sing the song of Yahweh  
in a foreign land?
- 5 If I forget you, O Jerusalem,  
let my right hand forget.
- 6 Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth,  
if I do not remember you,  
if do not I exalt Jerusalem  
above my highest joy.
- 7 Remember, O Yahweh, against the sons of Edom  
the day of Jerusalem,  
the ones who said, “Lay *it* bare! Lay *it* bare  
to its foundation!”
- 8 O daughter of Babylon, about to be devastated,  
happy *shall be he* who pays back to you  
what you paid out to us.
- 9 Happy *shall be he* who seizes  
and smashes your children  
against the rock.