

Gedaliah Urges the Judahite Army to Stay and Settle Down (c. Sep/Oct 587 BC)

2 Kings 25:23–24

23 When all of the commanders of the troops heard, they and the men, that the king of Babylon had appointed Gedaliah,

they came to Gedaliah at Mizpah, *even* Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, Johanan the son of Kareah, Seriah the son of Tanhumeth the Netophathite, Jaazaniah the son of the Maacathite, they and their men.

24 Gedaliah swore to them and to their men, and he said to them, “You must not be afraid because of the Chaldeans. Settle in the land and serve the king of Babylon, and may it go well with you.”

Jeremiah 40:7–12

7 When all the commanders of the armies who *were* in the open country and their men heard that the king of Babylon had appointed Gedaliah the son of Ahikam *in an official position* in the land, and that he had put him in charge of men, and women, and little children, and of the poor of the land, of *all those* who had not been deported *to* Babylon,

8 then they went to Gedaliah *at* Mizpah— Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and Johanan, and Jehonathan the son of Kareah, and Seraiah the son of Tanhumeth, and the sons of Ephai the Netophathite, and Jezaniah the son of the Maacathite, they and their men.

9 And Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, swore to them and to their men, saying, “You must not be afraid of serving the Chaldeans. Stay in the land and serve the king of Babylon, and it will go well with you.

10 As for me, look, I *am* staying at Mizpah to represent *you* before the Chaldeans who come to us. But you, gather wine and summer fruit and oil, and put *them* in your vessels, and live in your towns that you have seized.”

11 And also all the Judeans who *were* in Moab, and among the Ammonites, and in Edom, and who *were* in all the lands, *when* they heard that the king of Babylon had given a remnant to Judah and that he had appointed Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, *in an official position* over them,

12 then all the Judeans returned from all the places *to* which they were scattered. And they came *to* the land of Judah, to Gedaliah *at* Mizpah, and they gathered wine and summer fruit that yielded in great abundance.

The Ammonite Scheme: Ishmael Assassinates Gedaliah (October 587 BC)

2 Kings 25:25

25 But it happened in the seventh month that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah the son of Elishama from the offspring of the kingship came, and ten men with him,

Jeremiah 40:13–41:3

40:13 And Johanan the son of Kareah and all the commanders of the armies who *were* in the open country came to Gedaliah *at* Mizpah

14 and said to him, “Are you at all aware that Baalis, the king of the Ammonites, has sent Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, to kill you?” But Gedaliah the son of Ahikam would not believe them.

15 Then Johanan the son of Kareah said to Gedaliah in secrecy at Mizpah, saying, “Please let me go and kill Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and nobody will know. Why should he kill you, so that all of Judah who are gathered to you will be scattered, and the remnant of Judah will perish?”

16 But Gedaliah the son of Ahikam said to Johanan the son of Kareah, “You must not do this thing, for you *are* telling a lie about Ishmael.”

41:1 And then in the seventh month Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, the son of Elishama, from the offspring of the kingship, and *one of* the chief officers of the king, came to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam *at* Mizpah, along with ten men.

And they ate bread together there at Mizpah.

2 And Ishmael the son of Nethaniah got up,

<p>and they struck down Gedaliah</p> <p>so that he died with the Judeans and with the Chaldeans who were with him at Mizpah.</p>	<p>along with the ten men who were with him, and they struck Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, with the sword and killed him whom the king of Babylon had appointed <i>in an official position</i> over the land.</p> <p>3 Then Ishmael killed all the Judeans who were with Gedaliah at Mizpah, along with the Chaldeans who were found there, the soldiers.</p>
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The Ammonite Scheme: Johanan Defeats Ishmael (October 587 BC)

Jeremiah 41:4–15

4 And then on the second day of the killing of Gedaliah—and no one knew—
5 then men came from Shechem, from Shiloh, and from Samaria, eighty men *with* shaven beards and torn garments, *who had* cut themselves with blades, having grain offerings and frankincense in their hands to bring *to* the temple of Yahweh.
6 And Ishmael the son of Nethaniah came out to meet them from Mizpah, weeping as he came. And then as *he was* meeting them, he said to them, “Come to Gedaliah, the son of Ahikam.”
7 And then, the moment of their coming to the middle of the city, then Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, along with the men who *were* with him, slaughtered them *and threw them* to the middle of the pit.
8 But ten men were found among them, and they said to Ishmael, “You must not kill us, for we have hidden treasures in the field, wheat, and barley, and oil, and honey. So he refrained and he did not kill them in the midst of their fellow countrymen.
9 Now the pit *into* which Ishmael threw all the corpses of the men whom he had killed along with Gedaliah *was the same one* that King Asa had made because of Baasha the king of Israel, *who was* against him. Ishmael the son of Nethaniah filled *it with* the slain ones.
10 Then Ishmael took captive all the rest of the people who *were* in Mizpah, the daughters of the king and all the people who were left at Mizpah, *over* whom Nebuzaradan, *the* captain of *the* guard, had appointed Gedaliah the son of Ahikam. And Ishmael took them captive and set out to cross over to the Ammonites.
11 When Johanan the son of Kareah and all the commanders of the armies who *were* with him, heard all the evil that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah had done,
12 then they took all the men and went to fight against Ishmael the son of Nethaniah. And they met him at *the* great pool that *is* in Gibeon.
13 And then, the moment that all the people who *were* with Ishmael saw Johanan the son of Kareah and all the commanders of the armies who *were* with him, they were glad.
14 So all the people whom Ishmael had taken captive from Mizpah turned around and returned and went to Johanan the son of Kareah.
15 But Ishmael the son of Nethaniah escaped with eight men from Johanan, and they went to the Ammonites.

Johanan and the Remnant Decide to Flee to Egypt (October 587 BC)

2 Kings 25:26

Jeremiah 41:16–18

<p>26 Then all the people, from youngest to oldest, and the commanders of the troops, went <i>to</i> Egypt, for they were afraid of the presence of the Chaldeans.</p>	<p>16 Then Johanan the son of Kareah and all the commanders of the armies who <i>were</i> with him took from Mizpah all the rest of the people whom he had recovered from Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, after he had killed Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, strong men, soldiers, and women, and little children, and eunuchs whom he brought back from Gibeon.</p> <p>17 And they set out and stayed at the lodging place of Chimham that <i>is</i> near Bethlehem, intending to go <i>to</i> Egypt 18 because of the Chaldeans. For they were afraid of them, because Ishmael the son of Nethaniah had killed Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, whom the king of Babylon had appointed <i>in an official position</i> over the land.</p>
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The Flight to Egypt (c. November–December 587 BC)

Jeremiah 42:1–43:7

The People Ask Jeremiah to Speak to God on Their Behalf

42:1 Then all the commanders of the armies, and Johanan the son of Kareah, and Jezaniah the son of Hoshaiah, and all the people from *the* smallest to *the* greatest, approached
 2 and said to Jeremiah the prophet, “May our plea please fall before you, and pray for us to Yahweh your God, for all this remnant, for we are left *but* a few of many, as your eyes *are* seeing us.
 3 And let Yahweh your God inform us the way in which we should go and the thing that we should do.”
 4 And Jeremiah the prophet said to them, “I have heard. Look, I *am* going to pray to Yahweh your God according to your words, and then all the words that Yahweh answers you I will tell you; I will not withhold from you a word.”

The People Promise to Obey God

5 Then they said to Jeremiah, “May Yahweh be against us as a true and faithful witness if we do not do according to all the words that Yahweh sends you for us.
 6 Whether good or bad, we will listen to the voice of Yahweh our God, *to* whom we *are* sending you, so that it may go well with us when we listen to the voice of Yahweh our God.”

Jeremiah Tells the People What God Said

7 And then at *the* end of ten days the word of Yahweh came to Jeremiah.
 8 And he summoned Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the commanders of the armies who *were* with him, and all the people from *the* smallest to *the* greatest,
 9 and said to them, “Thus says Yahweh, the God of Israel, to whom you sent me to cause your plea to fall before him:
 10 ‘If only you will stay in this land, then I will build you and I will not tear *you* down, and I will plant you and I will not pluck *you* up, for I relent of the disaster that I have brought to you.
 11 You must not be afraid of the king of Babylon whom you *are* afraid of. You must not be afraid of him,’ declares Yahweh, ‘for I *am* with you to save you and to deliver you from his hand.
 12 And I will show you compassion, and he will have compassion on you and will restore you to your soil.
 13 But if you *are* saying, “We will not stay in this land,” *so as to* not listen to the voice of Yahweh your God,
 14 saying, “No, for we will go *to* the land of Egypt where we will not see war, and we will not hear *the* sound of a horn, and we will not be hungry for bread, and there we will stay,”
 15 then therefore hear the word of Yahweh, O remnant of Judah. Thus says Yahweh of hosts, the God of Israel: “If you are determined to go *to* Egypt, and you go to dwell as aliens there,
 16 then it will be *that* the sword that you *are* in fear of will overtake you there in the land of Egypt, and the famine that you *are* anxious of will pursue after you there *into* Egypt, and there you will die.
 17 So all the people who are determined to go *to* Egypt to dwell as aliens there will die by the sword, by the famine, and by the plague, and there will not be for them an escapee or a survivor from the disaster that I *am* bringing upon them.”
 18 For thus says Yahweh of hosts, the God of Israel: “As my anger and my wrath were poured out on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so my wrath will pour out on you at your going *to* Egypt, and you will become a curse, and a horror, and a curse *formula*, and a disgrace, and you will no longer see this place.””
 19 Yahweh has spoken to you, O remnant of Judah, ‘You must not go *to* Egypt.’ You must certainly know that I have warned you today
 20 that you have made a fatal mistake, for you sent me to Yahweh your God, saying, ‘Pray for us to Yahweh our God, and all that Yahweh our God says, so tell us and we will do *it*.’
 21 So I have told you today, and you have not listened to the voice of Yahweh your God, or of anything that he sent me for you.
 22 Now then, certainly you must know that by the sword, by the famine, and by the plague you will die in the place where you desire to go, to dwell as aliens there.”

The People Refuse to Believe Jeremiah

43:1 And then, when Jeremiah had finished speaking to all the people all the words of Yahweh their God, for which Yahweh their God had sent him to them with all these words,
 2 Azariah the son of Hoshaiah, and Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the insolent men spoke, saying to Jeremiah, “You *are* telling a lie! Yahweh our God did not send you, saying, ‘You must not go *to* Egypt to dwell as aliens there.’
 3 But Baruch the son of Neriah *is* inciting you against us in order to give us into the hand of the Chaldeans, to kill us and to deport us to Babylon.”

The People Travel to Egypt and Take Jeremiah With Them

4 So Johanan the son of Kareah and all the commanders of the armies, and all the people did not listen to the voice of Yahweh to stay in the land of Judah.

5 But Johanan the son of Kareah and all the commanders of the armies took all the remnant of Judah who had returned from all the nations *to* which they had been scattered to dwell as aliens in the land of Judah—

6 the men, and the women, and the little children, and the daughters of the king, and everyone whom Nebuzaradan *the* captain of *the* guard had left with Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, and Jeremiah the prophet, and Baruch the son of Neriah—

7 and they came *into* the land of Egypt, for they did not listen to the voice of Yahweh. And they came up to Tahpanhes.

Jeremiah Confronts the Jews in Egypt for Their Idolatry (c. 587/586 BC)

Jeremiah 43:8–44:30

Jeremiah's Prophecy of Nebuchadnezzar's Triumph over Egypt

43:8 And the word of Yahweh came to Jeremiah in Tahpanhes, saying,

9 "Take in your hands large stones and bury them in the mortar in the clay floor that *is* at the entrance of the palace of Pharaoh in Tahpanhes before the eyes of *the* people of *the* Judeans,

10 and say to them, 'Thus says Yahweh of hosts, the God of Israel: "Look, I *am* going to send and take Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and I will set his throne above these stones that I have hidden. And he will spread out his canopy over them.

11 And he will come and ravage the land of Egypt, *and deliver those who are appointed* for the plague, to the plague, and *those who are appointed* for the captivity, to the captivity, and *those who are appointed* for the sword, to the sword.

12 Then he will kindle a fire in the temples of the gods of Egypt, and he will burn them and take them captive. And he will wrap up the land of Egypt just as the shepherd wraps up his cloak. And he will go forth from there in peace.

13 And he will break the stone pillars of Heliopolis, which *is* in the land of Egypt. And he will burn the temples of the gods of Egypt with fire." "

Jeremiah Condemns the Jews' Idolatry in Egypt

44:1 The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the Judeans who were living in the land of Egypt, who were living at Migdol, and Tahpanhes, and Memphis, and in the land of Pathros, saying,

2 "Thus says Yahweh of hosts, the God of Israel: 'You yourselves have seen all the disaster that I have brought on Jerusalem, and on all the towns of Judah. And look, they *are* a site of ruins this day, and there is not in them an inhabitant,

3 because of their wickedness that they committed to provoke me to anger by going to make smoke offerings, serving other gods whom they had not known, *neither* they, you, or your ancestors.

4 And I sent to you all my servants the prophets, sending over and over again, saying, "Please, you must not do this detestable thing that I hate."

5 But they did not listen and they did not incline their ears to turn back from their wickedness, to not make smoke offerings to other gods.

6 So my wrath and my anger were poured out and burned in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, and they became as a site of ruins, as a desolation, as *they are* this day.'

7 So then, thus says Yahweh, the God of hosts, the God of Israel, 'Why *are* you doing great harm to yourselves, to cut off for yourselves man and woman, child and suckling, from the midst of Judah, to not leave over for yourselves a remnant,

8 provoking me to anger with the works of your hands, to make smoke offerings to other gods in the land of Egypt where you *have* come to dwell as aliens, so as to cut off yourselves, and so that you are becoming as a curse, and as a disgrace among all the nations of the earth?

9 Have you forgotten the wicked things of your ancestors, and the wicked things of the kings of Judah, and the wicked things of their wives, and your wicked things, and the wicked things of your wives, which they committed in the land of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem?

10 They have not shown contrition up to this day, and they have not shown reverence, and they have not walked in my law and in my statutes that I set before you and before your ancestors.'

11 Therefore thus says Yahweh of hosts, the God of Israel: 'Look, I am determined to bring disaster on you, even to exterminate all Judah.

12 And I will take *away* the remnant of Judah who are determined to come *to* the land of Egypt to dwell as aliens there, and everyone will perish. They will fall in the land of Egypt by the sword; they will perish by the famine, from *the* smallest to *the* greatest. By the sword and by the famine they will die and become as a curse, as a horror, and as a curse, and as a disgrace.

13 So I will punish those who live in the land of Egypt just as I have punished Jerusalem, with the sword, with the famine, and with the plague.

14 And there will not be a survivor or an escapee of the remnant of Judah, those who have come to dwell as an alien there in the land of Egypt, to return *to* the land of Judah where they *are* longing to return to dwell there, for they will not turn back, but only *some* survivors.'"

The Jews Reject Jeremiah's Warning and Proclaim Their Allegiance to the Queen of Heaven

15 Then all the men who knew that their wives *were* making smoke offerings to other gods, and all the women who stood *by*, a great

assembly, and all the people who lived in the land of Egypt in Pathros, answered Jeremiah, saying,

16 “Concerning the word that you have spoken to us in the name of Yahweh, we *are* not going to listen to you!

17 But certainly we will do everything that went out from our mouths, to make smoke offerings to the queen of heaven and to pour out to her libations just as we did, we, and our ancestors, our kings, and our officials, in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, *for* then we had enough to eat, and we were well-off, and we did not see disaster.

18 But since we stopped making smoke offerings to the queen of heaven and pouring out libations to her, we have lacked everything, and by the sword and by the famine we have perished.

19 And indeed, *when we were* making smoke offerings to the queen of heaven and pouring out to her libations, *was it not* with the consent of our husbands *that* we made for her sacrificial cakes marked with her image, and we poured out to her libations?”

Jeremiah Condemns the People’s Decision

20 Then Jeremiah said to all the people, to the men and to the women, and to all the people who answered him a word, saying,

21 “The offering that you made, smoke offerings in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, you, and your ancestors, your kings, and your officials, and the people of the land, *did* not Yahweh remember them, and *did* it *not* come to his mind?

22 And Yahweh was no longer able to bear *it*, because of the evil of your deeds, because of the detestable things that you committed. Thus your land became as a site of ruins, and as a horror, and as a curse, without inhabitants, as *it is* this day.

23 Because of *the fact* that you made smoke offerings, and that you sinned against Yahweh, and you did not listen to the voice of Yahweh, and you have not walked in his law, and in his statute, and in his legal provisions, therefore this disaster has happened to you, as *it is* this day.”

24 Then Jeremiah said to all the people and to all the women, “Hear the word of Yahweh, all Judah who *are* in the land of Egypt.

25 Thus says Yahweh of hosts, the God of Israel, saying, ‘You and your wives have promised with your mouths and with your hands you have fulfilled, saying, “We certainly will carry out our vows that we vowed, to make smoke offerings to the queen of the heavens, and to pour out to her libations.” You must certainly keep your vows and you must certainly carry out your vows.’

26 Therefore hear the word of Yahweh, all Judah, those who live in the land of Egypt: ‘Look, I hereby swear by my great name,’ says Yahweh, ‘surely my name will no longer be called in the mouth of any man of Judah, saying, “as the Lord Yahweh lives,” in all the land of Egypt.

27 Look, I *am* going to watch over them for harm and not for good, and all people of Judah who *are* in the land of Egypt will perish by the sword and by the famine until their perishing.

28 And *the* survivors of *the* sword will return from the land of Egypt *to* the land of Judah few in number. And all the remnant of Judah who have come to the land of Egypt to dwell as aliens there will know whose word will endure, from me or from them.

A Sign of Coming Punishment

29 And this *will be* to you the sign,’ declares Yahweh, ‘that I *am* going to punish you in this place, so that you may know that surely my words will endure against you for evil.’

30 Thus says Yahweh: ‘Look, I *am* going to give Pharaoh Hophra, the king of Egypt, into the hand of his enemies, and into the hand of those who seek his life, just as I gave Zedekiah the king of Judah into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, his enemy and the one who sought his life.’”

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