

**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.

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

Psalm 74

**A Maskil of Asaph.**

- 1 O God, why have You rejected *us* forever?  
Why does Your anger smoke against the sheep of Your pasture?
- 2 Remember Your congregation, which You have purchased of old,  
Which You have redeemed to be the tribe of Your inheritance;  
*And* this Mount Zion, where You have dwelt.
- 3 Turn Your footsteps toward the perpetual ruins;  
The enemy has damaged everything within the sanctuary.
- 4 Your adversaries have roared in the midst of Your meeting place;  
They have set up their own standards for signs.
- 5 It seems as if one had lifted up  
*His* axe in a forest of trees.
- 6 And now all its carved work  
They smash with hatchet and hammers.
- 7 They have burned Your sanctuary to the ground;  
They have defiled the dwelling place of Your name.
- 8 They said in their heart, "Let us completely subdue them."  
They have burned all the meeting places of God in the land.
- 9 We do not see our signs;  
There is no longer any prophet,

- Nor is there any among us who knows how long.
- 10 How long, O God, will the adversary revile,  
And the enemy spurn Your name forever?
- 11 Why do You withdraw Your hand, even Your right hand?  
From within Your bosom, destroy *them*!
- 12 Yet God is my king from of old,  
Who works deeds of deliverance in the midst of the earth.
- 13 You divided 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 for the creatures of the wilderness.
- 15 You broke open springs and torrents;  
You dried up ever-flowing streams.
- 16 Yours is the day, Yours also is the night;  
You have prepared the light and the sun.
- 17 You have established all the boundaries of the earth;  
You have made summer and winter.
- 18 Remember this, O LORD, that the enemy has reviled,  
And a foolish people has spurned Your name.
- 19 Do not deliver the soul of Your turtledove to the wild beast;  
Do not forget the life of Your afflicted forever.
- 20 Consider the covenant;  
For the dark places of the land are full of the habitations of violence.
- 21 Let not the oppressed return dishonored;  
Let the afflicted and needy praise Your name.
- 22 Arise, O God, *and* plead Your own cause;  
Remember how the foolish man reproaches You all day long.
- 23 Do not forget the voice of Your adversaries,  
The uproar of those who rise against You which ascends continually.

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

#### Psalm 79

##### A psalm of Asaph.

- 1 O God, the nations have invaded Your inheritance;  
They have defiled Your holy temple;  
They have laid Jerusalem in ruins.
- 2 They have given the dead bodies of Your servants for food to the birds of the heavens,  
The flesh of Your godly ones to the beasts of the earth.
- 3 They have poured out their blood like water round about Jerusalem;  
And there was no one to bury them.
- 4 We have become a reproach to our neighbors,  
A scoffing and derision to those around us.
- 5 How long, O LORD? Will You be angry forever?  
Will Your jealousy burn like fire?
- 6 Pour out Your wrath upon the nations which do not know You,  
And upon the kingdoms which do not call upon Your name.
- 7 For they have devoured Jacob  
And laid waste his habitation.
- 8 Do not remember the iniquities of *our* forefathers against us;  
Let Your compassion come quickly to meet us,  
For 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 Your name's sake.
- 10 Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?"  
Let there be known among the nations in our sight,  
Vengeance for the blood of Your servants which has been shed.
- 11 Let the groaning of the prisoner come before You;

According to the greatness of Your power preserve those who are doomed to die.

- 12 And return to our neighbors sevenfold into their bosom  
The reproach with which they have reproached You, O Lord.
- 13 So we Your people and the sheep of Your pasture  
Will give thanks to You forever;  
To all generations 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 down and wept,  
When we remembered Zion.
- 2 Upon the willows in the midst of it  
We hung our harps.
- 3 For there our captors demanded of us songs,  
And our tormentors mirth, *saying*,  
"Sing us one of the songs of Zion."
- 4 How can we sing the LORD's song  
In a foreign land?
- 5 If I forget you, O Jerusalem,  
May my right hand forget *her skill*.
- 6 May my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth  
If I do not remember you,  
If I do not exalt Jerusalem  
Above my chief joy.
- 7 Remember, O LORD, against the sons of Edom  
The day of Jerusalem,  
Who said, "Raze it, raze it  
To its very foundation."
- 8 O daughter of Babylon, you devastated one,  
How blessed will be the one who repays you  
With the recompense with which you have repaid us.
- 9 How blessed will be the one who seizes and dashes your little ones  
Against the rock.

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