

Zedekiah Rebels Against Nebuchadnezzar (c. 590 BC)		
2 Kings 24:20	Jeremiah 52:3	2 Chronicles 36:13–16
<p>20 What follows is a record of what happened to Jerusalem and Judah because of the LORD’s anger; he finally threw them out of his presence.</p> <p>Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.</p>	<p>3 What follows is a record of what happened to Jerusalem and Judah because of the LORD’s anger when he drove them out of his sight.</p> <p>Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.</p>	<p>13b He [Zedekiah] was stubborn and obstinate, and refused to return to the LORD God of Israel.</p> <p>14 All the leaders of the priests and people became more unfaithful and committed the same horrible sins practiced by the nations. They defiled the LORD’s temple which he had consecrated in Jerusalem.</p> <p>15 The LORD God of their ancestors continually warned them through his messengers, for he felt compassion for his people and his dwelling place.</p> <p>16 But they mocked God’s messengers, despised his warnings, and ridiculed his prophets.</p> <p>Finally</p> <p>the LORD got very angry at his people</p> <p>and there was no one who could prevent his judgment.</p> <p>13a He also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him vow allegiance in the name of God.</p>

Nebuchadnezzar’s Third and Final Siege of Jerusalem (January 27, 589 BC)			
2 Kings 25:1	Jeremiah 39:1	Jeremiah 52:4	2 Chronicles 36:17a
<p>1 So King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came against Jerusalem with his whole army and set up camp outside it. They built siege ramps all around it. He arrived on the tenth day of the tenth month in the ninth year of Zedekiah’s reign.</p>	<p>1 King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came against Jerusalem with his whole army and laid siege to it. The siege began in the tenth month of the ninth year that Zedekiah ruled over Judah.</p>	<p>4 King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came against Jerusalem with his whole army and set up camp outside it. They built siege ramps all around it. He arrived on the tenth day of the tenth month in the ninth year that Zedekiah ruled over Judah.</p>	<p>17a He [God] brought against them the king of the Babylonians,</p>

Ezekiel’s Prophecy to the Exiles—Jerusalem’s Final Judgment (January 27, 589 BC)
Ezekiel 24
<p>The Boiling Pot</p> <p>1 The word of the LORD came to me in the ninth year, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month:</p> <p>2 “Son of man, write down the name of this day, this very day. The king of Babylon has laid siege to Jerusalem this very day.</p> <p>3 Recite a proverb to this rebellious house and say to them, ‘This is what the sovereign LORD says:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">“Set on the pot, set it on, pour water in it too;</p> <p>4 add the pieces of meat to it, every good piece,</p>

the thigh and the shoulder;
fill it with choice bones.

5 Take the choice bone of the flock,
heap up bones under it;
boil rapidly,
and boil its bones in it.

6 “Therefore this is what the sovereign LORD says:
Woe to the city of bloodshed,
the pot whose rot is in it,
whose rot has not been removed from it!
Empty it piece by piece.
No lot has fallen on it.

7 For her blood was in it;
she poured it on an exposed rock;
she did not pour it on the ground to cover it up with dust.

8 To arouse anger, to take vengeance,
I have placed her blood on an exposed rock so that it cannot be covered up.

9 “Therefore this is what the sovereign LORD says:
Woe to the city of bloodshed!
I will also make the pile high.

10 Pile up the bones, kindle the fire;
cook the meat well, mix in the spices,
let the bones be charred.

11 Set the empty pot on the coals,
until it becomes hot and its copper glows,
until its uncleanness melts within it and its rot is consumed.

12 It has tried my patience;
yet its thick rot is not removed from it.
Subject its rot to the fire!

13 You mix uncleanness with obscene conduct.
I tried to cleanse you, but you are not clean.
You will not be cleansed from your uncleanness
until I have exhausted my anger on you.

14 “I the LORD have spoken; judgment is coming and I will act! I will not relent, or show pity, or be sorry! I will judge you according to your conduct and your deeds, declares the sovereign LORD.”

The Death of Ezekiel’s Wife

15 The word of LORD came to me:

16 “Son of man, realize that I am about to take the delight of your eyes away from you with a jolt, but you must not mourn or weep or shed tears.

17 Groan in silence for the dead, but do not perform mourning rites. Bind on your turban and put your sandals on your feet. Do not cover your lip and do not eat food brought by others.”

18 So I spoke to the people in the morning, and my wife died in the evening. In the morning I acted just as I was commanded.

19 Then the people said to me, “Will you not tell us what these things you are doing mean for us?”

20 So I said to them: “The word of the LORD came to me:

21 Say to the house of Israel, ‘This is what the sovereign LORD says: Realize I am about to desecrate my sanctuary—the source of your confident pride, the object in which your eyes delight, and your life’s passion. Your very own sons and daughters whom you have left behind will die by the sword.

22 Then you will do as I have done: You will not cover your lip or eat food brought by others.

23 Your turbans will be on your heads and your sandals on your feet; you will not mourn or weep, but you will rot for your iniquities and groan among yourselves.

24 Ezekiel will be an object lesson for you; you will do all that he has done. When it happens, then you will know that I am the sovereign LORD.’

A Fugitive Will Bring News of Jerusalem’s Fall to Ezekiel (fulfilled in Ezekiel 33:21)

25 “And you, son of man, this is what will happen on the day I take from them their stronghold—their beautiful source of joy, the object in which their eyes delight, and the main concern of their lives, as well as their sons and daughters:

26 On that day a fugitive will come to you to report the news.

27 On that day you will be able to speak again; you will talk with the fugitive and be silent no longer. You will be an object lesson for them, and they will know that I am the LORD.”

Ezekiel’s Prophecy to the Exiles—Concerning the Nations Around Judah (January 27, 589 BC)

Ezekiel 25

Ammon

1 The word of the LORD came to me:

2 “Son of man, turn toward the Ammonites and prophesy against them.

3 Say to the Ammonites, ‘Hear the word of the sovereign LORD: This is what the sovereign LORD says: You said “Aha!” about my sanctuary when it was desecrated, about the land of Israel when it was made desolate, and about the house of Judah when they went into exile.

4 So take note, I am about to make you slaves of the tribes of the east. They will make camps among you and pitch their tents among you. They will eat your fruit and drink your milk.

5 I will make Rabbah a pasture for camels and Ammon a resting place for sheep. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

6 For this is what the sovereign LORD says: Because you clapped your hands, stamped your feet, and rejoiced with intense scorn over the land of Israel,

7 take note, I have stretched out my hand against you, and I will hand you over as plunder to the nations. I will cut you off from the peoples and make you perish from the lands. I will destroy you; then you will know that I am the LORD.”

Moab

8 “This is what the sovereign LORD says: ‘Moab and Seir say, “Look, the house of Judah is like all the other nations.”

9 So look, I am about to open up Moab’s flank, eliminating the cities, including its frontier cities, the beauty of the land—Beth Jeshimoth, Baal Meon, and Kiriathaim.

10 I will hand it over, along with the Ammonites, to the tribes of the east, so that the Ammonites will no longer be remembered among the nations.

11 I will execute judgments against Moab. Then they will know that I am the LORD.”

Edom

12 “This is what the sovereign LORD says: ‘Edom has taken vengeance against the house of Judah; they have made themselves fully culpable by taking vengeance on them.

13 So this is what the sovereign LORD says: I will stretch out my hand against Edom, and I will kill the people and animals within her, and I will make her desolate; from Teman to Dedan they will die by the sword.

14 I will exact my vengeance upon Edom by the hand of my people Israel. They will carry out in Edom my anger and rage; they will experience my vengeance, declares the sovereign LORD.”

Philistia

15 “This is what the sovereign LORD says: ‘The Philistines have exacted merciless revenge, showing intense scorn in their effort to destroy Judah with unrelenting hostility.

16 So this is what the sovereign LORD says: Take note, I am about to stretch out my hand against the Philistines. I will kill the Cherethites and destroy those who remain on the seacoast.

17 I will exact great vengeance upon them with angry rebukes. Then they will know that I am the LORD, when I exact my vengeance upon them.”

Zedekiah Asks Jeremiah for Help (c. February 589 BC)

Jeremiah 21

Jeremiah’s Answer to Zedekiah

1 The LORD spoke to Jeremiah when King Zedekiah sent to him Pashhur son of Malkijah and the priest Zephaniah son of Maaseiah. Zedekiah sent them to Jeremiah to ask,

2 “Please ask the LORD to come and help us, because King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon is attacking us. Maybe the LORD will perform one of his miracles as in times past and make him stop attacking us and leave.”

3 Jeremiah answered them, “Tell Zedekiah

4 that the LORD, the God of Israel, says, ‘The forces at your disposal are now outside the walls fighting against King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon and the Babylonians who have you under siege. I will gather those forces back inside the city.

5 In anger, in fury, and in wrath I myself will fight against you with my mighty power and great strength!

6 I will kill everything living in Jerusalem, people and animals alike! They will die from terrible diseases.

7 Then I, the LORD, promise that I will hand over King Zedekiah of Judah, his officials, and any of the people who survive the war, starvation, and disease. I will hand them over to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon and to their enemies who want to kill them. He will slaughter them with the sword. He will not show them any mercy, compassion, or pity.'

8 "But tell the people of Jerusalem that the LORD says, 'I will give you a choice between two courses of action. One will result in life; the other will result in death.

9 Those who stay in this city will die in battle or of starvation or disease. Those who leave the city and surrender to the Babylonians who are besieging it will live. They will escape with their lives.

10 For I, the LORD, say that I am determined not to deliver this city but to bring disaster on it. It will be handed over to the king of Babylon and he will destroy it with fire.'"

Warning to the House of David

11 The LORD told me to say to the royal court of Judah,

"Listen to what the LORD says,

12 O royal family descended from David.

The LORD says:

'See to it that people each day are judged fairly.

Deliver those who have been robbed from those who oppress them.

Otherwise, my wrath will blaze out against you.

It will burn like a fire that cannot be put out

because of the evil that you have done.

Warning to a Complacent City

13 Listen, you who sit enthroned above the valley on a rocky plateau.

I am opposed to you,' says the LORD.

'You boast, "No one can swoop down on us.

No one can penetrate into our places of refuge."

14 But I will punish you as your deeds deserve,'

says the LORD.

'I will set fire to your palace;

it will burn up everything around it.'"

Nebuchadnezzar Leaves Jerusalem to Deal with Pharaoh Hophra [Egypt] (589 BC)

Jeremiah 37:4–5

4 (Now Jeremiah had not yet been put in prison. So he was still free to come and go among the people as he pleased.

5 At that time the Babylonian forces had temporarily given up their siege against Jerusalem. They had had it under siege, but withdrew when they heard that the army of Pharaoh had set out from Egypt.)

Hophra's Intervention Gives Zedekiah False Hope (589 BC)

Jeremiah 37:3, 6–10

3 King Zedekiah sent Jehucal son of Shelemiah and the priest Zephaniah son of Maaseiah to the prophet Jeremiah. He told them to say, "Please pray to the LORD our God on our behalf."

6 The LORD gave the prophet Jeremiah a message for them. He told him to tell them,

7 "The LORD God of Israel says, 'Give a message to the king of Judah who sent you to ask me to help him. Tell him, "The army of Pharaoh that was on its way to help you will go back home to Egypt.

8 Then the Babylonian forces will return. They will attack the city and will capture it and burn it down.

9 Moreover, I, the LORD, warn you not to deceive yourselves into thinking that the Babylonian forces will go away and leave you alone. For they will not go away.

10 For even if you were to defeat all the Babylonian forces fighting against you so badly that only wounded men were left lying in their tents, they would get up and burn this city down.'"