

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

2 Kings 25:22

22 Now King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon appointed Gedaliah son of Ahikam, son of Shaphan, as governor over the people whom he allowed to remain in the land of Judah.

Jeremiah's Release (c. September 587 BC)

Jeremiah 39:11–14; 40:1–6

Jeremiah Released at Nebuchadnezzar's Personal Command

39:11 Now King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had issued orders concerning Jeremiah. He had passed them on through Nebuzaradan, the captain of his royal guard,

12 "Find Jeremiah and look out for him. Do not do anything to harm him, but do with him whatever he tells you."

13 So Nebuzaradan, the captain of the royal guard, Nebushazban, who was a chief officer, Nergal-Sharezer, who was a high official, and all the other officers of the king of Babylon

14a sent and had Jeremiah brought from the courtyard of the guardhouse. They turned him over to Gedaliah, the son of Ahikam and the grandson of Shaphan, to take him home with him.

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

14b But Jeremiah stayed among the people.

40:1 The LORD spoke to Jeremiah after Nebuzaradan the captain of the royal guard had set him free at Ramah. He had taken him there in chains along with all the people from Jerusalem and Judah who were being carried off to exile to Babylon.

Nebuzaradan Personally Oversees Jeremiah's Release

2 The captain of the royal guard took Jeremiah aside and said to him, "The LORD your God threatened this place with this disaster.

3 Now he has brought it about. The LORD has done just as he threatened to do. This disaster has happened because you people sinned against the LORD and did not obey him.

4 But now, Jeremiah, today I will set you free from the chains on your wrists. If you would like to come to Babylon with me, come along and I will take care of you. But if you prefer not to come to Babylon with me, you are not required to do so. You are free to go anywhere in the land you want to go. Go wherever you choose."

5 Before Jeremiah could turn to leave, the captain of the guard added, "Go back to Gedaliah, the son of Ahikam and grandson of Shaphan, whom the king of Babylon appointed to govern the towns of Judah. Go back and live with him among the people. Or go wherever else you choose." Then the captain of the guard gave Jeremiah some food and a present and let him go.

6 So Jeremiah went to Gedaliah son of Ahikam at Mizpah and lived there with him. He stayed there to live among the people who had been left in the land of Judah.

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

Psalm 74

A well-written song by Asaph.

- 1 Why, O God, have you permanently rejected us?
Why does your anger burn against the sheep of your pasture?
- 2 Remember your people whom you acquired in ancient times,
whom you rescued so they could be your very own nation,
as well as Mount Zion, where you dwell!
- 3 Hurry and look at the permanent ruins,
and all the damage the enemy has done to the temple!
- 4 Your enemies roar in the middle of your sanctuary;
they set up their battle flags.
- 5 They invade like lumberjacks
swinging their axes in a thick forest.
- 6 And now they are tearing down all its engravings
with axes and crowbars.
- 7 They set your sanctuary on fire;
they desecrate your dwelling place by knocking it to the ground.
- 8 They say to themselves, "We will oppress all of them."
They burn down all the places where people worship God in the land.
- 9 We do not see any signs of God's presence;

- there are no longer any prophets
and we have no one to tell us how long this will last.
- 10 How long, O God, will the adversary hurl insults?
Will the enemy blaspheme your name forever?
- 11 Why do you remain inactive?
Intervene and destroy him!
- 12 But God has been my king from ancient times,
performing acts of deliverance on the earth.
- 13 You destroyed the sea by your strength;
you shattered the heads of the sea monster in the water.
- 14 You crushed the heads of Leviathan;
you fed him to the people who live along the coast.
- 15 You broke open the spring and the stream;
you dried up perpetually flowing rivers.
- 16 You established the cycle of day and night;
you put the moon and sun in place.
- 17 You set up all the boundaries of the earth;
you created the cycle of summer and winter.
- 18 Remember how the enemy hurls insults, O LORD,
and how a foolish nation blasphemes your name!
- 19 Do not hand the life of your dove over to a wild animal!
Do not continue to disregard the lives of your oppressed people!
- 20 Remember your covenant promises,
for the dark regions of the earth are full of places where violence rules.
- 21 Do not let the afflicted be turned back in shame!
Let the oppressed and poor praise your name!
- 22 Rise up, O God! Defend your honor!
Remember how fools insult you all day long!
- 23 Do not disregard what your enemies say,
or the unceasing shouts of those who defy you.

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

Psalm 79

A psalm of Asaph.

- 1 O God, foreigners have invaded your chosen land;
they have polluted your holy temple
and turned Jerusalem into a heap of ruins.
- 2 They have given the corpses of your servants
to the birds of the sky;
the flesh of your loyal followers
to the beasts of the earth.
- 3 They have made their blood flow like water
all around Jerusalem, and there is no one to bury them.
- 4 We have become an object of disdain to our neighbors;
those who live on our borders taunt and insult us.
- 5 How long will this go on, O LORD?
Will you stay angry forever?
How long will your rage burn like fire?
- 6 Pour out your anger on the nations that do not acknowledge you,
on the kingdoms that do not pray to you!
- 7 For they have devoured Jacob
and destroyed his home.
- 8 Do not hold us accountable for the sins of earlier generations!
Quickly send your compassion our way,
for we are in serious trouble!
- 9 Help us, O God, our deliverer!
For the sake of your glorious reputation, rescue us!

- Forgive our sins for the sake of your reputation!
- 10 Why should the nations say, “Where is their God?”
Before our very eyes may the shed blood of your servants
be avenged among the nations!
- 11 Listen to the painful cries of the prisoners!
Use your great strength to set free those condemned to die!
- 12 Pay back our neighbors in full!
May they be insulted the same way they insulted you, O Lord!
- 13 Then we, your people, the sheep of your pasture,
will continually thank you.
We will tell coming generations of your praiseworthy acts.

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

Psalm 137

- 1 By the rivers of Babylon
we sit down and weep
when we remember Zion.
- 2 On the poplars in her midst
we hang our harps,
3 for there our captors ask us to compose songs;
those who mock us demand that we be happy, saying:
“Sing for us a song about Zion!”
- 4 How can we sing a song to the LORD
in a foreign land?
- 5 If I forget you, O Jerusalem,
may my right hand be crippled!
- 6 May my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth,
if I do not remember you,
and do not give Jerusalem priority
over whatever gives me the most joy.
- 7 Remember, O LORD, what the Edomites did
on the day Jerusalem fell.
They said, “Tear it down, tear it down,
right to its very foundation!”
- 8 O daughter Babylon, soon to be devastated!
How blessed will be the one who repays you
for what you dished out to us!
- 9 How blessed will be the one who grabs your babies
and smashes them on a rock!

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