

Jeremiah 39

King James Version (KJV)

39 In the ninth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the tenth month, came Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon and all his army against Jerusalem, and they besieged it. (This will be the third and final siege of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar)

²And in the eleventh year of Zedekiah, in the fourth month, the ninth day of the month, the city was broken up.

³And all the princes of the king of Babylon came in, and sat in the middle gate, even Nergalsharezer, Samgarnebo, Sarsechim, Rabsaris, Nergalsharezer, Rabmag, with all the residue of the princes of the king of Babylon. (The gate was where judgment took place. The Babylonians will judge the leaders, priests and people of Jerusalem for not surrendering to them)

⁴And it came to pass, that when Zedekiah the king of Judah saw them, and all the men of war, then they fled, and went forth out of the city by night, by the way of the king's garden, by the gate betwixt the two walls: and he went out the way of the plain. (They all ran like rabbits and deserted the people of Jerusalem)

⁵But the Chaldeans' army pursued after them, and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho: and when they had taken him, they brought him up to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon to Riblah in the land of Hamath, where he gave judgment upon him. (Hamath <a Kenite place> is the place where the Kenites fooled Joshua into letting them join Israel centuries before)

⁶Then the king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedekiah in Riblah before his eyes: also the king of Babylon slew all the nobles of Judah. (Nebuchadnezzar had pledged to them that if they surrendered, they would live peacefully in Jerusalem)

(Instead, they defied him. They defied God by persecuting Jeremiah. They even tried to kill Jeremiah. And when the city finally fell, they deserted their own people and ran)

⁷Moreover he put out Zedekiah's eyes, and bound him with chains, to carry him to Babylon. (And he had been worried about being mocked. His own fears destroyed him)

⁸ And the Chaldeans burned the king's house, and the houses of the people, with fire, and brake down the walls of Jerusalem. (Just as God had told him through Jeremiah)

⁹ Then Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away captive into Babylon the remnant of the people that remained in the city, and those that fell away, that fell to him, with the rest of the people that remained.

¹⁰ But Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard left of the poor of the people, which had nothing, in the land of Judah, and gave them vineyards and fields at the same time. (Those are the ones that had not fought against them. Zedekiah and the nobles could have had the same treatment, had they listened to God)

¹¹ Now Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon gave charge concerning Jeremiah to Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard, saying,

¹² Take him, and look well to him, and do him no harm; but do unto him even as he shall say unto thee. (God was protecting Jeremiah and later, Zedekiah's daughters. Nebuchadnezzar is saying – treat him well and obey what he asks of you)

NOTE: (God uses whoever He will, to do His plan. We are all God's children; not just the Israelites. In an earlier chapter, God called King Nebuchadnezzar "my servant")

¹³ So Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard sent, and Nebushasban, Rabsaris, and Nergalsharezer, Rabmag, and all the king of Babylon's princes;

¹⁴ Even they sent, and took Jeremiah out of the court of the prison, and committed him unto Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan, that he should carry him home: so he dwelt among the people.

¹⁵ Now the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah, while he was shut up in the court of the prison, saying,

¹⁶ Go and speak to Ebedmelech the Ethiopian, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will bring my words upon this city for evil, and not for good; and they shall be accomplished in that day before thee. (This is the Ethiopian that helped Jeremiah in the prison. He will witness the downfall of Jerusalem)

¹⁷ But I will deliver thee in that day, saith the LORD: and thou shalt not be given into the hand of the men of whom thou art afraid. (God takes care of those who obey and follow Him. Ebedmelech helped Jeremiah, so God will save him)

¹⁸ For I will surely deliver thee, and thou shalt not fall by the sword, but thy life shall be for a prey unto thee: because thou hast put thy trust in me, saith the LORD. (God will save him because he helped Jeremiah when the king intended to kill him. God protects His own)
See Jeremiah-17:5