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Various information and topics that help the reader of the Bible understand the apostles and the Lord Jesus Christ's teachings.

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## Jeremiah 52.

(2010).

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*Teach it, don't demand it.*

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## Jeremiah 52.

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The following is an overview of the main topics.  
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**Introduction;** this chapter is recounting the History of Babylon's invasion of Jerusalem, its fall and the events that followed.

### **The Word of the LORD concerning ZEDEKIAH.**

Jeremiah 52:1 ----- <sup>1</sup>Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king; and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah.

**Zedekiah;** (means, Jehovah is righteous) he was the son of Josiah he reigned 11 years and was the last king of Judah. Because of the wickedness of Judah, God finally brought on the predicted Babylonian captivity. King Nebuchadnezzar came to Jerusalem, took Jehoiachin Judah's king, captive to Babylon and made Mattaniah, whose name he changed to Zedekiah, king in his place.

**Hamutal;** was the Mother of Jehoahaz and Zedekiah (two kings of Judah).

**Jeremiah of Libnah;** was the father of Hamutal, the wife of Josiah the king of Judah and mother of Jehoahaz and Zedekiah (Two kings of Judah).

### **Zedekiah Rebelled against the King of Babylon.**

Jeremiah 52:2-3 ----- <sup>2</sup>And he (Zedekiah king of Judah) did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that Jehoiakim had done. <sup>3</sup>For because of the anger of the LORD things came to the point in Jerusalem and Judah that he cast them out from his presence. And Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

**Jehoiakim;** was king over Jerusalem, he burned the book of Jeremiah because the words displeased him and was an oppressive and thoroughly godless king who died in disgrace, "buried with the burial of an ass" (Jer 22:19) (For the story of the burning of the book see Jer 36), both Jehoiakim and Zedekiah refused to listen to the LORD'S word that clearly came to them though God's prophet Jeremiah, under their kingship the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem became so corrupt the LORD cast them out from His presence.

The LORD cast them out from His presence; in this context means God removed them from their land, Jerusalem and the Temple of God. To do this God used Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon Nebuchadnezzar having already taken away the men of influence from Judah appointed Zedekiah as king over the remaining Jews at Jerusalem. The king of Babylon no doubt thought the remaining Jews would be easily subdued, but foolishly Zedekiah, rebelled against him and as a result, he and the people of Judah were captured by Nebuchadnezzar and taken into captivity to Babylon, thus the LORD used the rebellion of Zediakiah to cast Judah out of His presence, meaning out of Jerusalem and the Temple of God (v3).

### **Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon comes against Jerusalem.**

Jeremiah 52:4-9 ----- <sup>4</sup>And in the ninth year of his (Zedekiah's) reign, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came with all his army against Jerusalem, and laid siege to it. And they built siegeworks all around it. <sup>5</sup>So the city was besieged till the eleventh year of King Zedekiah. <sup>6</sup>On the ninth day of the fourth month the famine was so severe in the city that there was no food for the people of the land.

**Great Famine;** From the 9<sup>th</sup> year to the 11<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah the Babylonians surrounded the walls of Jerusalem (approximately two years) so no-one could go in or out to get food. The famine within the walls of the city became so great parents were eating their own new-born children to survive.

## **Babylon Enters the City of Jerusalem.**

Jeremiah 52:7-9 ----- <sup>7</sup>Then a breach was made in the city, and all the men of war fled and went out from the city by night by the way of a gate between the two walls, by the king's garden, while the Chaldeans were around the city. And they went in the direction of the Arabah. <sup>8</sup>But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho. And all his army was scattered from him. <sup>9</sup>Then they captured the king (Zedekiah of Jerusalem) and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah in the land of Hamath, and he passed sentence on him.

**Arabah;** is along the valley of the Jordan River.

**Jericho;** an area in Palestine east of Jerusalem and near the Jordan.

**Riblah;** a site along north east boundary of Canaan.

**Hamath;** is close to the shore of the Sea of Galilee.

## **Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and his army built siege against Jerusalem.**

In the 11<sup>th</sup> year (v5) of the reign of Zedekiah king of Jerusalem, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon entered the city of Jerusalem and all Judah's soldiers fled, but Babylonians warriors caught Zedekiah king of Jerusalem and took him to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon who passed a judgment and punishment on him.

## **The punishment Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon passed on Zedekiah.**

Jeremiah 52:10-11 --- <sup>10</sup>The king of Babylon slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and also slaughtered all the officials of Judah at Riblah. <sup>11</sup>He put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him in chains, and the king of Babylon took him to Babylon, and put him in prison till the day of his death.

### **Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon: -**

- Killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes.
- Slaughtered all the officials of Judah.
- Put out the eyes of Zedekiah.
- Put Zedekiah in prison where he died.

## **Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon Burned the Temple of God.**

Jeremiah 52:12-14 --- <sup>12</sup>In the fifth month, on the tenth day of the month—that was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon—Nebuzaradan the captain of the bodyguard, who served the king of Babylon, entered Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup>And he burned the house of the LORD, and the king's house and all the houses of Jerusalem; every great house he burned down. <sup>14</sup>And all the army of the Chaldeans, who were with the captain of the guard, broke down all the walls around Jerusalem.

**Nebuzaradan** (Captain of the Guard) was Nebuchadnezzar's general when the Babylonians besieged Jerusalem and bears the title, the Captain of the guard. After the fall of Jerusalem he was made provisional governor of Palestine for the Babylonians and given special charge and responsibility of Jeremiah. He presented the option to Jeremiah to travel with him to Babylon or to remain in his own land. Jeremiah chose to remain with the poor Nebuchadnezzar had left in the land of Judah.

### **In the 19<sup>th</sup> year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan: -**

- Entered Jerusalem.
- Burned the Temple of God, the king's house and all the houses of Jerusalem.

- Broke down all the walls around Jerusalem.

**Note;** all of this destruction and suffering could have been avoided if Zedekiah the king of Judah and the people had obeyed the words of the LORD that came to them through His prophet Jeremiah.

**Those remaining in Jerusalem are taken to Babylon.**

Jeremiah 52:15-16 ---- <sup>15</sup>And Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away captive some of the poorest of the people and the rest of the people who were left in the city and the deserters who had deserted to the king of Babylon, together with the rest of the artisans. <sup>16</sup>But Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard left some of the poorest of the land to be vinedressers and plowmen.

When Nebuchadnezzar entered Jerusalem the first time he took all the people of influence captive and left only the poor at Jerusalem and on the land of Judah. Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard is now taking this group of people captive, but leaves the poorest of them to be vinedressers and plowmen.

**The Treasures of the LORD’S Temple are taken to Babylon.**

Jeremiah 52:17-23 ---- <sup>17</sup>And the pillars of bronze that were in the house of the LORD, and the stands and the bronze sea that were in the house of the LORD, the Chaldeans broke in pieces, and carried all the bronze to Babylon. <sup>18</sup>And they took away the pots and the shovels and the snuffers and the basins and the dishes for incense and all the vessels of bronze used in the temple service; <sup>19</sup>also the small bowls and the fire pans and the basins and the pots and the lampstands and the dishes for incense and the bowls for drink offerings. What was of gold the captain of the guard took away as gold, and what was of silver, as silver. <sup>20</sup>As for the two pillars, the one sea, the twelve bronze bulls that were under the sea, and the stands, which Solomon the king had made for the house of the LORD, the bronze of all these things was beyond weight. <sup>21</sup>As for the pillars, the height of the one pillar was eighteen cubits, its circumference was twelve cubits, and its thickness was four fingers, and it was hollow. <sup>22</sup>On it was a capital of bronze. The height of the one capital was five cubits. A network and pomegranates, all of bronze, were around the capital. And the second pillar had the same, with pomegranates. <sup>23</sup>There were ninety-six pomegranates on the sides; all the pomegranates were a hundred upon the network all around.

Everything in the Temple of God and that was used for the service of God that was made of bronze silver or gold the Babylonian’s took back to the city of Babylon.

**The Priests of the LORD’S Temple are taken to Babylon.**

Jeremiah 52:24-27 ---- <sup>24</sup>And the captain of the guard took Seraiah the chief priest, and Zepha-niah the second priest, and the three keepers of the threshold (keepers of the door in KJV); <sup>25</sup>and from the city he took an officer who had been in command of the men of war, and seven men of the king’s council, who were found in the city; and the secretary of the commander of the army who mustered the people of the land; and sixty men of the people of the land, who were found in the midst of the city. <sup>26</sup>And Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard took them and brought them to the king of Babylon at Riblah. <sup>27</sup>And the king of Babylon struck them down, and put them to death at Riblah in the land of Hamath. So Judah was taken into exile out of its land.

**Riblah;** was along the north east boundary of Canaan.

**Hamath;** is close to the shore of the Sea of Galilee.

**Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard took: -**

- Seraiah the chief priest.
- Zepha-niah the second priest.
- Three keepers of the door of the LORD’S Temple.

- An officer who had been in command of Judah's men of war.
- Seven men of King Zedekiah's council.
- The secretary of the armies' commander who gathered the people of Judah.
- Sixty men of Judah who were found in Jerusalem.

And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon put them all to death so Judah was taken into exile out of their land, thus all the words of Jeremiah the prophet were fulfilled.

**The Number of Judah's Nebuchadnezzar carried away captive to Babylon: -**

Jeremiah 52:28-30 --- <sup>28</sup>This is the number of the people whom Nebuchadnezzar carried away captive: in the seventh year, 3,023 Judeans; <sup>29</sup>in the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar he carried away captive from Jerusalem 832 persons; <sup>30</sup>in the twenty-third year of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away captive of the Judeans 745 persons; all the persons were 4,600.

**Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon carried away captive from Jerusalem: -**

**In the 7<sup>th</sup> year;** 3,023 Judeans.

**In the 18<sup>th</sup> year;** 832 Judeans.

**In the 23<sup>rd</sup> year;** 745 Judeans.

**Total Judeans;** 4,600 Judeans (carried away captive to Babylon).

**Evil-merodach King of Babylon Promotes Jehoiachin King of Judah.**

Jeremiah 52:31-34 ---- <sup>31</sup>And in the thirty-seventh year of the exile of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the twenty-fifth day of the month, Evil-merodach king of Babylon, in the year that he became king, lifted up the head of Jehoiachin king of Judah and brought him out of prison. <sup>32</sup>And he spoke kindly to him, and gave him a seat above the seats of the kings who were with him in Babylon. <sup>33</sup>So Jehoiachin put off his prison garments. And every day of his life he dined regularly at the king's table, <sup>34</sup>and for his allowance, a regular allowance was given him by the king according to his daily need, until the day of his death as long as he lived.

**Jehoiachin king of Judah;** under the threatening shadow of Nebuchadnezzar, Jehoiachin became king and in his three months of power, "he did that which was evil in the sight of Jehovah. King Nebuchadnezzar brought him to Babylon where he remained a captive the rest of his life.

**Evil-merodach;** was a king of Babylon who reigned two years, the name means "Man of Marduk." Marduk being the chief god of Babylon He was the son and successor of Nebuchadnezzar.

**Lifted up the head;** in this context means he promoted him.

After thirty-seven years of captivity Evil-merodach king of Babylon spoke kindly to Jehoiachin king of Judah and promoted him.

**Jehoiachin: -**

- Was brought out of prison and had new garments of clothing placed on him.
- Given a throne above those of the vassal kings who were with him in Babylon.
- Every day of his life dined regularly at the king's table.
- A regular allowance was given him by the king.
- According to his daily need the king gave him a regular allowance.

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**Summary; BABYLON is Symbolic of the final World System.**

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King Cyrus, who the LORD called, "His anointed shepherd" set the people of Israel free from the captivity and oppression of BABYLON and established a time on earth in which God's people could build their homes, farm their own land and practise their faith in safety, it was a time of joy, laughter, prosperity and peace for the people of God (Cyrus the LORD'S anointed shepherd) (Isaiah 45:1).

**Bible prophecy proclaims;** there is a future day when another King will come who the LORD also calls "His Anointed Shepherd," but his name is not Cyrus, but the Lord Jesus Christ. The fall of BABYLON to Cyrus is a faint echo of a future age when the Apostle John in the final Book of the Bible hears an Angel crying out: -

**"FALLEN, FALLEN IS BABYLON THE GREAT."**

The fall of BABYLON in the time of Jeremiah can be viewed as a faint echo of another day in a future age when once again God will bring judgment on BABYLON, but this time the name BABYLON is not a single city in the Middle East, but a title given to the entire world's system of Government, Trade and Money

**For further information see the following titles at the end of chapter 50: -**

- Cyrus and Babylon foreshadow the final World System and Christ.
- Babylon and the World System of Money.

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**Notes on Jeremiah.**

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**Jeremiah;** (means, Jehovah exalts) he was one of the greatest Hebrew prophets he was born into a priestly family in a town 2½ miles from Jerusalem. He was called to prophesy after Assyria had invaded the city of Nineveh and taken the Ten Tribes of Israel in the land of Samaria captive.

Jeremiah's ministry was through the reign of king Josiah of Judah and continued almost 40 years through the reigns of five successive Judean kings. Jeremiah prophesied during the revival of the Babylonian empire, under the vigorous leadership of Nebuchadnezzar who sought to subdue the whole Fertile Crescent to himself.

Near the end of Jeremiah's ministry Babylon laid a siege of a 1½ years against Jerusalem and took its inhabitants captive. Zedekiah king of Judah was blinded and carried in chains to Babylon. The captors treated Jeremiah with kindness, and allowed him to remain in Judah with some of the common people who had been left, but later went (most likely reluctantly) to Egypt where he died at a very old age.

**The entire message of Jeremiah is summed up in in the following verses:-**

Jeremiah 38:2-3 ----- <sup>2</sup>"Thus says the LORD: He who stays in this city (Jerusalem) shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence, but he who goes out to the Chaldeans (Babylonians under king Nebuchadnezzar) shall live. He shall have his life as a prize of war, and live. <sup>3</sup>Thus says the LORD: This city (Jerusalem) shall surely be given into the hand of the army of the king of Babylon (Nebuchadnezzar) and be taken."

Jeremiah 44:3-6 ----- <sup>3</sup>because of the evil that they (Israel and Judah) committed, provoking me to anger, in that they went to make offerings and serve other gods that they knew not, neither they, nor you, nor your fathers. <sup>4</sup>Yet I persistently sent to you (Israel and Judah) all my servants the prophets, saying, 'Oh, do not do this abomination that I hate!' <sup>5</sup>But they did not listen or incline their ear, to turn from their evil and make no offerings to other gods. <sup>6</sup>Therefore my wrath and my anger were poured out and kindled in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, and they became a waste and a desolation, as at this day.

**The book of Jeremiah is Summed Up.**

Jeremiah 51:34 ----- <sup>34</sup>Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon has devoured Judah and Israel. The king has crushed Zion and has made Jerusalem an empty vessel. Babylon has swallowed Judah and Israel like a monster and has filled his stomach with the LORD'S delicacies. Nebuchadnezzar has rinsed the LORD out.

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End.