

The Fall of Jerusalem

Jeremiah 52

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • November 3, In the year of our Lord Christ, 2019

Prelude:

- I. Much of what we have seen in chapters 49–51 covered the fall of Babylon.
- II. However, the Book of Jeremiah is first concerned about Judah and Jerusalem.
 - A. Babylon comes into play as God’s hammer against His people and the other nations, and
 - B. how He would bring them down for their own sins.
- III. So then, the Book of Jeremiah ends with a review of the fall of Jerusalem.

Persuasion:

V. Chap 52 • The Fall of Jerusalem

A. 52.1–3 • God Cast Judah Out from His Presence

1 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. **2** He also did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that Jehoiakim had done. **3** For because of the anger of the LORD this happened in Jerusalem and Judah, till He finally cast them out from His presence. Then Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon.

1. Here Jeremiah began his summary of what happened to Jerusalem and to Judah, and why it happened.
2. Zedekiah was young when he became king, but he was old enough that he should have known that he was on a course to bring the nation down.
3. Was he taught their history in school?
4. How much do you know of American history, or even more important, how much do you know of church history?

B. 52.4–7 • 18-Month Siege

4 Now it came to pass in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and all his army came against Jerusalem and encamped against it; and they built a

siege wall against it all around. 5 So the city was besieged until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah. 6 By the fourth month, on the ninth day of the month, the famine had become so severe in the city that there was no food for the people of the land. 7 Then the city wall was broken through, and all the men of war fled and went out of the city at night by way of the gate between the two walls, which was by the king's garden, even though the Chaldeans were near the city all around. And they went by way of the plain.

1. How old was Zedekiah when Nebuchadnezzar attacked Jerusalem?
2. How long did the siege last?
 - a) What would a siege do to a city?
 - b) How did it affect Jerusalem?
3. When the Jewish men escaped the city, in what direction did they go?

C. 52.8–11 • Zedekiah Captured

8 But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king, and they overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho. All his army was scattered from him. 9 So they took the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah in the land of Hamath, and he pronounced judgment on him. 10 Then the king of Babylon killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes. And he killed all the princes of Judah in Riblah. 11 He also put out the eyes of Zedekiah; and the king of Babylon bound him in bronze fetters, took him to Babylon, and put him in prison till the day of his death.

1. What was the last thing that Zedekiah saw before losing his eyes?
2. About how old was Zedekiah at this time?
3. So about how old would his sons be?

D. 52.12–16 • Jerusalem and the Temple Destroyed

12 Now in the fifth month, on the tenth day of the month (which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon), Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard, who served the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. 13 He burned the house of the LORD and the king's house; all the houses of Jerusalem, that is, all the houses of the great, he burned with fire. 14 And all the army of the Chaldeans who were with the captain of the guard broke down all the walls of Jerusalem all around. 15 Then Neb-

uzaradan the captain of the guard carried away captive some of the poor people, the rest of the people who remained in the city, the defectors who had deserted to the king of Babylon, and the rest of the craftsmen. 16 But Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard left some of the poor of the land as vinedressers and farmers.

1. How much later after the capture of Zedekiah before the Babylonians burned Jerusalem?
2. What else did they do?
3. What did the captain of the guard do with the poor people?

E. 52.17–23 • The Temple Plundered

17 The bronze pillars that were in the house of the LORD, and the carts and the bronze Sea that were in the house of the LORD, the Chaldeans broke in pieces, and carried all their bronze to Babylon. 18 They also took away the pots, the shovels, the trimmers, the bowls, the spoons, and all the bronze utensils with which the priests ministered. 19 The basins, the firepans, the bowls, the pots, the lampstands, the spoons, and the cups, whatever was solid gold and whatever was solid silver, the captain of the guard took away. 20 The two pillars, one Sea, the twelve bronze bulls which were under it, and the carts, which King Solomon had made for the house of the LORD—the bronze of all these articles was beyond measure. 21 Now concerning the pillars: the height of one pillar was eighteen cubits, a measuring line of twelve cubits could measure its circumference, and its thickness was four fingers; it was hollow. 22 A capital of bronze was on it; and the height of one capital was five cubits, with a network and pomegranates all around the capital, all of bronze. The second pillar, with pomegranates was the same. 23 There were ninety-six pomegranates on the sides; all the pomegranates, all around on the network, were one hundred.

1. What did the Chaldeans take?
2. How much bronze did they take?
3. How would this have affected the Jews to see all the things that Solomon had made being taken to Babylon?

F. 52.24–30 • The Capture of the People

24 The captain of the guard took Seraiah the chief priest, Zephaniah the

second priest, and the three doorkeepers. 25 He also took out of the city an officer who had charge of the men of war, seven men of the king's close associates who were found in the city, the principal scribe 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. 26 And Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard took these and brought them to the king of Babylon at Riblah. 27 Then the king of Babylon struck them and put them to death at Riblah in the land of Hamath. Thus Judah was carried away captive from its own land. 28 These are the people whom Nebuchadnezzar carried away captive: in the seventh year, three thousand and twenty-three Jews; 29 in the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar he carried away captive from Jerusalem eight hundred and thirty-two persons; 30 in the twenty-third year of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away captive of the Jews seven hundred and forty-five persons. All the persons were four thousand six hundred.

1. Notice that Nebuchadnezzar killed the leaders who had survived the attack.
2. Also, there were three deportations.
 - a) How many were taken in each one?
 - b) What was the total?
 - (1) Now, compare that to the number that came out of Egypt and entered the Land of Canaan!
 - (2) If the Lord did not have mercy on Israel, they would have disappeared from the face of the earth.

G.52.31–34 • Jehoiachin Lifted Up

31 Now it came to pass in the thirty-seventh year of the captivity of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the twenty-fifth day of the month, that Evil-Merodach king of Babylon, in the first year of his reign, lifted up the head of Jehoiachin king of Judah and brought him out of prison. 32 And he spoke kindly to him and gave him a more prominent seat than those of the kings who were with him in Babylon. 33 So Jehoiachin changed from his prison garments, and he ate bread regularly before the king all the days of his life. 34 And as for his provisions, there was a regular ration given him by the king of Babylon, a portion for each day until the day of his death, all the days of his life.

1. Why do you think Jeremiah's Book ends with this lifting up of Jehoiachin?
2. I see it as a ray of hope.
 - a) The Lord through Jeremiah had said that the Jews would return.
 - b) This would have shown the Jews that things would start to get better.

Exhortation:

I. What did you learn from the Book of Jeremiah?