### Jeremiah

## Chapter 39

1Well, it was in the 9th year and 10th month [of the reign] of ZedekiAh the king of Judah that NebuChadNezzar the king of Babylon came to JeruSalem with all his armies and attacked it. 2And it was in the 11th year, on the 4th month and 9th day of ZedekiAh’s reign that the city’s walls were breached. 3Then all the governors of the king of Babylon entered [the city] and they sat down at the Central Gate… These included:  
  
 • NergalSharezer,  
 • SamGar,  
 • NeboSarsechim,  
 • NebuSarkes,  
 • NergalShareZer (the King’s advisor),  
 • And all the rest of the governors of the king of Babylon.  
  
4Meanwhile, ZedekiAh king of Judah and all his soldiers had fled the city during the night, going through the king’s garden and then through the gate that leads between the city wall and the fortification around the wall, following the road to the ArabAh.  
  
5However, the Chaldean army chased them down and caught up with ZedekiAh on the other side of JeriCho. Then they carried him back to NebuChadNezzar the king of Babylon, who was at RibLah (a city in the land of HaMath), where he passed judgment on him… 6And the king of Babylon had ZedekiAh’s sons killed there in front of his eyes (there in RibLah), along with all the rest of the rulers of Judah. 7Then he had ZedekiAh blinded and bound in shackles, before he was led off to Babylon.  
  
8Well after that, the Chaldeans set the King’s palace and the houses of the people on fire and demolished them. 9Then all those who were left in the city and the deserters were taken before the king of Babylon, 10and NabuZarAdan (the chief of the guards) had them carried off to Babylon. However, he did leave many of the poor people of the land of Judah and those who were of no importance behind, assigning them to watch over the fields and vineyards.  
  
11Then NebuChadNezzar (the king of Babylon) gave instructions to NebuZarAdan (the chief of the guards) concerning JeremiAh. He said:  
  
 12‘Take this man and keep an eye on him… But don’t do anything bad to him. Just treat him as you would like to be treated.’  
  
13So NabuZarAdan (the chief of the guards), as well as NabuShasban, RabSares, Nergel, SharEzer, RabMag, and all the princes of the king of Babylon sent for JeremiAh… 14They took him out of the courtyard of the guards and handed him over to GedaliAh (son of AhiKam and grandson of ShaPhan), who then led him outside to sit among the rest of the people. 15But it was while he was still in the courtyard of the guards that the Word of Jehovah came to JeremiAh and said:  
  
 16‘Go speak to the black man, EbedMelech,  
 And tell him that thus says Jehovah…  
 Yes, say that the God of IsraEl said this:  
  
 ‘{Look!} I’ve fulfilled My words on this city  
 To do just bad things, not good!  
 And now, although you must stand before them;  
 17On that day, I will be there to save you,’ says Jehovah,  
 ‘I will not be handing you over  
 To stand before the faces of those whom you fear.  
  
 18‘So when it comes to salvation, I’ll save you…  
 No way will you fall by the sword…  
 Your reward will be your own life,  
 Because you trusted in Me,’ says Jehovah.’