### Jeremiah

## Chapter 41

1Well, it was in the 7th month that IshMaEl son of NathaniAh, grandson of EliShama (who was related to the king), came to GedaliAh in MizPah with some of the royal appointees and 10 other men. Then, after sharing some bread, 2IshMaEl and the 10 men who came with him got up and struck down GedaliAh with their swords, killing him (the man who had been appointed over the land by the king [of Babylon]) 3as well as all the Judeans who were with him at MizPah, and any Chaldeans that they found there… He even killed the guards!  
  
4Then, two days after they’d killed GedaliAh (for no one had found out about it yet), 5some 80 men came there from SheChem, ShiLoh, and Samaria with their beards shaved off and wearing torn clothes, beating their chests and carrying gifts of frankincense in their hands [to offer before] Jehovah. 6So IshMaEl (son of NathaniAh) came out of MizPah to meet them, and they all started crying.  
  
Then [IshMaEl] said to them:  
  
 ‘Now, let’s all go and visit GedaliAh.’  
  
7However, as they were traveling through the city, [IshMaEl] and his men started striking them down and killing them next to a well.  
  
8But as they were seeing this happen, 10 of the men said to IshMaEl:  
  
 ‘You shouldn’t kill us, because we’ve brought along treasures from the fields… Wheat, barley, honey, and olive oil!’  
  
And as a result, he passed them by and left them alive there in the midst of their [murdered] brothers.  
  
9Now, the well where IshMaEl had killed the men was very large (it’s the one that King Asa [had dug] in fear of king BaAsha of IsraEl), so IshMaEl (son of NathaniAh) threw the men’s bodies into it. 10Then IshMaEl took all the people who were left in MizPah – which included the daughters of the king who had been left in the care of the chief of the guards by GedaliAh (son of AhiKam) – and he set out for the other side [of the land] of the sons of AmMon.  
  
  
11Well, when JoHanan (son of KareAh) and the generals who were with him heard of all the evil things that IshMaEl (son of NathaniAh) had done, 12they took everyone in their camp and went to wage war with IshMaEl, catching up with him next to the water of the great pool in GibeOn. 13And when all the people who were with IshMaEl saw JoHanan (son of KareAh) coming with the generals, they were very happy, 14so they all went over to JoHanan’s side.  
  
15Nevertheless, IshMaEl was able to escape along with 8 of his men, and they headed towards the [land of] the sons of AmMon. 16So JoHanan then took all the generals and their armies, along with all the remaining people from MizPah – those whom IshMaEl (son of NathaniAh) had captured after he killed GedaliAh (son of AhiKam), all the mighty men of war, as well as all the women, the eunuchs, and everything that was left in GibeOn – 17and they set up camp at KimHam (near BethLehem), as they planned to travel towards the land of Egypt. 18[For they had decided] to run from the Chaldeans, since they were afraid to face them because of IshMaEl’s striking down GedaliAh (the man whom the king of Babylon had appointed to be over their land).