### Jeremiah

## Chapter 52

1Well, King ZedekiAh was 21 years old when he started his reign, and he ruled from JeruSalem for 11 years. His mother’s name was HamuTal, and she was the daughter of JeremiAh of LibNah. 2For, like JehoiAkim, the things that he did were wicked before Jehovah. 3And this is why the wrath of Jehovah stayed upon JeruSalem and Judah until He finally cast them away from His face… For then ZedekiAh rebelled against the king of Babylon.  
  
4It was in the 9th year and 10th month of his reign, on the 10th day of the month that NebuChadNezzar the king of Babylon came against JeruSalem with all his armies. He camped outside of the city and built a rampart around it, 5and the city stayed under siege until the 11th year of King ZedekiAh. 6So by the 9th day of the 4th month, there was famine in the city, and there was no longer any bread for the people in the land.  
  
7Thereafter, the city’s [walls] were breached and all its warriors fled… They escaped during the night by way of the gate in the middle of the wall and the area around the wall that was next to the king’s garden. [They did this] as the Chaldeans were already in and around the city… And then they headed towards the desert.  
  
8Well, the army of the Chaldeans chased after the king, catching up with him on the other side of JeriCho, where all of his servants had left him.  
  
9So they captured the king and led him to the king of Babylon (who was in RibLah in the land of HaMath at the time), where he spoke to him and then passed judgment on him. 10Then the king of Babylon had all the sons of ZedekiAh killed before his eyes, and he killed all the rulers of Judah there in RibLah. 11And thereafter, he blinded the eyes of ZedekiAh, bound him in shackles, and the king of Babylonian had him carried to Babylon, where he was kept in a mill house until the day that he died.  
  
12It was during the 5th month, on the 10th day of the month, that NabuZarArdan (the chief of the guards who always stood before the king of Babylon) came to JeruSalem 13and he burned the Jehovah’s Temple, the king’s palace, and all the houses in the city, including all of its mansions. 14Then the chief of the guards had the Chaldean armies tear down all of the city walls, 15and he removed all of the poor people (those who had been left behind in the city) as well as those who had gone over to the king of Babylon, along with everyone else. 16However, the chief of the guards did leave some of the poor people behind to serve as vinedressers and farmers.  
  
17Then the Chaldeans broke up the columns of brass that stood outside the Jehovah’s Temple, along with their bases and the brass Sea, and they carried all the brass off to Babylon. 18This included:  
  
 • The bowls,  
 • The meat hooks, and  
 • The rest of the brass items that were used to officiate [at the Temple]...  
  
19As well as the silver things:  
  
 • The snuffers,  
 • The oil flasks,  
 • The lamp stands,  
 • The incense pans,  
 • And the cups.  
  
Then the chief of the guards took all the things that were made of gold and silver 20(along with the two columns, the Sea, and the 12 brass calves that were under the Sea, which King Solomon had made for the Temple of Jehovah) [back to Babylon].  
  
21No one could know the weight of all the brass; for the columns were each 33 feet (10m) tall, they had a circumference of 22 feet (6.7m), and their walls were 4 fingers thick. 22The moldings were also 8 feet (2.4m) long (one of them was very fine), and there was a net of pomegranates around the moldings, all of which was made of brass. 23There were 96 pomegranates on each [molding] and 100 pomegranates on each of the nets that encircled them.  
  
24Then the chief of the guards carried off:  
  
 • SeraiAh (the High Priest),  
 • ZephaniAh (his second in command),  
 • And three of the Temple’s entrance guards.  
  
25And from the city, he took:  
  
 • One of the eunuchs who was in charge of the warriors,  
 • Seven of the famous men who stood before the king (all of whom were found in the city),  
 • The scribe of the armies,  
 • The one who acted as scribe for the people of the land,  
 • And 60 men from among the people of the land who were found in the midst of the city.  
  
26NabuZarArdan (the chief of the guards) took them all away and led them before the king of Babylon in RibLah, 27and the king of Babylon had them all killed at RibLah (in the land of HaMath).  
  
Then the rest of the people of Judah were deported from the land.  
  
  
28There were 3,023 people whom [King] NebuChadNezzar [of Babylon] deported in his 7th year. 29Then in the 18th year of NebuChadNezzar’s [reign], he deported another 832 souls from JeruSalem. 30And in the 23rd year of [his reign], the chief of the guards deported 745 more souls from among the Judeans. So, all those [that were carried way] came to 4,600.  
  
31Then in the 37th year, on the 25th day of the 12th month after the relocation of King JehoiAchin of Judah, King EvilMerodach of Babylon took King JehoiAchin of Judah and led him from the house where he’d been kept under guard (he did this in the 1st year of his reign). 32Then he spoke to him kindly and gave him a throne that was higher than all the thrones of the other kings who were there with him in Babylon. 33He took him from his prison, provided him with better clothes, and allowed him to eat bread before him for as long as he lived. 34He was also provided a daily allowance by the king of Babylon until the day that he died.

# Lamentations

Lamentations is series of five poetic dirges over the fallen city of JeruSalem and its people, composed by Jeremiah soon after its destruction by the Babylonians.  
  
Like much poetic prophetic writing, the pronouns change around and make it confusing to see who’s speaking. It may be that the devastated city of JeruSalem herself is ‘speaking’ in places. We’ve guessed exactly where these parts begin and end, formatting the text accordingly. We may not have these 100% right, but we’ve tried our best.