

~GEDALIAH 4 (73)

(Ged-a-li'ah) [Yehowah Is Great]

- The son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan. After the destruction of Jerusalem in 607 B.C.E, King Nebuchadnezzar appointed **Gedaliah** as governor over the Jews who had been left remaining in the land of Judah. **Gedaliah** established his residence at Mizpah, and here the prophet Jeremiah took up dwelling.
- Then the Judean military chiefs who had escaped capture, upon hearing that **Gedaliah** had been appointed as governor, came with their men to him at Mizpah.
- **Gedaliah** assured them, under oath, that it would go well with them as long as they continued serving the king of Babylon, and he encouraged them to gather wine, oil, and summer fruits.
- Even the Jews who were dispersed in Moab, Ammon, Edom, and other places continued coming to Gedaliah.
- All of this was evidently not to the liking of Baalis the king of Ammon, who was successful in enlisting the cooperation of Ishmael in an assassination plot against Governor **Gedaliah**.
- Learning of this, Johanan and the other chiefs of the military forces advised the governor accordingly, but he did not believe them. Johanan even approached **Gedaliah** in private and offered to thwart the scheme by killing Ishmael.
- But **Gedaliah** would not hear of it, thinking that falsehood was being spoken about Ishmael. So when Ishmael, along with ten other men, came to Mizpah, **Gedaliah** took no precautions.
- He proceeded to eat with them, and while they were eating, Ishmael and the men with him rose up and killed **Gedaliah** as well as all the Jews and Chaldeans who were with **Gedaliah**.
- As for the people left behind in the land of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had left behind, he now appointed over them **Gedaliah** the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan. (2 Kings 25:22)

- When all the chiefs of the military forces, they and their men, heard that the king of Babylon had appointed **Gedaliah**, they immediately came to **Gedaliah** at Mizpah, that is, Ishmael the son of Nethaniah and Johanan the son of Kareah and Seraiah the son of Tanhumeth the Netophathite and Jaazaniah the son of the Maacathite, they and their men. (**2 Kings 25:23**)
- Then **Gedaliah** swore to them and their men and said to them; Do not be afraid of being servants to the Chaldeans. Dwell in the land and serve the king of Babylon, and it will go well with you. (**2 Kings 25:24**)
- And it came about in the seventh month that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah the son of Elishama of the royal offspring came, and also ten men with him, and they got to strike down **Gedaliah**, so that he died, and also the Jews and the Chaldeans that happened to be with him in Mizpah. (**2 Kings 25:25**)
- They even proceeded to send and take Jeremiah out of the Courtyard of the Guard and give him over to **Gedaliah** the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan, in order to bring him forth to his house, that he might dwell in the midst of the people. (**Jeremiah 39:14**)
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