

~HULDAH (232)

(Hul'dah) [feminine form of Heled, meaning Duration of Life, System of Things, or, possibly, Mole Rat]

- The wife of Shallum, a prophetess residing at Jerusalem during the reign of faithful King Josiah of Judah.
- When Josiah heard the reading of the very book of the Law found by Hilkiah the High Priest during the temple repair work, he sent a delegation to inquire of Yehowah.
- They went to **Huldah**, who, in turn, relayed the word of Yehowah, indicating that all the calamities for disobedience recorded in the book would befall the apostate nation.
- **Huldah** added that Josiah, because of having humbled himself before Yehowah, would not have to look upon the calamity but would be gathered to his forefathers and be taken to his graveyard in peace.
- Later Hilkiah the High Priest said to Shaphan the secretary; The very book of the Law I have found in the house of Yehowah. So Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he began to read it. (2 Kings 22:8)
- Then Shaphan the secretary came in to the king and replied to the king and said; Your servants have poured out the money that was to be found in the house, and they keep putting it into the hand of the doers of the work, the ones appointed, in the house of Yehowah. (2 Kings 22:9)
- And Shaphan the secretary went on to tell the king, saying; There is a book that Hilkiah the priest has given me. And Shaphan began to read it before the king. (2 Kings 22:10)
- And it came about that as soon as the king heard the words of the book of the law, he immediately ripped his garments apart. (2 Kings 22:11)
- Then the king commanded Hilkiah the priest and Ahikam the son of Shaphan and Achbor the son of Micaiah and Shaphan the secretary and Asaiah the kings servant, saying; (2 Kings 22:12)

- Go, inquire of Yehowah in my own behalf and in behalf of the people and in behalf of all Judah concerning the words of this book that has been found, for great is Yehowah's rage that has been set afire against us over the fact that our forefathers did not listen to the words of this book by doing according to all that is written concerning us. (2 Kings 22:13)
- Accordingly Hilkiah the priest and Ahikam and Achbor and Shaphan and Asaiah went to **Huldah** the prophetess the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah the son of Harhas, the caretaker of the garments, as she was dwelling in Jerusalem in the second quarter, and they proceeded to speak to her. (2 Kings 22:14)
- In turn she said to them; This is what Yehowah the God of Israel has said; Say to the man that has sent you men to me. (2 Kings 22:15)
- This is what Yehowah has said; Here I am bringing calamity upon this place and upon its inhabitants, even all the words of the book that the king of Judah has read. (2 Kings 22:16)
- Due to the fact that they have left me and have gone making sacrificial smoke to other gods in order to offend me with all the work of their hands, and my rage has been set afire against this place and will not be extinguished. (2 Kings 22:17)
- And as to the king of Judah who is sending you to inquire of Yehowah, this is what you should say to him; This is what Yehowah the God of Israel has said; As regards the words that you have heard. (2 Kings 22:18)
- For the reason that your heart was soft so that you humbled yourself because of Yehowah at your hearing what I have spoken against this place and its inhabitants for it to become an object of astonishment and a malediction, and then you ripped your garments apart and began weeping before me, I, even I, have heard, is the utterance of Yehowah. (2 Kings 22:19)
- That is why here I am gathering you to your forefathers, and you will certainly be gathered to your own graveyard in peace, and your eyes will not look upon all the calamity that I am bringing upon this place. And they proceeded to bring the king the reply. (2 Kings 22:20)

- **Now while they were bringing out the money that was being brought to the house of Yehowah, Hilkiah the priest found the book of Yehowah's Law by the hand of Moses. (2 Chronicles 34:14)**
- **So Hilkiah answered and said to Shaphan the secretary; The very book of the Law I have found in the house of Yehowah. With that Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan. (2 Chronicles 34:15)**
- **Then Shaphan brought the book to the king and replied further to the king, saying; All that has been put in the hand of your servants they are doing. (2 Chronicles 34:16)**
- **And they pour out the money that is found in the house of Yehowah and put it in the hand of the appointed men and into the hand of the doers of the work. (2 Chronicles 34:17)**
- **And Shaphan the secretary went on to report to the king, saying; There is a book that Hilkiah the priest gave me. And Shaphan began to read out of it before the king. (2 Chronicles 34:18)**
- **And it came about that as soon as the king heard the words of the law, he immediately ripped his garments apart. (2 Chronicles 34:19)**
- **Then the king commanded Hilkiah and Ahikam the son of Shaphan and Abdon the son of Micah and Shaphan the secretary and Asaiah the king's servant, saying; (2 Chronicles 34:20)**
- **Go, inquire of Yehowah in my own behalf and in behalf of what is left in Israel and in Judah concerning the words of the book that has been found, for great is Yehowah's rage that must be poured out against us because of the fact that our forefathers did not keep the word of Yehowah by doing according to all that is written in this book. (2 Chronicles 34:21)**
- **Accordingly Hilkiah along with those whom the king had said went to **Huldah** the prophetess, the wife of Shallum the son of Tikvah the son of Harhas the caretaker of the garments, as she was dwelling in Jerusalem in the second quarter, and they proceeded to speak to her like this. (2 Chronicles 34:22)**
- **In turn she said to them; This is what Yehowah the God of Israel has said; Say to the man that sent you to me. (2 Chronicles**

34:23)

- **This is what Yehowah has said; Here I am bringing calamity upon this place and its inhabitants, all the curses that are written in the book that they read before the king of Judah. (2 Chronicles 34:24)**
- **Due to the fact that they have left me and gone making sacrificial smoke to other gods, in order to offend me with all the doings of their hands and that my rage may pour forth upon this place and not be extinguished. (2 Chronicles 34:25)**
- **And to the king of Judah, who is sending you to inquire of Yehowah, this is what you should say to him; This is what Yehowah the God of Israel has said; As regards the words that you have heard. (2 Chronicles 34:26)**
- **For the reason that your heart was soft so that you humbled yourself because of God at your hearing his words concerning this place and its inhabitants, and you humbled yourself before me and ripped your garments apart and wept before me, I, even I, have heard, is the utterance of Yehowah. (2 Chronicles 34:27)**
- **Here I am gathering you to your forefathers, and you will certainly be gathered to your graveyard in peace, and your eyes will not look upon all the calamity that I am bringing upon this place and its inhabitants. Then they brought the reply to the king. (2 Chronicles 34:28)**
- **Some consider **Huldah's** prophecy to be in error in view of Josiah's death in an unnecessary battle.**
- **As for the rest of the affairs of Josiah and all that he did, are they not written in the book of the affairs of the days of the kings of Judah? (2 Kings 23:28)**
- **In his days Pharaoh Nechoh the king of Egypt came up to the king of Assyria by the river Euphrates, and King Josiah proceeded to go to meet him, but he put him to death at Megiddo as soon as he saw him. (2 Kings 23:29)**
- **So his servants conveyed him dead in a chariot from Megiddo and brought him to Jerusalem and buried him in his grave. Then the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah and anointed**

him and made him king in place of his father. (2 Kings 23:30)

- However, the peace in which Josiah would be gathered to his graveyard is obviously in contrast with the calamity due to come upon Judah.
- That is why here I am gathering you to your forefathers, and you will certainly be gathered to your own graveyard in peace, and your eyes will not look upon all the calamity that I am bringing upon this place. And they proceeded to bring the king the reply. (2 Kings 22:20)
- Here I am gathering you to your forefathers, and you will certainly be gathered to your graveyard in peace, and your eyes will not look upon all the calamity that I am bringing upon this place and its inhabitants. Then they brought the reply to the king. (2 Chronicles 34:28)
- Josiah died prior to the coming of that calamity in 609-607 B.C.E, when the Babylonians besieged and destroyed Jerusalem. Additionally, that the expression to be gathered to ones forefathers does not necessarily exclude dying a violent death in warfare is indicated by the use of the comparable expression to lie down with ones forefathers with reference to a death in battle as well as a nonviolent death.
- Yehowah now said to Moses; Look! You are lying down with your forefathers, and this people will certainly get up and have immoral intercourse with foreign gods of the land to which they are going, in their very midst, and they will certainly forsake me and break my covenant that I have concluded with them. (Deuteronomy 31:16)
- Then David lay down with his forefathers and was buried in the City of David. (1 Kings 2:10)
- And there was a man that bent the bow in his innocence, but he got to strike the king of Israel between the appendages and the coat of mail, so that he said to his charioteer; Turn your hand around, and take me out from the camp, because I have been badly wounded. (1 Kings 22:34)
- Finally Ahab lay down with his forefathers, and Ahaziah his son began to reign in place of him. (1 Kings 22:40)

