

~ZEDEKIAH 4 (1235)

(Zed-e-ki'ah) [Yehowah Is Righteousness]

.. Early Years Of Reign

.. Rebels Against Nebuchadnezzar

.. Fall Of Jerusalem

- Son of Josiah by his wife Hamutal, last of the Judean kings to reign at Jerusalem. Upon his being constituted vassal king, his name was changed by Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar from Mattaniah to **Zedekiah**. During the 11 years of his reign, **Zedekiah** continued to do what was bad in Yehowah's eyes.
- Further, the king of Babylon made Mattaniah his uncle king in place of him. Then he changed his name to **Zedekiah**. (2 Kings 24:17)
- Twenty-one years old was **Zedekiah** when he began to reign, and for eleven years he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah from Libnah. (2 Kings 24:18)
- And he continued to do what was bad in Yehowah's eyes, according to all that Jehoiakim had done. (2 Kings 24:19)
- And at the return of the year King Nebuchadnezzar sent and proceeded to bring him to Babylon with desirable articles of the house of Yehowah. Further, he made **Zedekiah** his father's brother king over Judah and Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 36:10)
- Twenty-one years old was **Zedekiah** when he began to reign, and for eleven years he reigned in Jerusalem. (2 Chronicles 36:11)
- And he continued to do what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah his God. He did not humble himself on account of Jeremiah the prophet at the order of Yehowah. (2 Chronicles 36:12)
- And King **Zedekiah** the son of Josiah began to reign in place of Coniah the son of Jehoiakim, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon made king in the land of Judah. (Jeremiah 37:1)
- **Zedekiah** was twenty-one years old when he began to reign, and for eleven years he reigned in Jerusalem. And the name of his

mother was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah.
(**Jeremiah 52:1**)

- And he continued to do what was bad in the eyes of Yehowah, according to all that Jehoiakim had done. (**Jeremiah 52:2**)
- And the sons of Josiah were the firstborn Johanan, the second, Jehoiakim, the third, **Zedekiah**, the fourth, Shallum. (**1 Chronicles 3:15**)
- **Zedekiah** is listed as the **third** son of Josiah. Whereas he was actually the fourth son in the order of birth.
- 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**)
- Twenty-three years old was Jehoahaz when he began to reign, and for three months he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah from Libnah. (**2 Kings 23:31**)
- Twenty-one years old was **Zedekiah** when he began to reign, and for eleven years he reigned in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah from Libnah. (**2 Kings 24:18**)
- For this is what Yehowah has said concerning Shallum the son of Josiah, the king of Judah who is reigning instead of Josiah his father, who has gone forth from this place, He will return there no more. (**Jeremiah 22:11**)
- He may here be placed before his full brother Shallum, or Jehoahaz, because of having ruled much longer.
- When his father, King Josiah, was mortally wounded in the attempt to turn back the Egyptian forces under Pharaoh Nechoh at Megiddo circa **629 B.C.E**, **Zedekiah** was about nine years old, or about three years older than his nephew Jehoiachin.
- At that time the people made **Zedekiah's** full brother, 23-year-old Jehoahaz, king. Jehoahaz rule lasted a mere three months, because Pharaoh Nechoh removed him as king, replacing him with Eliakim,

renamed Jehoiakim, the 25-year-old half brother of Jehoahaz and Zedekiah.

- Following the death of his father Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin began ruling as king. It appears that at this time the Babylonian armies under King Nebuchadnezzar were besieging Jerusalem. After having reigned three months and ten days, Jehoiachin surrendered to the king of Babylon **617 B.C.E.**
- 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**)
- At length Jehoiachin the king of Judah went out to the king of Babylon, he with his mother and his servants and his princes and his court officials, and the king of Babylon got to take him in the eighth year of his being king. (**2 Kings 24:12**)
- After all this when Josiah had prepared the house, Necho the king of Egypt came up to fight at Carchemish by the Euphrates. Then Josiah went out to an encounter with him. (**2 Chronicles 35:20**)
- And at the return of the year King Nebuchadnezzar sent and proceeded to bring him to Babylon with desirable articles of the house of Yehowah. Further, he made **Zedekiah** his father's brother king over Judah and Jerusalem. (**2 Chronicles 36:10**)

· Early Years Of Reign

- Subsequently, Nebuchadnezzar placed **Zedekiah** on the throne at Jerusalem and had him take an oath in Yehowah's name. This oath obligated **Zedekiah** to be a loyal vassal king.
- And at the return of the year King Nebuchadnezzar sent and proceeded to bring him to Babylon with desirable articles of the house of Yehowah. Further, he made **Zedekiah** his father's brother king over Judah and Jerusalem. (**2 Chronicles 36:10**)
- Twenty-one years old was **Zedekiah** when he began to reign, and for eleven years he reigned in Jerusalem. (**2 Chronicles 36:11**)
- Say, please, to the rebellious house, Do you people actually not

know what these things mean? say; Look! The king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and proceeded to take its king and its princes and bring them to himself at Babylon. (**Ezekiel 17:12**)

- Furthermore, he took one of the royal seed and concluded a covenant with him and brought him into an oath, and the foremost men of the land he took away. (**Ezekiel 17:13**)
- In order, that the kingdom might become low, unable to lift itself up, that by keeping his covenant it might stand. (**Ezekiel 17:14**)
- And even against King Nebuchadnezzar he rebelled, who had made him swear by God, and he kept stiffening his neck and hardening his heart so as not to return to Yehowah the God of Israel. (**2 Chronicles 36:13**)
- Evidently, early in **Zedekiah's** reign messengers arrived from Edom, Moab, Ammon, Tyre, and Sidon, perhaps with the intention of getting **Zedekiah** to join them in a coalition against King Nebuchadnezzar.
- In the beginning of the kingdom of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, the king of Judah, this word occurred to Jeremiah from Yehowah, saying; (**Jeremiah 27:1**)
- This is what Yehowah has said to me; Make for yourself bands and yoke bars, and you must put them upon your neck. (**Jeremiah 27:2**)
- And you must send them to the king of Edom and to the king of Moab and to the king of the sons of Ammon and to the king of Tyre and to the king of Sidon by the hand of the messengers who are coming to Jerusalem to **Zedekiah** the king of Judah. (**Jeremiah 27:3**)
- The reference to Jehoiakim in,
- In the beginning of the kingdom of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, the king of Judah, this word occurred to Jeremiah from Yehowah, saying; (**Jeremiah 27:1**)
- May be a transcribers error for **Zedekiah**, **NW Footnote** The Scriptures do not reveal just what the messengers accomplished. Possibly their mission did not succeed, as Jeremiah urged **Zedekiah** and

his subjects to remain submissive to the king of Babylon and also presented yoke bars to the messengers to symbolize the fact that the nations from which they had come should likewise submit to Nebuchadnezzar.

- This is what Yehowah has said to me; Make for yourself bands and yoke bars, and you must put them upon your neck. (Jeremiah 27:2)
- And you must send them to the king of Edom and to the king of Moab and to the king of the sons of Ammon and to the king of Tyre and to the king of Sidon by the hand of the messengers who are coming to Jerusalem to Zedekiah the king of Judah. (Jeremiah 27:3)
- And you must give them a command for their masters, saying; This is what Yehowah of armies, the God of Israel, has said, this is what you should say to your masters. (Jeremiah 27:4)
- I myself have made the earth, mankind and the beasts that are upon the surface of the earth by my great power and by my stretched-out arm, and I have given it to whom it has proved right in my eyes. (Jeremiah 27:5)
- And now I myself have given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and even the wild beasts of the field I have given him to serve him. (Jeremiah 27:6)
- And all the nations must serve even him and his son and his grandson until the time even of his own land comes, and many nations and great kings must exploit him as a servant. (Jeremiah 27:7)
- And it must occur that the nation and the kingdom that will not serve him, even Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, and the one that will not put its neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, with the sword and with the famine and with the pestilence I shall turn my attention upon that nation, is the utterance of Yehowah, until I shall have finished them off by his hand. (Jeremiah 27:8)
- And as for you men, do not listen to your prophets and to your practicers of divination and to your dreamers and to your

practicers of magic and to your sorcerers, who are saying to you; You men will not serve the king of Babylon. ([Jeremiah 27:9](#))

- For falsehood is what they are prophesying to you, for the purpose of having you taken far away from off your ground, and I shall have to disperse you, and you will have to perish. ([Jeremiah 27:10](#))
- And as for the nation that will bring its neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon and actually serve him, I will also let it rest upon its ground, is the utterance of Yehowah, and it will certainly cultivate it and dwell in it. ([Jeremiah 27:11](#))
- Even to **Zedekiah** the king of Judah I spoke according to all these words, saying; Bring your necks under the yoke of the king of Babylon and serve him and his people and keep on living. ([Jeremiah 27:12](#))
- Why should you yourself and your people die by the sword, by the famine and by the pestilence according to what Yehowah has spoken to the nation that does not serve the king of Babylon? ([Jeremiah 27:13](#))
- And do not listen to the words of the prophets that are saying to you men, you will not serve the king of Babylon, because falsehood is what they are prophesying to you. ([Jeremiah 27:14](#))
- For I have not sent them, is the utterance of Yehowah, but they are prophesying in my name falsely, to the end that I shall disperse you, and you will have to perish, you men and the prophets that are prophesying to you. ([Jeremiah 27:15](#))
- And to the priests and to all this people I spoke, saying; This is what Yehowah has said; Do not listen to the words of your prophets that are prophesying to you, saying; Look! The utensils of the house of Yehowah are being brought back from Babylon soon now! For falsehood is what they are prophesying to you. ([Jeremiah 27:16](#))
- Do not listen to them. Serve the king of Babylon and keep on living. Why should this city become a devastated place? ([Jeremiah 27:17](#))
- But if they are prophets and if the word of Yehowah does exist

- with them, let them, please, beseech Yehowah of armies, that the utensils that are remaining over in the house of Yehowah and the house of the king of Judah and in Jerusalem may not come into Babylon. (**Jeremiah 27:18**)
- For this is what Yehowah of armies has said concerning the pillars and concerning the sea and concerning the carriages and concerning the remainder of the utensils that are remaining over in this city. (**Jeremiah 27:19**)
 - That Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had not taken when he carried Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim, the king of Judah, into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon, together with all the nobles of Judah and Jerusalem. (**Jeremiah 27:20**)
 - For this is what Yehowah of armies, the God of Israel, has said concerning the utensils that are remaining over at the house of Yehowah and the house of the king of Judah and Jerusalem. (**Jeremiah 27:21**)
 - To Babylon is where they will be brought and there they will continue to be until the day of my turning my attention to them, is the utterance of Yehowah. And I will bring them up and restore them to this place. (**Jeremiah 27:22**)
 - It was also early in his reign that **Zedekiah**, for some reason not stated in the Bible, sent Elasah and Gemariah to Babylon. If the incident is presented in chronological order, this would have been in the fourth year of **Zedekiah's** kingship.
 - Then it came about in that year, in the beginning of the kingdom of **Zedekiah** the king of Judah, in the fourth year, in the fifth month, that Hananiah the son of Azzur, the prophet who was from Gibeon, said to me in the house of Yehowah before the eyes of the priests and of all the people. (**Jeremiah 28:1**)
 - Therefore this is what Yehowah has said; Look! I am sending you away from off the surface of the ground. This year you yourself must die, for you have spoken outright revolt against Yehowah. (**Jeremiah 28:16**)
 - So Hananiah the prophet died in that year, in the seventh month. (**Jeremiah 28:17**)

- And these are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the remainder of the older men of the exiled people and to the priests and to the prophets and to all the people, whom Nebuchadnezzar had carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. (**Jeremiah 29:1**)
- After Jeconiah the king and the lady and the court officials, the princes of Judah and Jerusalem, and the craftsmen and the builders of bulwarks had gone forth from Jerusalem. (**Jeremiah 29:2**)
- It was by the hand of Elasah the son of Shaphan and Gemariah the son of Hilkiah, whom **Zedekiah** the king of Judah sent to Babylon to Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, saying; (**Jeremiah 29:3**)
- **Zedekiah** personally went to Babylon in the fourth year of his reign. Likely this was to present tribute and thereby to reassure Nebuchadnezzar of his continued loyalty as a vassal king.
- On that occasion **Zedekiah** was accompanied by his quartermaster Seraiah, whom the prophet Jeremiah had entrusted with a scroll setting forth Yehowah's judgment against Babylon.
- The word that Jeremiah the prophet commanded Seraiah the son of Neriah the son of Mahseiah when he went with **Zedekiah** the king of Judah to Babylon in the fourth year of his being king, and Seraiah was the quartermaster. (**Jeremiah 51:59**)
- And Jeremiah proceeded to write in one book all the calamity that would come upon Babylon, even all these words written against Babylon. (**Jeremiah 51:60**)
- Furthermore, Jeremiah said to Seraiah; As soon as you come to Babylon and actually see her, you must also read aloud all these words. (**Jeremiah 51:61**)
- And you must say; O Yehowah, you yourself have spoken against this place, in order to cut it off so that there may come to be in it no inhabitant, either man or even domestic animal, but that she may become mere desolate wastes to time indefinite. (**Jeremiah 51:62**)
- And it must occur that when you will have completed reading this

book, you will tie to it a stone, and you must pitch it into the midst of the Euphrates. (**Jeremiah 51:63**)

- And you must say; This is how Babylon will sink down and never rise up because of the calamity that I am bringing in upon her, and they will certainly tire themselves out. Down to this point are the words of Jeremiah. (**Jeremiah 51:64**)
- About a year later, Ezekiel began serving as a prophet among the Jewish exiles in Babylonia.
- Now it came about in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, on the fifth day of the month, while I was in the midst of the exiled people by the river Chebar, that the heavens were opened and I began to see visions of God. (**Ezekiel 1:1**)
- On the fifth day of the month, that is, in the fifth year of the exile of King Jehoiachin. (**Ezekiel 1:2**)
- The word of Yehowah occurred specifically to Ezekiel the son of Buzi the priest in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar, and upon him in that place the hand of Yehowah came to be. (**Ezekiel 1:3**)
- At length Jehoiachin the king of Judah went out to the king of Babylon, he with his mother and his servants and his princes and his court officials, and the king of Babylon got to take him in the eighth year of his being king. (**2 Kings 24:12**)
- Further, the king of Babylon made Mattaniah his uncle king in place of him. Then he changed his name to **Zedekiah**. (**2 Kings 24:17**)
- In the sixth month of **Zedekiah's** sixth year as king, **612 B.C.E**, Ezekiel saw a vision that revealed the idolatrous practices, including the worship of the god Tammuz and of the sun, being carried on at Jerusalem.
- And it came about in the sixth year, in the sixth month, on the fifth day of the month, that I was sitting in my house and the older men of Judah were sitting before me, when the hand of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah fell upon me there. (**Ezekiel 8:1**)
- And I began to see, and, look! A likeness similar to the

appearance of fire, from the appearance of his hips even downward there was fire, and from his hips even upward there was something like the appearance of a shining, like the glow of electrum. ([Ezekiel 8:2](#))

- Then he thrust out the representation of a hand and took me by a tuft of hair of my head, and a spirit carried me between the earth and the heavens and brought me to Jerusalem in the visions of God, to the entrance of the inner gate that is facing northward, where the dwelling place is of the symbol of jealousy that is inciting to jealousy. ([Ezekiel 8:3](#))
- And, look! the glory of the God of Israel was there, like the appearance that I had seen in the valley plain. ([Ezekiel 8:4](#))
- And he proceeded to say to me; Son of man, please, raise your eyes in the direction of the north. So I raised my eyes in the direction of the north, and, look! To the north of the gate of the altar there was this symbol of jealousy in the entranceway. ([Ezekiel 8:5](#))
- And he went on to say to me; Son of man, are you seeing what great detestable things they are doing, the things that the house of Israel are doing here for me to become far off from my sanctuary? And yet you will see again great detestable things. ([Ezekiel 8:6](#))
- Accordingly he brought me to the entrance of the courtyard, and I began to see, and, look! A certain hole in the wall. ([Ezekiel 8:7](#))
- He now said to me; Son of man, bore, please, through the wall. And I gradually bored through the wall, and, look! There was a certain entrance. ([Ezekiel 8:8](#))
- And he further said to me; Go in and see the bad detestable things that they are doing here. ([Ezekiel 8:9](#))
- So I went in and began to see, and, look! There was every representation of creeping things and loathsome beasts, and all the dungy idols of the house of Israel, the carving being upon the wall all round about. ([Ezekiel 8:10](#))
- And seventy men of the elderly ones of the house of Israel, with Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan standing in among them, were

standing before them, each one with his censer in his hand, and the perfume of the cloud of the incense was ascending. (**Ezekiel 8:11**)

- And he proceeded to say to me; Have you seen, O son of man, what the elderly ones of the house of Israel are doing in the darkness, each one in the inner rooms of his showpiece? For they are saying; Yehowah is not seeing us. Yehowah has left the land. (**Ezekiel 8:12**)
- And he continued on to say to me; You will yet see again great detestable things that they are doing. (**Ezekiel 8:13**)
- So he brought me to the entrance of the gate of the house of Yehowah, which is toward the north, and, look! There the women were sitting, weeping over the god Tammuz. (**Ezekiel 8:14**)
- And he further said to me; Have you seen this, O son of man? You will yet see again great detestable things worse than these. (**Ezekiel 8:15**)
- So he brought me to the inner courtyard of the house of Yehowah, and, look! At the entrance of the temple of Yehowah, between the porch and the altar, there were about twenty-five men with their backs to the temple of Yehowah and their faces to the east, and they were bowing down to the east, to the sun. (**Ezekiel 8:16**)
- And he went on to say to me; Have you seen this, O son of man? Is it such a light thing to the house of Judah to do the detestable things that they have done here, that they have to fill the land with violence and that they should offend me again, and here they are thrusting out the shoot to my nose? (**Ezekiel 8:17**)

·· **Rebels Against Nebuchadnezzar**

- Approximately three years later circa **609 B.C.E.**, contrary to Yehowah's word through Jeremiah and the oath that the king himself had taken in Yehowah's name, **Zedekiah** rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar and sent to Egypt for military assistance.
- For on account of the anger of Yehowah it took place in Jerusalem and in Judah, until he had cast them out of his sight.

And **Zedekiah** began to rebel against the king of Babylon. (**2 Kings 24:20**)

- And even against King Nebuchadnezzar he rebelled, who had made him swear by God, and he kept stiffening his neck and hardening his heart so as not to return to Yehowah the God of Israel. (**2 Chronicles 36:13**)
- For on account of the anger of Yehowah it occurred in Jerusalem and Judah, until he had cast them out from before his face. And **Zedekiah** proceeded to rebel against the king of Babylon. (**Jeremiah 52:3**)
- But he finally rebelled against him in sending his messengers to Egypt, for it to give him horses and a multitudinous people. Will he have success? Will he escape, he who is doing these things, and who has broken a covenant? And will he actually escape? (**Ezekiel 17:15**)
- This brought the Babylonian armies under Nebuchadnezzar against Jerusalem. The siege of the city began in the ninth year, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month.
- And the word of Yehowah continued to occur to me in the ninth year, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, saying; (**Ezekiel 24:1**)
- Son of man, write down for yourself the name of the day, this selfsame day. The king of Babylon has thrown himself against Jerusalem on this selfsame day. (**Ezekiel 24:2**)
- And compose a proverbial saying concerning the rebellious house, and you must say concerning them, This is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said; Put the widemouthed cooking pot on, put it on, and also pour water into it. (**Ezekiel 24:3**)
- Gather pieces in it, every good piece, thigh and shoulder, fill it even with the choicest bones. (**Ezekiel 24:4**)
- Let there be a taking of the choicest sheep, and also stack the logs in a circle under it. Boil its pieces, also cook its bones in the midst of it. (**Ezekiel 24:5**)
- Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said;

Woe to the city of deeds of bloodshed, the widemouthed cooking pot, the rust of which is in it, and the very rust of which has not gone forth from it! Piece by piece of it, bring it out, no lot must be cast over it. (**Ezekiel 24:6**)

- It may have been at the commencement of this siege that **Zedekiah** sent **Pashhur** the son of Malchiah and Zephaniah the son of Maaseiah, the priest, to Jeremiah in order to inquire of Yehowah whether Nebuchadnezzar would withdraw from Jerusalem.
- Yehowah's word through Jeremiah was that the city and its inhabitants would experience calamity at the hands of the Babylonians.
- The word that occurred to Jeremiah from Yehowah, when King **Zedekiah** sent to him Pashhur the son of Malchiah and Zephaniah the son of Maaseiah, the priest, saying; (**Jeremiah 21:1**)
- Please inquire in our behalf of Yehowah, because Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon is making war against us. Perhaps Yehowah will do with us according to all his wonderful works, so that he will withdraw from us. (**Jeremiah 21:2**)
- And Jeremiah proceeded to say to them; This is what you will say to **Zedekiah**. (**Jeremiah 21:3**)
- This is what Yehowah the God of Israel has said; Here I am turning in reverse the weapons of war that are in the hand of you people, with which you are fighting the king of Babylon, and the Chaldeans who are laying siege against you outside the wall, and I will gather them into the middle of this city. (**Jeremiah 21:4**)
- And I myself will fight against you with a stretched-out hand and with a strong arm and with anger and with rage and with great indignation. (**Jeremiah 21:5**)
- And I will strike the inhabitants of this city, both man and beast. With a great pestilence they will die. (**Jeremiah 21:6**)
- And after that, is the utterance of Yehowah, I shall give **Zedekiah** the king of Judah and his servants and the people and those who are remaining over in this city from the pestilence, from the sword and from the famine, into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, even into the hand of their enemies and into the hand of those who are seeking for their soul, and he will certainly

- strike them with the edge of the sword. He will not feel sorry for them, nor will he show compassion or have any mercy. (**Jeremiah 21:7**)
- And to this people you will say; This is what Yehowah has said; Here I am putting before you people the way of life and the way of death. (**Jeremiah 21:8**)
 - The one sitting still in this city will die by the sword and by the famine and by the pestilence, but the one who is going out and who actually falls away to the Chaldeans who are laying siege against you will keep living, and his soul will certainly come to be his as a spoil. (**Jeremiah 21:9**)
 - For I have set my face against this city for calamity and not for good, is the utterance of Yehowah. Into the hand of the king of Babylon it will be given, and he will certainly burn it with fire. (**Jeremiah 21:10**)
 - It appears that after this, Jeremiah, in compliance with divine direction, personally went to **Zedekiah** to advise him that Jerusalem would be destroyed and that the king would be taken to Babylon, there to die in peace.
 - The word that occurred to Jeremiah from Yehowah, when Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon and all his military force and all the kingdoms of the earth, the dominion under his hand, and all the peoples were fighting against Jerusalem and against all her cities, saying; (**Jeremiah 34:1**)
 - This is what Yehowah the God of Israel has said; Go, and you must say to **Zedekiah** the king of Judah, yes, you must say to him; This is what Yehowah has said; Here I am giving this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he must burn it with fire. (**Jeremiah 34:2**)
 - And you yourself will not escape out of his hand, because you will without fail be caught and into his hand you will be given. And your own eyes will see even the eyes of the king of Babylon, and his own mouth will speak even with your mouth, and to Babylon you will come. (**Jeremiah 34:3**)
 - However, hear the word of Yehowah, O **Zedekiah** king of Judah, This is what Yehowah has said concerning you; You will not die

by the sword. (**Jeremiah 34:4**)

- In peace you will die, and as with the burnings for your fathers, the former kings who happened to be prior to you, so they will make a burning for you, and Alas, O master! Is what they will say in lament for you, for I myself have spoken the very word, is the utterance of Yehowah. (**Jeremiah 34:5**)
- And Jeremiah the prophet proceeded to speak to **Zedekiah** the king of Judah all these words in Jerusalem. (**Jeremiah 34:6**)
- When the military forces of the king of Babylon were fighting against Jerusalem and against all the cities of Judah that were left remaining, against Lachish and against Azekah, for they, the fortified cities, were the ones that remained over among the cities of Judah. (**Jeremiah 34:7**)
- In besieged Jerusalem, **Zedekiah** and his princes deemed it advisable to do something to comply with Yehowah's Law and gain His favor.
- Although it was not the Jubilee year, they concluded a covenant to release their Hebrew slaves from servitude. Later they broke this covenant by enslaving those whom they had set free.
- The word that occurred to Jeremiah from Yehowah after King **Zedekiah** concluded a covenant with all the people who were in Jerusalem to proclaim to them liberty. (**Jeremiah 34:8**)
- To let each one his manservant and each one his maidservant, Hebrew man and Hebrew woman, go free, in order not to use them as servants, that is, a Jew, who is his brother. (**Jeremiah 34:9**)
- So all the princes obeyed, and all the people who had entered into the covenant to let each one his manservant and each one his maidservant go free, in order to use them no more as servants, and they proceeded to obey and to let them go. (**Jeremiah 34:10**)
- But they turned about after that and began to bring back the menservants and the maidservants whom they had let go free, and they went subjecting them as menservants and as maidservants. (**Jeremiah 34:11**)

- **Consequently the word of Yehowah occurred to Jeremiah from Yehowah, saying; (Jeremiah 34:12)**
- **This is what Yehowah the God of Israel has said; I myself concluded a covenant with your forefathers in the day of my bringing them out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of servants, saying; (Jeremiah 34:13)**
- **At the end of seven years you men should let go each one his brother, a Hebrew man, who came to be sold to you and who has served you six years, and you must let him go free from being with you. But your forefathers did not listen to me, neither did they incline their ear. (Jeremiah 34:14)**
- **And you yourselves turn around today and do what is upright in my eyes in proclaiming liberty each one to his companion, and you conclude a covenant before me in the house upon which my name has been called. (Jeremiah 34:15)**
- **Then you turn back and profane my name and bring back each one his manservant and each one his maidservant, whom you let go free agreeably to their soul, and you subject them to become your menservants and maidservants. (Jeremiah 34:16)**
- **Therefore this is what Yehowah has said; You yourselves have not obeyed me in keeping on proclaiming liberty each one to his brother and each one to his companion. Here I am proclaiming to you a liberty, is the utterance of Yehowah, to the sword, to the pestilence and to the famine, and I shall certainly give you for a quaking to all the kingdoms of the earth. (Jeremiah 34:17)**
- **And I will give the men sidestepping my covenant, in that they did not carry out the words of the covenant that they concluded before me with the calf that they cut in two that they might pass between its pieces. (Jeremiah 34:18)**
- **Namely, the princes of Judah and the princes of Jerusalem, the court officials and the priests and all the people of the land who went passing between the pieces of the calf. (Jeremiah 34:19)**
- **Yes, I will give them into the hand of their enemies and into the hand of those seeking for their soul, and their dead bodies must become food for the flying creatures of the heavens and for the**

beasts of the earth. (**Jeremiah 34:20**)

- And **Zedekiah** the king of Judah and his princes I shall give into the hand of their enemies and into the hand of those seeking for their soul and into the hand of the military forces of the king of Babylon who are withdrawing from against you men. (**Jeremiah 34:21**)
- Here I am commanding, is the utterance of Yehowah, and I shall certainly bring them back to this city, and they must fight against it and capture it and burn it with fire, and the cities of Judah I shall make a desolate waste without an inhabitant. (**Jeremiah 34:22**)
- This appears to have taken place at the time a military force from Egypt came to the defense of Jerusalem, causing the Babylonians to lift the siege temporarily to meet the Egyptian threat.
- And there was a military force of Pharaoh that came out of Egypt, and the Chaldeans that were laying siege to Jerusalem got to hear the report about them. So they withdrew from against Jerusalem. (**Jeremiah 37:5**)
- Apparently believing that the Babylonians would be defeated and unable to resume the siege, those who had released enslaved Hebrews felt that the danger was over and, therefore, again brought freed Hebrew slaves into servitude.
- During this general period **Zedekiah** dispatched Jehucal the son of Shelemiah and Zephaniah the son of Maaseiah the priest to Jeremiah with the request that the prophet pray to Yehowah in behalf of the people, evidently so that the foretold destruction of Jerusalem would not come.
- But Yehowah's answer, as conveyed by Jeremiah, showed that the divine judgment remained unchanged. The Chaldeans would return and destroy Jerusalem.
- This is what Yehowah of armies, the God of Israel, has said; Make your ways and your dealings good, and I will keep you people residing in this place. (**Jeremiah 7:3**)
- Do not put your trust in fallacious words, saying; The temple of Yehowah, the temple of Yehowah, the temple of Yehowah they

are! (**Jeremiah 7:4**)

- For if you will positively make your ways and your dealings good, if you will positively carry out justice between a man and his companion. (**Jeremiah 7:5**)
- If no alien resident, no fatherless boy and no widow you will oppress, and innocent blood you will not shed in this place, and after other gods you will not walk for calamity to yourselves. (**Jeremiah 7:6**)
- I, in turn, shall certainly keep you residing in this place, in the land that I gave to your forefathers, from time indefinite even to time indefinite. (**Jeremiah 7:7**)
- Here you are putting your trust in fallacious words, it will certainly be of no benefit at all. (**Jeremiah 7:8**)
- Can there be stealing, murdering and committing adultery and swearing falsely and making sacrificial smoke to Baal and walking after other gods whom you had not known. (**Jeremiah 7:9**)
- And must you come and stand before me in this house upon which my name has been called, and must you say; We shall certainly be delivered, in the face of doing all these detestable things? (**Jeremiah 7:10**)
- Later, when Jeremiah decided to leave Jerusalem to go to Benjamin, he was seized at the Gate of Benjamin and falsely accused of falling away to the Chaldeans.
- Though Jeremiah denied the charge, Irijah, the officer having the oversight, did not listen to him but brought the prophet to the princes. This led to Jeremiah's being imprisoned in the house of Jehonathan.
- After a considerable period had passed and Jerusalem was evidently again being besieged by the Babylonians, **Zedekiah** sent for Jeremiah. In reply to the king's inquiry, Jeremiah told **Zedekiah** that he would be given into the hand of the king of Babylon.
- When Jeremiah pleaded that he not be returned to the house of Jehonathan, **Zedekiah** granted his request and had him put in custody in the Courtyard of the Guard.

- And it occurred when the military force of the Chaldeans had withdrawn themselves from against Jerusalem because of the military force of Pharaoh. (**Jeremiah 37:11**)
- That Jeremiah began to go forth from Jerusalem to go to the land of Benjamin and to get his portion from there in the midst of the people. (**Jeremiah 37:12**)
- So it came about when he was in the Gate of Benjamin that the officer holding the oversight, whose name was Irijah the son of Shelemiah the son of Hananiah, was there. At once he took hold of Jeremiah the prophet, saying; It is to the Chaldeans that you are falling away! (**Jeremiah 37:13**)
- But Jeremiah said; It is false! I am not falling away to the Chaldeans. But he did not listen to him. So Irijah kept hold of Jeremiah and brought him in to the princes. (**Jeremiah 37:14**)
- And the princes began to get indignant at Jeremiah, and they struck him and put him into the house of fetters, in the house of Jehonathan the secretary, for this was what they had made the house of detention. (**Jeremiah 37:15**)
- When Jeremiah came into the house of the cistern and into the vaulted rooms, then Jeremiah continued dwelling there many days. (**Jeremiah 37:16**)
- And King **Zedekiah** proceeded to send and take him, and the king began asking him questions in his house in a place of concealment. And he went on to say; Does there exist a word from Yehowah? To this Jeremiah said; There does exist! And he said further; Into the hand of the king of Babylon you will be given! (**Jeremiah 37:17**)
- Then Jeremiah said to King **Zedekiah**; In what way have I sinned against you and against your servants and against this people, so that you men have put me into the house of detention? (**Jeremiah 37:18**)
- Where, now, are your prophets who prophesied to you, saying; The king of Babylon will not come against you men and against this land? (**Jeremiah 37:19**)

- And now listen, please, O my lord the king. May my request for favor, please, fall before you, and do not send me back to the house of Jehonathan the secretary, that I may not die there. (Jeremiah 37:20)
- Accordingly King **Zedekiah** commanded, and they then put Jeremiah in custody in the Courtyard of the Guard, and there was a giving of a round loaf of bread to him daily from the street of the bakers, until all the bread was exhausted from the city. And Jeremiah continued dwelling in the Courtyard of the Guard. (Jeremiah 37:21)
- The word that occurred to Jeremiah from Yehowah in the tenth year of **Zedekiah** the king of Judah, that is, the eighteenth year of Nebuchadrezzar. (Jeremiah 32:1)
- And at that time the military forces of the king of Babylon were laying siege to Jerusalem, and as for Jeremiah the prophet, he happened to be under restraint in the Courtyard of the Guard that is in the house of the king of Judah. (Jeremiah 32:2)
- Because **Zedekiah** the king of Judah had restrained him, saying; Why is it that you are prophesying, saying; This is what Yehowah has said; Here I am giving this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he will certainly capture it. (Jeremiah 32:3)
- And **Zedekiah** himself, the king of Judah, will not escape from the hand of the Chaldeans, for he will without fail be given into the hand of the king of Babylon, and his mouth will actually speak with the mouth of that one, and his own eyes will see even the eyes of that one. (Jeremiah 32:4)
- And to Babylon he will take **Zedekiah**, and there he will continue until I turn my attention to him, is the utterance of Yehowah, although you men keep warring against the Chaldeans, you will not succeed? (Jeremiah 32:5)
- Indicating that **Zedekiah** was a very weak ruler is the fact that, when the princes later requested that Jeremiah be put to death for allegedly weakening the morale of the besieged people, **Zedekiah** said, Look! He is in your hands.
- For there is nothing at all in which the king himself can prevail against you. However, afterward **Zedekiah** granted Ebed-melech's

request to rescue Jeremiah and directed that Ebed-melech take along 30 men to assist in this.

- Later **Zedekiah** again had a private audience with Jeremiah. He assured the prophet that he would neither kill him nor deliver him into the hands of those seeking his death.

- But **Zedekiah** feared reprisals from the Jews who had fallen away to the Chaldeans and, therefore, did not heed Jeremiah's inspired advice to surrender to the princes of Babylon.

- In further display of his fear, the king requested that Jeremiah not reveal the subject of their private discussion to the suspicious princes

- And Shephatiah the son of Mattan and Gedaliah the son of Pashhur and Jucal the son of Shelemiah and Pashhur the son of Malchijah got to hear the words that Jeremiah was speaking to all the people, saying; (**Jeremiah 38:1**)

- This is what Yehowah has said; The one continuing to dwell in this city is the one that will die by the sword, by the famine and by the pestilence. But the one going out to the Chaldeans is the one that will keep living and that will certainly come to have his soul as a spoil and alive. (**Jeremiah 38:2**)

- This is what Yehowah has said; Without fail this city will be given into the hand of the military force of the king of Babylon, and he will certainly capture it. (**Jeremiah 38:3**)

- And the princes began to say to the king; Let this man, please, be put to death, for that is how he is weakening the hands of the men of war who are left remaining in this city and the hands of all the people, by speaking to them according to these words. For this man is one seeking not for the peace of this people but for calamity. (**Jeremiah 38:4**)

- So King **Zedekiah** said; Look! He is in your hands. For there is nothing at all in which the king himself can prevail against you. (**Jeremiah 38:5**)

- And they proceeded to take Jeremiah and throw him into the cistern of Malchijah the son of the king, which was in the Courtyard of the Guard. So they let Jeremiah down by means of

- ropes. Now in the cistern there was no water, but mire, and Jeremiah began to sink down into the mire. (**Jeremiah 38:6**)
- And Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, a man who was a eunuch and who was in the house of the king, got to hear that they had put Jeremiah into the cistern, and the king was sitting in the Gate of Benjamin. (**Jeremiah 38:7**)
 - So Ebed-melech went out of the house of the king and spoke to the king, saying; (**Jeremiah 38:8**)
 - O my lord the king, these men have done bad in all that they have done to Jeremiah the prophet, whom they have thrown into the cistern, so that he will die where he is because of the famine. For there is no bread anymore in the city. (**Jeremiah 38:9**)
 - Then the king commanded Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, saying; Take in your charge from this place thirty men, and you must get Jeremiah the prophet up out of the cistern before he dies. (**Jeremiah 38:10**)
 - Accordingly Ebed-melech took the men in his charge and went into the house of the king to beneath the treasury and took from there worn-out rags and worn-out pieces of cloth and let them down to Jeremiah into the cistern by means of the ropes. (**Jeremiah 38:11**)
 - Then Ebed-melech the Ethiopian said to Jeremiah; Put, please, the worn-out rags and the pieces of cloth under your armpits beneath the ropes. Jeremiah now did so. (**Jeremiah 38:12**)
 - Finally they drew out Jeremiah by means of the ropes and brought him up out of the cistern. And Jeremiah continued to dwell in the Courtyard of the Guard. (**Jeremiah 38:13**)
 - And King **Zedekiah** proceeded to send and take Jeremiah the prophet to him to the third entryway, which is in the house of Yehowah, and then the king said to Jeremiah; I am asking something of you. Do not hide from me anything. (**Jeremiah 38:14**)
 - At this Jeremiah said to **Zedekiah**; In case I should tell you, will you not without fail put me to death? And in case I advise you, you will not listen to me. (**Jeremiah 38:15**)

- At that King **Zedekiah** swore to Jeremiah in the place of concealment, saying; As Yehowah is alive, who has made for us this soul, I will not put you to death, and I will not give you into the hand of these men who are seeking for your soul. (**Jeremiah 38:16**)
- Jeremiah now said to **Zedekiah**; This is what Yehowah, the God of armies, the God of Israel, has said; If you will without fail go out to the princes of the king of Babylon, your soul will also certainly keep living and this city itself will not be burned with fire, and you yourself and your household will certainly keep living. (**Jeremiah 38:17**)
- But if you will not go out to the princes of the king of Babylon, this city must also be given into the hand of the Chaldeans, and they will actually burn it with fire, and you yourself will not escape out of their hand. (**Jeremiah 38:18**)
- Then King **Zedekiah** said to Jeremiah; I am in fright of the Jews that have fallen away to the Chaldeans, for fear that they might give me into their hand and they might actually deal abusively with me. (**Jeremiah 38:19**)
- But Jeremiah said; They will do no such giving. Obey, please, the voice of Yehowah in what I am speaking to you, and it will go well with you, and your soul will continue to live. (**Jeremiah 38:20**)
- But if you are refusing to go out, this is the thing that Yehowah has caused me to see. (**Jeremiah 38:21**)
- And, look! All the women that have been left remaining in the house of the king of Judah are being brought out to the princes of the king of Babylon, and they are saying; The men at peace with you have allured you and prevailed over you. They have caused your foot to sink down into the very ooze, they have retreated in the opposite direction. (**Jeremiah 38:22**)
- And all your wives and your sons they are bringing out to the Chaldeans, and you yourself will not escape out of their hand, but by the hand of the king of Babylon you will be seized, and because of you this city will be burned with fire. (**Jeremiah 38:23**)

- And **Zedekiah** proceeded to say to Jeremiah; May no man at all get to know about these things, so that you do not die. (**Jeremiah 38:24**)
- And in case the princes hear that I have spoken with you and they actually come in to you and say to you; Do tell us, please, What did you speak about to the king? Do not hide anything from us, and we shall not put you to death. And what did the king speak about to you? (**Jeremiah 38:25**)
- You must also say to them, I was letting my request for favor fall before the king, that he should not send me back to the house of Jehonathan to die there. (**Jeremiah 38:26**)
- In time all the princes came in to Jeremiah and began questioning him. In turn, he told them according to all these words that the king had commanded. So they became silent before him, for the matter was not heard. (**Jeremiah 38:27**)
- And Jeremiah continued to dwell in the Courtyard of the Guard until the day that Jerusalem was captured. And it occurred just when Jerusalem was captured. (**Jeremiah 38:28**)

•• Fall Of Jerusalem

- Finally in **607 B.C.E**, in the eleventh year of **Zedekiah**, in the fourth month, on the ninth day of the month, Jerusalem was broken through. By night **Zedekiah** and the men of war took to flight.
- Overtaken in the desert plains of Jericho, **Zedekiah** was taken to Nebuchadnezzar at Riblah. **Zedekiah's** sons were slaughtered before his eyes.
- As **Zedekiah** was only about 32 years of age at the time, the boys could not have been very old. After witnessing the death of his sons, **Zedekiah** was blinded, bound with copper fetters, and taken to Babylon, where he died in the house of custody.
- Which Jeremiah the prophet spoke concerning all the people of Judah and concerning all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying; (**Jeremiah 25:2**)
- From the thirteenth year of Josiah the son of Amon, the king of

Judah, and down to this day, these twenty-three years the word of Yehowah has occurred to me, and I kept speaking to you people, rising up early and speaking, but you did not listen. **(Jeremiah 25:3)**

- And Yehowah sent to you all his servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them, but you did not listen, neither did you incline your ear to listen. **(Jeremiah 25:4)**
- They saying; Turn back, please, every one from his bad way and from the badness of your dealings, and continue dwelling upon the ground that Yehowah gave to you and to your forefathers from long ago and to a long time to come. **(Jeremiah 25:5)**
- And do not walk after other gods in order to serve them and to bow down to them, that you may not offend me with the work of your hands, and that I may not cause calamity to you. **(Jeremiah 25:6)**
- But you did not listen to me, is the utterance of Yehowah, to the intent that you might offend me with the work of your hands, for calamity to yourselves. **(Jeremiah 25:7)**
- In the eleventh year of **Zedekiah**, in the fourth month, on the ninth day of the month, the city was broken through. **(Jeremiah 39:2)**
- And all the princes of the king of Babylon proceeded to come in and sit down in the Middle Gate, namely, Nergal-sharezer, Samgar-nebo, Sarsechim, Rabсарis, Nergal-sharezer the Rabmag and all the rest of the princes of the king of Babylon. **(Jeremiah 39:3)**
- Now it came about that as soon as **Zedekiah** the king of Judah and all the men of war saw them, they began to run away and to go out by night from the city by the way of the garden of the king, by the gate between the double wall, and they kept going out by the way of the Arabah. **(Jeremiah 39:4)**
- And a military force of the Chaldeans went chasing after them, and they got to overtake **Zedekiah** in the desert plains of Jericho. Then they took him and brought him up to Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon at Riblah in the land of Hamath that he might pronounce upon him judicial decisions. **(Jeremiah 39:5)**

- And the king of Babylon proceeded to slaughter the sons of **Zedekiah** in Riblah before his eyes, and all the nobles of Judah the king of Babylon slaughtered. (**Jeremiah 39:6**)
- And the eyes of **Zedekiah** he blinded, after which he bound him with copper fetters, in order to bring him to Babylon. (**Jeremiah 39:7**)
- This is what Yehowah has said; Here I am giving Pharaoh Hophra, the king of Egypt, into the hand of his enemies and into the hand of those seeking for his soul, just as I have given **Zedekiah** the king of Judah into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, his enemy and the one seeking for his soul. (**Jeremiah 44:30**)
- In the fourth month, on the ninth day of the month, the famine also got to be severe in the city and there proved to be no bread for the people of the land. (**Jeremiah 52:6**)
- Finally the city was broken through, and as regards all the men of war, they began to run away and go forth from the city by night by the way of the gate between the double wall that is by the kings garden, while the Chaldeans were all around against the city, and they kept going by the way of the Arabah. (**Jeremiah 52:7**)
- And a military force of the Chaldeans went chasing after the king, and they got to overtake **Zedekiah** in the desert plains of Jericho, and all his own military force was scattered from his side. (**Jeremiah 52:8**)
- Then they seized the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah in the land of Hamath, that he might pronounce upon him judicial decisions. (**Jeremiah 52:9**)
- And the king of Babylon proceeded to slaughter the sons of **Zedekiah** before his eyes, and also all the princes of Judah he slaughtered in Riblah. (**Jeremiah 52:10**)
- And the eyes of **Zedekiah** he blinded, after which the king of Babylon bound him with copper fetters and brought him to Babylon and put him in the house of custody until the day of his death. (**Jeremiah 52:11**)

- And like the bad figs that cannot be eaten for badness, this in fact is what Yehowah has said; So I shall give **Zedekiah** the king of Judah and his princes and the remnant of Jerusalem who are remaining over in this land and those who are dwelling in the land of Egypt. (**Jeremiah 24:8**)
- I will also give them over for quaking, for calamity, in all the kingdoms of the earth, for reproach and for a proverbial saying; for a taunt and for a malediction, in all the places to which I shall disperse them. (**Jeremiah 24:9**)
- And I will send against them the sword, the famine and the pestilence, until they come to their finish off the ground that I gave to them and to their forefathers. (**Jeremiah 24:10**)
- Say, I am a portent for you. Just as I have done, that is the way it will be done to them. Into exile, into captivity they will go. (**Ezekiel 12:11**)
- And as regards the chieftain who is in the midst of them, on the shoulder he will go carrying in the darkness and go out, through the wall they will bore in order to do the bringing forth through it. His face he will cover in order, that he may not see with his own eye the earth. (**Ezekiel 12:12**)
- And I shall certainly spread my net over him, and he must be caught in my hunting net, and I will bring him to Babylon, to the land of the Chaldeans, but it he will not see, and there he will die. (**Ezekiel 12:13**)
- And all who are round about him as a help, and all his military bands, I shall scatter to every wind, and a sword I shall draw out after them. (**Ezekiel 12:14**)
- And they will have to know that I am Yehowah when I disperse them among the nations and I actually scatter them among the lands. (**Ezekiel 12:15**)
- And I will leave remaining from them a few men from the sword, from the famine and from the pestilence, in order, that they may recount all their detestable things among the nations to whom they must come in, and they will have to know that I am Yehowah. (**Ezekiel 12:16**)

- **And as for you, O deadly wounded, wicked chieftain of Israel, whose day has come in the time of the error of the end. ([Ezekiel 21:25](#))**
- **This is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said; Remove the turban, and lift off the crown. This will not be the same. Put on high even what is low, and bring low even the high one. ([Ezekiel 21:26](#))**
- **A ruin, a ruin, a ruin I shall make it. As for this also, it will certainly become no ones until he comes who has the legal right, and I must give it to him. ([Ezekiel 21:27](#))**