

## Week of August 1-7

<b>Jehoiakim</b>	reign	11 years (Placed on the throne by Egyptian Pharaoh Neco)
<b>Jehoiachin (Jeconiah)</b>	reign	3 months (Taken captive to Babylon)
<b>Zedekiah</b>	reign	11 years (Last king of Judah)

### **Destruction of Jerusalem and second Babylonian Captivity 586 B.C.**

#### **Jeremiah 52 Events Related to The Destruction of Jerusalem and The Temple**

The last chapter of Jeremiah is a historical supplement or appendix written by someone else, according to the last words of chapter 51. It first gives an account of the capture of Jerusalem, outlining the events which led up to the reign of Zedekiah, and tells how he was arrested, brought before the king of Babylon who was staying in the city of Riblah where judgment was passed upon him. He made Zedekiah watch while his sons and all the princes of Judah were killed before his eyes. Then his eyes were gouged out, and he was taken in chains to Babylon and put in prison for the rest of his life.

It then describes the fall of Jerusalem, the destruction of the Temple, and the oppression of the Israelites, detailing how the items of value and vessels of the Temple were carried back to Babylon by the Babylonian army, and how the priests and the leaders of the people were executed at Riblah.

The pitiful condition of the Israelites can be seen from the list of Nebuchadnezzar's captives, numbering 4,600. The last item of the history tells how Jehoiachin, who had already been in captivity eleven years when the city fell, was taken out of prison twenty-six years later by Evil-merodach, the new king of Babylon, and given privileges and freedom in the city of Babylon until his death.

#### **Jeremiah 41 Gedaliah Murdered by Ishmael, then Escapes to Ammon**

Ishmael, the leader of a guerilla band in Jerusalem, took a handful of men to meet Gedaliah whom the king of Babylon had appointed as governor over the poor of the land who were left behind. There Ishmael murdered Gedaliah and several others and carried the rest away captive. However, Johanan, one of the guerilla leaders with Ismael, gathered a band of men and went after Ishmael. Ishmael escaped with eight of his men to the land of the Ammonites, but most of the others fled from Ishmael to Johanan. This small group of soldiers, women, children, and eunuchs prepared to flee to Egypt, fearing the Babylonians.

We are witnessing the terrible degradation of God's chosen people.

#### **Jeremiah 42 Jeremiah Warns the Remnant not to Flee to Egypt**

Before leaving for Egypt, Johanan and those associated with him met with Jeremiah and asked that he pray for them and seek divine guidance. He agreed to their request, and they promised to obey whatever command God gave them. Ten days elapsed and Jeremiah brought the message of the Lord to Johanan.

It was a clear command to remain in the land, and not to go to Egypt. Divine protection was promised if they were obedient, but they were warned that if they went to Egypt hoping to escape from war and hunger, they would die in Egypt by the sword and famine.

The end of Jeremiah's message shows that he knew, in all probability by divine revelation, that the prayer they had asked him to offer for them had not been honest. He seems to have known that,

despite his message, they would go down into Egypt, and he told them so. He declared with certainty that they would die in Egypt by the sword, famine, and pestilence.

### **Jeremiah 43 Johanan and His Men Flee to Egypt with Jeremiah and Baruch**

Jeremiah's prediction that Johanan and his men would reject God's message was immediately seen. They accused Jeremiah with lying under the influence of Baruch, and immediately they headed for Egypt, taking with them both Jeremiah and Baruch. Again, while in Egypt, the courage of Jeremiah is seen as he immediately continued his prophecy of denouncing Johanan's decision to go to Egypt.

At Tahpanhes, he announced Nebuchadnezzar would come against Egypt be victorious over Egypt in which these men had chosen to put their trust. They had fled to Egypt to escape from Babylon, but Babylon would find them there. Jeremiah spoke to them about the foolishness of any attempt to escape from God. They would have been safe in Judah under the reign of Babylon, had they stayed. Now they found themselves in the very place where Babylon was again going to way with a nation.

### **Jeremiah 44 Jeremiah's last Message**

Jeremiah's next prophecy while he was in Egypt was a protest the continued rebellion of the people of God. He reminded them of God's patience that He had shown and of how His anger had already been poured out on Jerusalem, declaring that this remnant which had made its way into Egypt would be completely cut off and destroyed.

Jeremiah's message was answered with the defiant rebellion by the Israelites against God. They had misinterpreted their own history by declaring that all the evils that had fallen on occurred when they stopped worshiping their "queen of heaven." Consequently, they stated their intention to continue their idolatrous practices.

Jeremiah's answered their argument by stating that their sorrows were the result of their idolatry rather than the result of turning from their idols. He said the judgment of God would come, that they would be destroyed, with only a small remnant escaping from Egypt. Jeremiah added that the sign from God to them would be the defeat of Pharaoh-Hophra and his being handed over to those who sought his life.

### **Obadiah 1**

We know nothing about Obadiah. His book is the most minor of the minor prophets and people know little about it. It is impossible to determine the date of his prophecy. The only clue is the capture of Jerusalem to which he refers. Obadiah presents the most information about the resettlement of the Israelites back to Judah. Obadiah's vision ends with a call to faith in the worst of times.

God is just and holds those responsible who take advantage of others in their time of distress. The Edomites fell victim to God's promise to Abraham: "I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse." They had refused to let Moses pass through their land. Today Edom is virtually unoccupied, a land 20-30 miles wide and 100 miles long.

### **Psalms 82 God to Take Control of Nations into His Own Hand**

God accuses the "gods" of having been unfair with the needy of the world. The identity of these "gods" is hard to determine. Some interpret them as spiritual powers that rule the world and others as human judges. God is called upon to judge the powers and rulers who maintain a world system of oppression and injustice.

### **Psalm 83 A Plea to Defeat Israel's Enemies**

The writer lists the nations that he wanted to see punished for their plans to wipe Israel off the face of the earth. The psalm likely was written when Assyria was still a threat. It is not a cry for vengeance, but a plea for God to prove His sovereignty by defending His chosen people, the Israelites.