

## 2 KINGS CHAPTER 25

<sup>1</sup> And it came to pass in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, *that* Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and all his army, came against Jerusalem; and he encamped against it, and built a mound against it. <sup>2</sup> And the city was besieged until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah, on the ninth day of the month. <sup>3</sup> And the famine prevailed in the city, and there was no bread for the people of the land.

<sup>4</sup> And the city was broken up, and all the men of war went forth by night, by the way of the gate between the walls (this is *the gate* of the king's garden). And the Chaldeans *were set* against the city round about; and *the king* went by the way of the plain. <sup>5</sup> And the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king, and overtook him in the plains of Jericho; and all his army was dispersed from about him. <sup>6</sup> And they took the king, and brought him to the king of Babylon, to Riblah; and he pronounced judgment upon him. <sup>7</sup> And he killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him in fetters, and brought him to Babylon. <sup>8</sup> And in the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month (this *is* the nineteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon), Nebuzaradan, captain of the guard, who stood before the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. <sup>9</sup> And he burned the house of the Lord, and the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem, even every house did the captain of the guard burn. <sup>10</sup> And the army of the Chaldeans pulled down the wall of Jerusalem round about.

<sup>11</sup> And Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard removed the rest of the people that were left in the city, and the men who had deserted to the king of Babylon, and the rest of the multitude. <sup>12</sup> But the captain of the guard left some of the poor of the land to be vinedressers and farmers. <sup>13</sup> And the Chaldeans broke to pieces the bronze pillars that were in the house of the Lord, and the bases, and the bronze sea that was in the house of the Lord, and carried its brass to Babylon. <sup>14</sup> And the caldrons, and the shovels, and the bowls, and the censers, and all the bronze vessels with which they ministered with, he took. <sup>15</sup> And the captain of the guard took the fire pans, and the gold and silver bowls. <sup>16</sup> Two pillars, and one sea, and the bases which Solomon had made for the house of the Lord; there was no weight of the brass of all the vessels. <sup>17</sup> The height of one pillar *was* eighteen cubits, and the chapter upon it was of brass. And the height of the chapter was three cubits: the border, and the pomegranates on the chapter round about were all of brass; and so it was with the second pillar with its border.

<sup>18</sup> And the captain of the guard took Seraiah the high priest, and Zephaniah the second in order, and the three doorkeepers. <sup>19</sup> And they took out of the city one eunuch who was commander of the men of war, and five men that saw the face of the king, that were found in the city, and the secretary of the commander-in-chief, who took account of the people of the land, and sixty men of the people of the land that were found in the city. <sup>20</sup> And Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard took them, and brought them to the king of Babylon, to Riblah. <sup>21</sup> And the king of Babylon struck them and killed them at Riblah in the land of Hamath. So Judah was carried away from his land.

<sup>22</sup> And *as for* the people that were left in the land of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon left, over them he set Gedaliah son of Ahikam son of Shaphan. <sup>23</sup> And all the captains of the army, they and their men, heard that the king of Babylon had *thus* appointed Gedaliah; and they came to Gedaliah, to Mizpah, both Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and Johanan son of Careah, and Seraiah son of Tanhumeth the Netophathite, and Jaazaniah the son of a Maachathite, they and their men. <sup>24</sup> And Gedaliah swore to them and their men, and said to them, "Do not fear the incursion of the Chaldeans; dwell in the land, and serve the king of Babylon, and it shall be well with you."

<sup>25</sup> And it came to pass in the seventh month *that* Ishmael, son of Nethaniah, son of Elishama, of the royal family came, and ten men with him, and he struck and killed Gedaliah, *him* and the Jews and the Chaldeans that were with him in Mizpah. <sup>26</sup> And all the people, great and small rose up, *they* and the captains of the forces, and went into Egypt; because they were afraid of the Chaldeans.

<sup>27</sup> And it came to pass in the thirty-seventh year of the carrying away of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, *that* Evil-Merodach king of Babylon, in the *first* year of his reign, lifted up the head of Jehoiachin king of Judah, and brought him out of his prison house. <sup>28</sup> And he spoke kindly to him, and set his throne above the thrones of the kings that were with him in Babylon; <sup>29</sup> and changed his prison garments; and he ate bread continually before him all the days of his life. <sup>30</sup> And his portion, a continual portion, was given to him out of the house of the king, a daily rate for every day, all the days of his life.