

2 KINGS 25 vs 1

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The first and second books of the kings originally were one book, which Jewish tradition credits to the prophet Jeremiah. The subject follows the successes and failures of the kings of both Judah and Israel. This second book of kings follows the decline of **Israel** leading up to their captivity in Aram; and 170 years later, to the decline of **Judah** leading up to their captivity in Babylon.

The final siege of Jerusalem 588bc,

¹ Now it happened in the 9th year of his reign, in the 10th month, on the 10th day of the month, that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came, he and all his army against Jerusalem, and camped against it; and built a siege wall surrounding all of it.

² And the city was besieged to the 11th year of King Zedekiah.

³ And on the 9th day of the 4th month a famine prevailed in the city, and there was no food for the people of the land.

⁴ Then the city was broken into, and all the men of war fled by night by way of the gate between the two walls, next to the king's garden: (the Chaldees surrounding all the city:) and the king went the way toward the Arabah.

⁵ But the army of the Chaldees pursued the king, and overtook him in the plains of Jericho: and all his army were scattered from him.

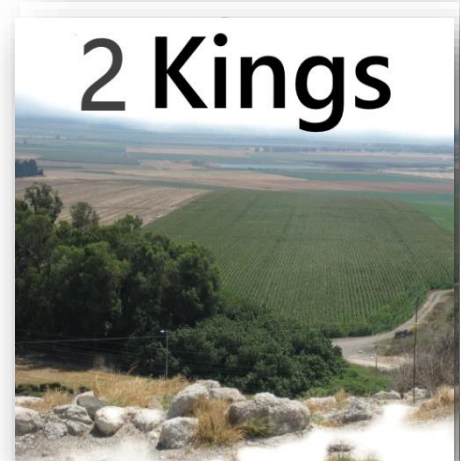
⁶ So they took the king, and brought him up to the king of Babylon to Riblah; and he passed judgment on him.

⁷ Then they killed the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him with bronze fetters, and deported him to Babylon.

⁸ And in the 5th month, on the 7th day of the month, the 19th year of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan the captain of the body-guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem:

⁹ and he burned the House of the LORD, and the house of the king, and all the houses of Jerusalem, every great house he burned with fire.

¹⁰ So the whole army of the Chaldees, who were with the captain of the body-guard, destroyed the walls around Jerusalem.



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The third deportation,

¹¹ Now the rest of the people who were left in the city, the defectors who deserted to the king of Babylon, and the rest of the multitude, Nebuzaradan, captain of the guard deported.

¹² But the captain of the guard left of the poor of the land to be vinedressers and farmers.

¹³ And the pillars of bronze that were in the House of the LORD, and the pedestals, and the bronze laver that was in the House of the LORD, the Chaldees broke in pieces, and carried its bronze to Babylon.

¹⁴ And the pots, and the shovels, and the extinguishers, and the spoons, and all the utensils of bronze used in the service, they took away.

¹⁵ The firepans and bowls, and what was of fine gold, and of fine silver, the captain of the body-guard took away.

¹⁶ The two pillars, the one sea, and the pedestals Solomon made for the House of the LORD; the bronze of all these items were beyond weighing.

¹⁷ The height of the one pillar was eighteen cubits, and a bronze capital was on it: and the height of the capital was three cubits; and bronze network, and pomegranates all around the capital, all of bronze: and the second pillar with bronze network was like it.

¹⁸ And the captain of the body-guard took Seraiah the chief priest, and Zephaniah the second priest, and the three doorkeepers of the temple:

¹⁹ and from the city he also took a eunuch in charge of the army, and five councilors who were in the king's presence, still in the city, and the chief secretary of the army, who kept the army registry in the land, and 60 countryfolk who were found in the city:

²⁰ And Nebuzaradan captain of the body-guard took them, and brought them to the king of Babylon to Riblah:

²¹ and the king of Babylon had them put to death, killing them at Riblah in the land of Hamath. So **Judah was taken from their land.**

²² As for the people who were left in the land of **Judah, who Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had left, he made Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, over them.**

²³ When all the captains of the army, heard that the king of Babylon made Gedaliah ruler, they and their men came to Gedaliah to Mizpah, even Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and Johanan the son of Kareah, and Seraiah the son of Tanhumeth the Netophasite, and Jaazaniah the son of a Maacathite, they and their men.

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²⁴ And Gedaliah assured them, and their men, and said to them, Do not fear the servants of the Chaldees: live in the land, and serve the king of Babylon; and it will be well with you.

²⁵ But it happened in the 7th month, that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, the son of Elishama, of the royal family, came with ten men, and struck down Gedaliah, that he died, along with the Jews and the Chaldees who were with him at Mizpah.

²⁶ Then all the people, both small and great, and the captains of the armies, got up, and went to Egypt: for they feared the Chaldees.

²⁷ Now it happened in the 37th year of the captivity of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the 12th month, on the 27th day of the month, that Evil-merodach king of Babylon in the year he began to reign lifted up the head of Jehoiachin king of Judah from prison;

²⁸ and he spoke kindly to him, and set his throne above the throne of the kings who were with him in Babylon;

²⁹ and changed his prison clothes: and ate bread regularly before him the rest of his life.

³⁰ as for his allowance, a regular allowance was given him by the king, a portion every day, the rest of his life.

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