

2 Kings 25 New American Standard Bible

Nebuchadnezzar Besieges Jerusalem

Now in the ninth year of his reign, on the tenth day of the tenth month, Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon came, he and all his army, against Jerusalem, camped against it, and built a siege wall all around it. ² So the city was under siege until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah. ³ On the ninth day of the *fourth* month the famine was so severe in the city that 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 that were beside the king's garden, though the Chaldeans were all around the city. And they went by way of the Arabah. ⁵ But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king and overtook him in the plains of Jericho, and all his army was scattered from him.

⁶ Then they captured the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah, and he passed sentence on him. ⁷ And they slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, then put out Zedekiah's eyes and bound him with bronze shackles, and brought him to Babylon.

Jerusalem Burned and Plundered

⁸ Now on the seventh *day* of the fifth month, which was the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, Nebuzaradan the captain of the bodyguards, a servant of the king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem. ⁹ And he burned the house of the Lord, the king's house, and all the houses of Jerusalem; even every great house he burned with fire.

¹⁰ So all the army of the Chaldeans who *were with* the captain of the bodyguards tore down the walls around Jerusalem. ¹¹ Then Nebuzaradan, the captain of the bodyguards, led into exile the rest of the people who were left in the city and the deserters who had deserted to the king of Babylon, and the rest of the people. ¹² But the captain of the bodyguards left some of the poorest of the land to be vinedressers and farmers.

¹³ Now the Chaldeans smashed to pieces the bronze pillars which were in the house of the Lord, and the stands and the bronze Sea which were in the house of the Lord, and carried the bronze to Babylon. ¹⁴ And they took away the pots, the shovels, the shears, the spoons, and all the bronze utensils which were used in temple service.

¹⁵ The captain of the bodyguards also took away the firepans and the basins, what was fine gold and what was fine silver. ¹⁶ The two pillars, the one Sea, and the stands which Solomon had made for the house of the Lord the bronze of all these articles was too heavy to weigh. ¹⁷ The height of the one pillar was eighteen cubits, and a bronze capital was on it; the height of the capital was three cubits, with latticework and pomegranates on the capital all around, all of bronze. And the second pillar was like these, same *features* with latticework.

¹⁸ Then the captain of the bodyguards took Seraiah the chief priest and Zephaniah the second priest, with the three doorkeepers. ¹⁹ And from the city he took one official who was overseer of the men of war, and five of the king's advisers who were found in the city; and the ^[u]scribe of the captain of the army who mustered the people of the land; and sixty men of the people of the land who were found in the city. ²⁰ Nebuzaradan the captain of the bodyguards took them and brought them to the king of Babylon at Riblah. ²¹ Then the king of Babylon struck them down and put them to death at Riblah in the land of Hamath. So Judah went into exile from its land.

Gedaliah Made Governor

²² Now *as for* the people who were left in the land of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had left, he appointed Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan over them. ²³ When all the captains of the forces, they and *their* men, heard that the king of Babylon had appointed Gedaliah *governor*, they came to Gedaliah at Mizpah, namely, Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, Johanan the son of Kareah, Seraiah the son of Tanhumeth the Netophathite, and Jaazaniah the son of the Maacathite, they and their men.

²⁴ And Gedaliah swore to them and their men and said to them, "Do not be afraid of the servants of the Chaldeans; live in the land and serve the king of Babylon, and it will go well for you." ²⁵ But it happened in the seventh month, that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, the son of Elishama, of the royal family, came with ten men and struck Gedaliah down so that he died along with the Jews and the Chaldeans who were with him at Mizpah. ²⁶ Then all the people, from the small to the great, and the captains of the forces set out and came to Egypt; for they were afraid of the Chaldeans.

²⁷ Now it came about in the thirty-seventh year of the exile 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 year that he became king, released 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 So Jehoiachin changed his prison clothes, and had his meals in the king's presence regularly all the days of his life; ³⁰ and as his allowance, a regular allowance was given to him by the king, a portion for each day, all the days of his life.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Pauls Observations and insights

1. King Nebuchadnezzar came to Jerusalem and besieged it according to the strategy of the day. They would starve the city to its knees!
2. It took eleven years to bring the city down. We need to remember it doesn't matter how much surplus we have in our lives, eventually it will run out if we don't keep on replenishing.
3. So the city was overcome by Nebuchadnezzar.
4. The King's men of war, the soldiers, died in the city having come to the end of themselves, escaped Nebuchadnezzar by going through a gate in the wall.
5. Despite Nebuchadnezzar's soldiers surrounding the city they found a way to escape.
6. Unfortunately for them the Chaldean's captured the king, this had been prophesied previously, they bring him to Nebuchadnezzar.
7. What do you think the purpose of prophesy is?
8. King Nebuchadnezzar put to death King Zedekiah's sons in front of his eyes and then gouged his eyes out.
9. Can you imagine the last thing you saw was your sons being slaughtered?
10. King Zedekiah is taken to Babylon in chains.
11. The captain of Nebuchadnezzar's army, Nebuzaradan, burns down the house of God in Jerusalem, along with the King's house, so the city is in ruins.
12. His army also bring down the walls of the city of Jerusalem. The walls are turned into rubble.
13. All the people were taken into exile in Babylon, just like it had been prophesied.
14. The only people left were the poor and uneducated. They were left to take care of the land so that it did not become a wilderness.
15. When our enemy comes in – satan - he comes to steal, kill and destroy and he wants to occupy our lives.
16. The soldiers dismantle all of the glory of the temple including the bronze and take it to Babylon.
17. They rape the temple of all of its utensils and carry off the wealth of Jerusalem.
18. They take everything that was precious and that was used to bring glory to God.
19. They remove the glory of God from the temple. How do you think that made Israel feel?
20. The captain took the religious leaders, the political leaders and the administrators, they brought them to Nebuchadnezzar and he had them killed.
21. The tribe of Judah were led into exile for seventy years just as it had been prophesied.
22. Nebuchadnezzar set up an unruly bunch to take charge of the land and invites them to pledge allegiance to him.

23. One of the king's sons survived and came and struck down the leader and took charge.
24. They fled and escaped to Egypt which was always the place Israel defaulted to when they were running from their enemy.
25. Egypt is considered to be like running back into the world for God's people, a worldly wilderness in captivity.
26. One of the captives who survived in Babylon found favour with the king of Babylon who made provision for him in his captivity.