

## **Jeremiah**

**3375c AM, 4085 JP, 629 BC**

**738. In the thirteenth year of king Josiah, Jeremiah was called by God to be a prophet, but he refused. God called him again and encouraged him with promises and signs belonging to the office and function of a prophet. He was bidden to prophesy to the Jews of the calamity which was to befall Jerusalem at the hands of the king of Babylon. {#Jer 1:2-17 25:3} At the same time, Zephaniah and others warned the rebellious people to repent, but they did not. {#Zep 1:1 Jer 25:3-5}**

**3394c AM, 4104 JP, 610 BC**

**755. When Josiah unadvisedly entered into this war, he was killed. {#2Ki 23:29,30 2Ch 32:22,23} This took place in the valley of Megiddo which belonged to the tribe of Manasseh. {#Jos 17:11 Jud 1:17} Herodotus, in referring to this story, said that Necho attacked the Syrians with an army and overthrew them in Magdolos. After the battle he took a large city of Syria named Cadytis. {\*Herodotus, l. 2. c. 159. 1:473} Scaliger noted that this Cadytis was actually Kadesh which is mentioned in Numbers. {#Nu 20:16} Scaliger also believed that Magdolos and Megiddo were located near each other. {#Jer 46:14} Because Magdolos was the more noted place of the two, the battle was said to have taken place there. In the same way it is commonly understood that the battle between**

**Alexander and Darius at Gaugamela is said to have been fought at Arbela, since Gaugamela was an obscure place. It may be that Magdolos and Megiddo were the same place, since that is the place from which the other Mary obtained her surname of Magdalene. In Matthew we see the name given as Magdala. {#Mt 15:39} The Syrian renders it Mageda and the old Latin translates it Magedan, which appears to be similar to Megiddo. {\*Herodotus, l. 2. c. 159. 1:473}**

**756. Since the good king was killed in this way and his being alive had postponed the Babylonian captivity from being visited on the nation, {#2Ki 22:20} the previous year's Jubilee was turned into a year of lamentation. It almost became a common proverb, The lamentation of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddo. {#Zec 12:11} Not only did all the people of that time bewail the death of Josiah, but even later, a public mourning for him was voluntarily kept. The prophet Jeremiah also wrote a song of remembrance called the Song of Threnes or Lamentations. {#2Ch 35:24,25} In this song he bewailed the calamities which were shortly to befall his people. Jeremiah wrote:**

**"The breath of our nostrils, the anointed of the Lord, is taken in their pits: of whom we said, under the shadow of his wings we shall live among the heathen." {#La 4:20}**

**3395a AM, 4104 JP, 610 BC**

**763. In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim, Jeremiah was commanded by God to stand in the court of the temple. He exhorted the people who were assembled from all the cities of Judah to humble themselves before the Lord. It was the feast of tabernacles, when all the males from the cities were required to appear at Jerusalem. {#De 15:16} He told them to repent and when they would not, he pronounced the judgment of God against them, saying that the house would become as Shiloh: and that city should be accursed among all the nations of the earth. {#Jer 26:6}**

**764. This resulted in his arrest by the priests and prophets and all the people who were in the court at the time. They accused him of being a man worthy of death, but he was acquitted and set at liberty by the public judgment of the princes and elders. {#Jer 26:1-19}**

**3395b AM, 4105 JP, 609 BC**

**768. In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim, Jeremiah foretold that Zedekiah would be king of Judah, and that Nebuchadnezzar would be king of Babylon and would conquer his neighbouring countries. {#Jer 27:1-11}**

**3398a AM, 4107 JP, 607 BC**

**776. Nebuchadnezzar chained Jehoiakim to carry him away to Babylon. {#2Ch 36:6} Later, upon his submission and promises of subjection, he let him stay in his own house, where he lived as his servant for three years. {#2Ki 24:1} It was from the time of this event, when the king and people of the Jews were carried off into bondage by Nebuchadnezzar, that the seventy years of the captivity of Babylon which was foretold by the prophet Jeremiah began. {#Jer 25:11 29:10}**

**3405d AM, 4115 JP, 599 BC**

**797. ....Among the captives was Mordecai of the tribe of Benjamin, the son of Jair, {#Es 2:5,6} and Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi. This is why, in his prophecy, Ezekiel started the captivity from this point, {#Eze 1:2,3} which he also called his own banishment. {#Eze 40:1} A letter, said to be Jeremiah's, was sent to those who were appointed to be carried away to Babylon. It warned them to beware of the idolatry which they would see practised in Babylon. {#/ Apc Bar 6:1-73}**

**3405d AM, 4115 JP, 599 BC**

**807. Zedekiah reigned a full eleven years in Jerusalem and did evil in the sight of the Lord his God. [E87] He did not humble himself before Jeremiah, the prophet, who spoke to him in the name of the Lord, but stiffened his neck and**

hardened his heart, so that he would not return to the Lord God of Israel. {#Jer 1:3 32:1,2 2Ki 24:18,19 2Ch 36:11-13} Indeed, all the leaders of the priests, and the people of the whole land, transgressed the law and polluted the house of the Lord which God had sanctified in Jerusalem. Nor would they listen to the word of the Lord, which came to them by the mouth of his prophet Jeremiah and other prophets. Instead, they despised them and mocked the messengers which God sent to them, until the fire of God's fury burst upon his people. {#Jer 37:2 2Ch 36:14-16}.

808. After Jeconiah was carried away, God, in a vision of two baskets of figs, revealed to Jeremiah the captivity of the new king Zedekiah and the remainder of the people. {#Jer 24:1,2,8,9, }

809. In the beginning of Zedekiah's reign, Jeremiah prophesied the captivity and restoration of the Elamites. {#Jer 49:34,39} For Nebuchadnezzar had taken from Astyages the whole province of Elam, including the city of Susa on the Ulai River, and annexed it to his kingdom. {#Jer 25:25 Da 8:1,2} Later, these Elamites combined with the Medes against the Babylonians. {#Isa 21:2} When Belshazzar was overthrown, they recovered their state again under Cyrus, who appointed their chief city of Susa to be the capital of the Persian kingdom. {\*Strabo, l. 15. c. 3. s. 2. 7:157} [L126]

**810. When the envoys from the various kings of Edom, Moab, Ammon, Tyre and Sidon came to Jerusalem to visit the new king Zedekiah, God told Jeremiah to give each of them chains and whips, to be presented to their masters. He commanded them all to submit to Nebuchadnezzar and stop listening to their soothsayers and stargazers, who advised them not to submit. He advised Zedekiah to remain loyal to the king of Babylon and to beware of the false prophets. By threats and promises he persuaded many of the people to submit to and obey the king of Babylon. {#Jer 39:1-18}**

**811. When Jeconiah was carried away with the other captives, Zedekiah sent Elasah, the son of Shaphan and Gemariah the son of Hilkiah, to Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon. Jeremiah sent with them a letter which he had written to the elders, the priests and prophets, and the rest of the people who had been carried from Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. In the letter, the prophet instructed them how to behave themselves in captivity, and comforted them with a gracious promise of deliverance at the end of the seventy years. He predicted the great calamities which were to befall those whom they had left behind in Jerusalem. He foretold the miserable end which would come to the two false prophets, Ahab, the son of Kolaiah, and Zedekiah, the son of Maaseiah. {#Jer 29:1-23}**

**3406 AM, 4116 JP, 598 BC**

**812. Seraiah sent letters back with Zedekiah's messengers, when they returned from Babylon. They delivered these to Zephaniah (who was the second chief priest) and to the rest of the priests at Jerusalem. {#2Ki 25:18} Seraiah denounced what the prophet Jeremiah had written to them. When this was read to Jeremiah, he pronounced a heavy judgment from God upon him. {#Jer 29:24-32} It seems that it was at this time, also, that he made those notable prophecies concerning the kingdom of Christ and restoration of the church in Jeremiah. {See note on 3395b AM. <<766>>} {#Jer 30:1-31:40}**

**3408d AM, 4118 JP, 596 BC**

**814. In the fifth month of the fourth year of Zedekiah, Hananiah, a false prophet, made a false prophesy. He said that at the end of two years all the vessels and furnishings of the house of the Lord, together with Jeconiah and all the people who had been carried away to Babylon, would return and be brought home again. When Jeremiah mocked him, he took a wooden yoke from about Jeremiah's neck and broke it. He said that the Lord would break the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar, within two years precisely, from off the neck of all the nations.**

**815. Jeremiah replied that God, instead of that wooden yoke, would lay an iron one upon the neck of all these nations, under which they should bow, and serve the king of Babylon. {#Jer 28:1-14}**

**3409a AM, 4118 JP, 596 BC**

**816. Hananiah, the false prophet, died in the seventh month of this year, in accordance with the word of Jeremiah. {#Jer 28:16,17} Astyages, after the death of his father Cyaxares, reigned over the Medes for thirty-five years. {\*Herodotus, l. 1. c. 130. 1:169} He is also called Ahasuerus, {#Da 9:1} or Assuerus. {#/ Apc Tob 14:15}**

**3409c AM, 4119 JP, 595 BC**

**817. God, through his prophet Jeremiah, foretold that Babylon and the land of Chaldea would be overrun and laid waste by the Medes and Persians. At the same time he comforted his people with the sweet promises of their deliverance. {#Jer 50:1-51:64} [E88]**

**818. Zedekiah, in the fourth year of his reign, sent Seraiah, the son of Neriah, who was the son of Maaseiah, to Babylon. It was to him that Jeremiah had delivered the prophecies of the destruction of Babylon, which were written in a scroll. [L127] He read the scroll to the people and threw it into the Euphrates River. {#Jer 51:59-64} His brother Baruch, also the son of Neriah, the son of Maaseiah, {#Jer 32:12 51:59} {#/**



**Apc Bar 1:1} and who was Jeremiah's scribe, is thought to have gone to Babylon with Seraiah.**

**3414d AM, 4124 JP, 590 BC**

**834. God told the prophet Jeremiah to tell Zedekiah of the complete destruction and burning of Jerusalem at the hands of the king of Babylon. Zedekiah himself was to be carried away prisoner to Babylon, but he would die in peace and have an honourable burial. {#Jer 34:1-7}**

**835. For this prophecy, Zedekiah imprisoned Jeremiah in the king's prison house. This happened in the tenth year of Zedekiah and the beginning of the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar. Jeremiah recovered the land of Hanameel by right of redemption. {#Jer 32:1-16} Then everything came to pass which Jeremiah had foretold and which is contained in his book. {#Jer 32:1-33:26}**

**836. Pharaohhophra, also called Vaphris, came with his army from Egypt to help Zedekiah. The Chaldeans then raised the siege of Jerusalem. Jeremiah had been allowed to go free during the siege and was not thrown into the dungeon until later. Zedekiah sent messengers to Jeremiah to ask him to make intercession to God for the deliverance of the people. Jeremiah told him that the Egyptians would return to their own land, and the Chaldeans would come back to Jerusalem and destroy the city by fire. {#Jer 37:3-10}**

**837. When the siege was raised, the people took back the Hebrew servants whom they had previously set free, because they no longer feared the enemy. They forced them back into their service, which was contrary to the law and covenant. Jeremiah reproved them for this barbarous act, telling them that if they released their servants, they would escape the sword, famine and pestilence of the returning Chaldeans. He told them the Chaldeans would be returning to make war again, and would take their city and burn it to the ground. {#Jer 34:11-22}**

**838. While the Chaldeans were withdrew to fight the Egyptian army, Jeremiah planned to escape, but was stopped at the gate by the princes. He was taken and scourged, and cast into the dungeon in the house of Jonathan the scribe, where he was left for a long time. {#Jer 37:11-16} At this time, when Nebuchadnezzar was pursuing the Egyptians, in the eighteenth year of his reign, he took eight hundred and thirty-two prisoners from Jerusalem and sent them all back to Babylon as a safeguard. {#Jer 52:29}**

**3415c AM, 4125 JP, 589 BC**

**841. When Nebuchadnezzar had routed the Egyptian army, he promptly returned to the siege of Jerusalem about the fifteenth day of the third month, three hundred and ninety days before he took Jerusalem. This is a similitude to the total length in years of the kingdom of Judah. {#Eze 4:5,8}**

**Jeremiah told Zedekiah that he would be given into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar. Zedekiah then commanded him to be transferred from the dungeon of the prison in Jonathan's house to the court of the prison. He was to be given a roll of bread each day as long as there was any bread left in the city. {#Jer 37:17-21}**

**3415d AM, 4125 JP, 589 BC**

**842. As the siege continued, Zedekiah again inquired of Jeremiah, but he still sent him the same answer: both the king and people must fall into Nebuchadnezzar's hands. He said if any stayed in the city they would perish by the sword, or from famine or pestilence. However, any who would go out and submit to the king of Babylon would have their lives spared. {#Jer 21:1-14}**

**843. The princes cast Jeremiah into Malchiah's dungeon, which was in the court of the prison, for answering the king in this way. He was delivered with the help of Ebedmelech, one of the king's eunuchs, and was again consulted by the king. When he still persisted in pronouncing judgment against the land of Judah, he was kept in the court of the prison until the city was taken. {#Jer 38:1-28} He assured Ebedmelech, in the name of the Lord, that he would be kept free from all harm and danger during that calamity. {#Jer 39:15-18}**

**3416d AM, 4126 JP, 588 BC**

**854. Jeremiah was bound with chains and was carried off with the rest as far as Ramah on the way to Babylon. There his irons were removed and he was set free. He was given his choice of either going to Babylon and being honourably treated there, or staying in the country with the miserable wretches who had been left behind. He decided to stay, and was sent back with money in his purse to Gedaliah, the governor, at Mizpah in the tribe of Benjamin. {#Jer 39:11-14 40:1-6} [E92]**

**3417a AM, 4126 JP, 588 BC**

**859. Johanan and all his captains, with the rest of the people they had freed, remained near Bethlehem. For fear of the Chaldeans, they intended to flee into Egypt. {#Jer 41:16-18} Many of them went to Jeremiah and asked him for an answer from God about this plan. After ten days, he told them God's message. He exhorted them not to leave their country. He assured them that if they stayed, God would protect them there and no harm would come to them from the Babylonians. If, however, they went into Egypt, every one of them would perish by sword, by famine or by other kinds of death. The majority went into Egypt according to their old custom of never obeying good counsel, or God's commands. They took Jeremiah and Baruch, the son of Neriah, with them to Tahpanhes. There, Jeremiah declared to them by**

**means of symbolism, the destruction of Egypt by Nebuchadnezzar. {#Jer 42:1-43:13} {\*Sulpicius Severus, Sacred History, l. 2. c. 4. 11:98} )**

**3417b AM, 4127 JP, 587 BC**

**863. Jeremiah prophesied of the destruction which would follow the Israelites at Migdol not far from the Red Sea, {#Ex 14:2} at Tahpanhes (or Daphne-Pelusium), at Noph, at Memphis and in Pathros, a country in Egypt. As a certain sign of their own impending misery, he gave them the sign of Pharaoh, or Apries, king of Egypt, whom they would see brought low before their eyes. {#Jer 44:1-30}**

**Philip Melanchthon: His Narration, Concerning Philip Prince Palatine, to Rhenus - Jeremiah foretells their destruction to Apries, which also Herodotus describes. After Apries kills Jeremiah, Amasis strangles the proud king after he had captured him.**