

25 And it came to pass in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, in the tenth day of the month [see *Zech 8:19*], that Nevuchadretzar Melech Bavel came, he, and all his army, against Yerushalayim, and encamped against it; and built siege works against it round about.

|2| And HaIr remained under siege unto the eleventh year of Melech Tzidkiyah.

|3| And on the ninth day of the fourth month the ra'av (famine) was severe in the Ir, and there was no lechem for the Am HaAretz.

|4| And the Ir was broken through, and all the anshei hamilchamah fled by lailah by the way of the gate between two walls, which was near the Gan HaMelech; (now the Kasdim [Chaldeans] were surrounding the Ir); and HaMelech fled by the derech HaArabah.

|5| And the army of the Kasdim pursued after HaMelech, and overtook him in the plains of Yericho; and all his army was separated from him and scattered.

|6| So they captured HaMelech, and carried him up to Melech Bavel to Rivlah; and they pronounced mishpat upon him.

|7| And they slaughtered the Bnei Tzidkiyah before his eyes, and put out the eyes of Tzidkiyah, and bound him with shackles of nechoshet, and carried him to Babylon.

|8| And in the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month, which is the nineteenth year of Melech Nevuchadretzar Melech Bavel, came Nevuzaradan, captain of the guard, an eved of Melech Bavel, unto Yerushalayim;

|9| And he set fire to the Beis Hashem, and the Bais HaMelech (the palace), and all

the batim (houses) of Yerushalayim, and every bais hagadol he burned with eish [*Tish B'Av, see Jer 52:12*].

|10| And all the army of the Kasdim (Chaldeans), that were with the captain of the guard, broke down the chomot (walls) around Yerushalayim.

|11| Now the remainder of the people that were left in the Ir, and the deserters that fell away to Melech Bavel, with the remnant of the multitude, did Nevuzaradan the captain of the guard carry away.

|12| But the captain of the guard left certain of the poor of the land to be koremim and farmers.

|13| And the pillars of bronze that were in the Beis Hashem, and the moveable stands, and the Yam Hanechoshet that was in the Beis Hashem, the Kasdim (Chaldeans) broke in pieces, and carried all the bronze to Babylon.

|14| And the caldrons, and the shovels, and the snuffers, and the basins and all the klei hanechoshet wherewith they ministered, they took away.

|15| And the firepans [*for incense*], and the bowls, and such things as were made of zahav, and of kesef, the captain of the guard carried away.

|16| The two Ammudim, one Yam, and the Stands which Sh'lomo had made for the Beis Hashem; the bronze of all these vessels was beyond weight.

|17| The height of the one ammud was eighteen cubits, and the capital upon it was nechoshet; and the height of the capital three cubits; and the netting, and pomegranates upon the capital round about, all of nechoshet; and similar unto these had the second pillar with netting.

|18| And the captain of the guard took Serayah the Kohen

HaRosh, and Tzephanyah the second kohen, and the three keepers of the door;

|19| And out of the Ir he took an officer that was set over the anshei hamilchamah, and five men of them that were royal advisers, which were found in the Ir, and the Sofer who was the chief officer in charge of conscripting the Am HaAretz, and threescore men of the Am HaAretz, that were found in the Ir;

|20| And Nevuzaradan, captain of the guard, took these, and brought them to Melech Bavel to Rivlah;

|21| And Melech Bavel struck them, and slaughtered them at Rivlah in Eretz Chamat. So Yehudah was carried away captive out of their land.

|22| And as for the people that remained in Eretz Yehudah, whom Nevuchadretzar Melech Bavel had left behind, even over them he made Gedalyah ben Achikam ben Shaphan ruler. |23| And when all the officers of the armies, they and their anashim, heard that Melech Bavel had made Gedalyah governor, there came to Gedalyah to Mitzpah, even Yishmael ben Netanyah, and Yochanan ben Kareach, and Serayah ben Tanchumet the Netophati, and Ya'azanyah the ben of a Ma'achati, they and their men.

|24| And Gedalyah took an oath to them, and to their men, and said unto them, Fear not to be the avadim of the Kasdim; dwell in the land, and serve Melech Bavel; and it shall be well with you.

|25| But it came to pass in the seventh month, that Yishmael ben Netanyah, ben Elishama, of royal blood, came, and ten men with him, and assassinated Gedalyah, that he died,