

# After the Fall of Jerusalem

## 40:1 to 44:30

586 BC after the fall of Yerushalayim

**Jerusalem** fell, but not all the **Jews** were killed or sent into exile. **Nebuchadnezzar** followed a humane policy (40:7-43:7). He appointed a fellow Jew, **Gedaliah**, as governor and seemingly gave him sufficient authority to carry out his responsibilities. Gradually, **Gedaliah** was able to bring a measure of order to the ravished land. His loyal supporter and spokesman for all the army officers, **Johanan**, warned that **Ishma'el** was plotting against his life. But **Gedaliah** rejected the warning, which proved only too accurate. **Ishma'el** slaughtered most of a large band of pilgrims from **Samaria** making their way to mourn over the fallen **City**. **Johanan** overtook **Ishma'el** and released the prisoners, but **Ishma'el** escaped. **Johanan** and many others stopped at **Geruth Kimham** (a stopping place for caravans and their camels to stay overnight) near **Bethlehem** to decide their course of action. In the account of these crucial events, **Jeremiah's** name is not mentioned.

The next section (43:8-44:30) deals with **Yirmeyahu** and his relationship with the remnant of **Jews**. When they sought his counsel, he advised them to return to their homes in **Y'hudah**. However, they fled with him and **Baruch** to **Egypt** where he predicted that **Nebuchadnezzar** would then attack **Egypt**. There was a lot of tension between **Jeremiah** and the remnant. He told them that they were suffering because of their idolatry, and that they would die in the coming **Babylonian** invasion. They answered that they had prospered while freely worshipping the **Queen of Heaven**, and when they stopped all their troubles began! **Jeremiah's** last recorded words are a repetition of the warning.<sup>360</sup>