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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 worshiping **the Queen of Heaven**, and when **they** stopped all **their** troubles began! **Jeremiah's** last recorded words are a repetition of the warning.³⁶⁰