

JUDAH'S SPIRITUAL DEATH SPIRAL

DEATH SPIRAL



- First Ephraim/Israel and now Judah are infected with apostasy
- Judah will suffer what Israel did because of God's unchanging patterns
- Zedekiah (*Tzidkiyahu*) is the last Jewish King of Judah
- Babylon's treatment of Judah had God's full support
- Judah was only to be UNDER Babylon's subjugation
- Their refusal to accept God's punishment led to their exile TO Babylon

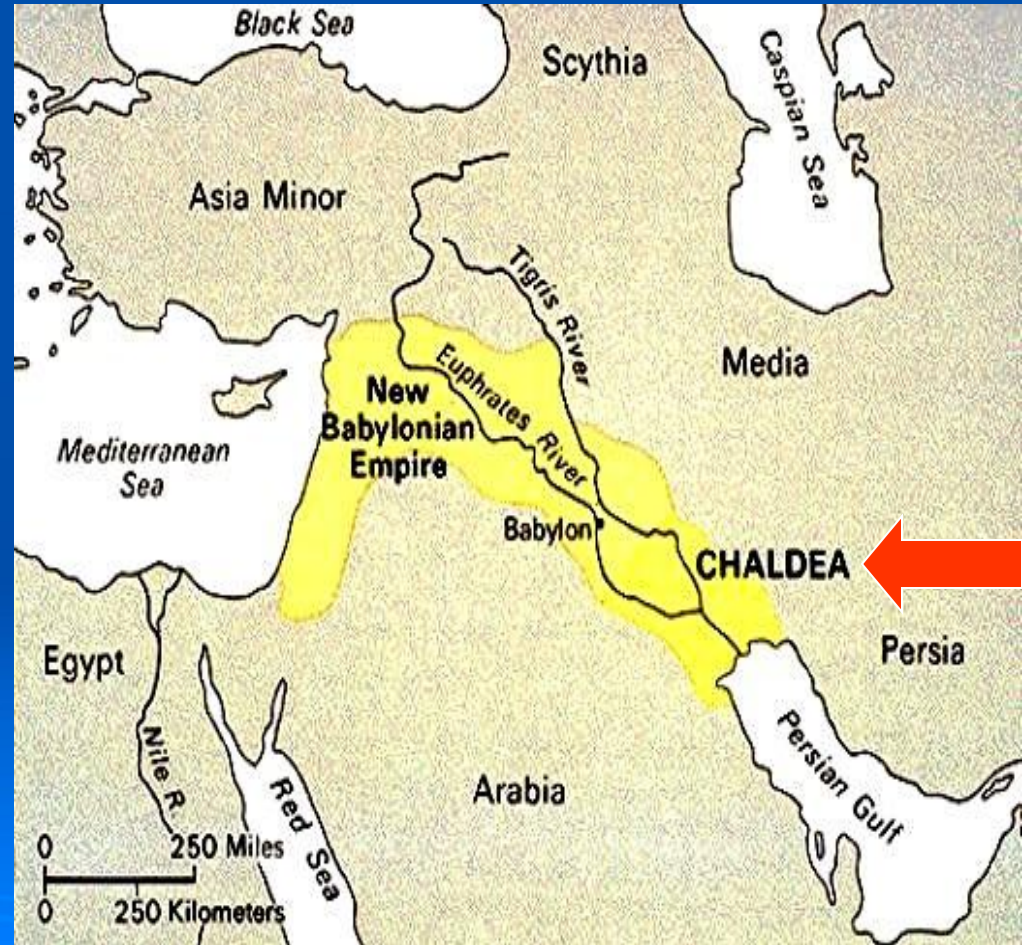
JEREMIAH 52: THE SIEGE OF JERUSALEM

- Babylon & Nebuchadnezzar were God's earthly agents
- 10th of Tevet 588 B.C., winter, the siege began
- Jerusalem fell on the 9th day of the 4th month of 586 B.C.
- Siege interrupted when Babylon had to confront Egypt
- Jeremiah 37:5 – 10
- Israel not to seek out Egypt's deliverance
- Deuteronomy 17:14 - 16



WHO ARE THE CHALDEANS?

- *Kasdim* = *mat-Kaldi* = Chaldeans
- Chaldea a nation that became absorbed into Babylonia
- However it retained a unique identity as a special district of Babylon
- Chaldeans were Semites
- Spoke Aramaic (a.k.a. Aramean)



CHALDEANS = ASTROLOGERS



- When Persia absorbed the Babylonian Empire the term “Chaldean” lost its meaning as a district
- It came to be known as a “class” of society that represented sorcerers, magical arts, astrologers
- BUT.....in 2nd Kings 25 and Jeremiah 52, Chaldeans still mean a special district in Babylonia but also a general term for Babylonians

KING ZEDEKIAH BLINDED



- When Babylonian soldiers entered Jerusalem, Zedekiah fled
- He was captured and taken to Rivla
- His sons were killed in front of him, then he was blinded
- Lamentations 2:17– 22 and 4:9 - 13

JERUSALEM DESTROYED ON THE 10TH AV 586 B.C



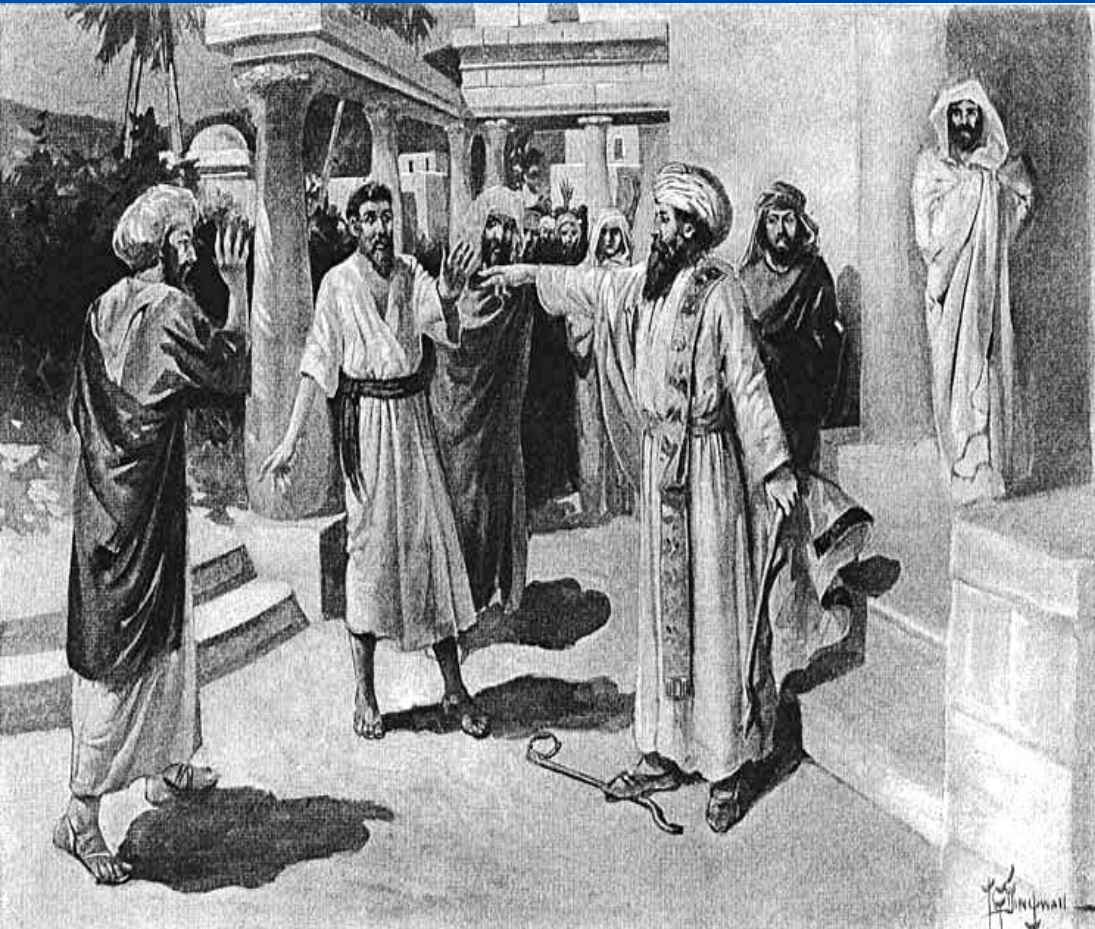
- N'vuzar'adan commander of Babylonian army
- Remainder of people sent to Babylon
- HOWEVER....many were allowed to stay to tend to the fields, orchards, vineyards, and work the mines
- Brass columns chopped up, Chief Priest executed

PROMISED LAND WAS NOT EMPTIED OF HEBREWS !

- A remnant of Jews intentionally left in Judah
- Also remnants of 10 tribes still occupied the north
- Intermarriage among Israelite tribes, and with foreigners
- But.....vast bulk of Hebrews (95% ?) were taken to foreign lands
- “All” in the bible is not an absolute term and does NOT mean 100%

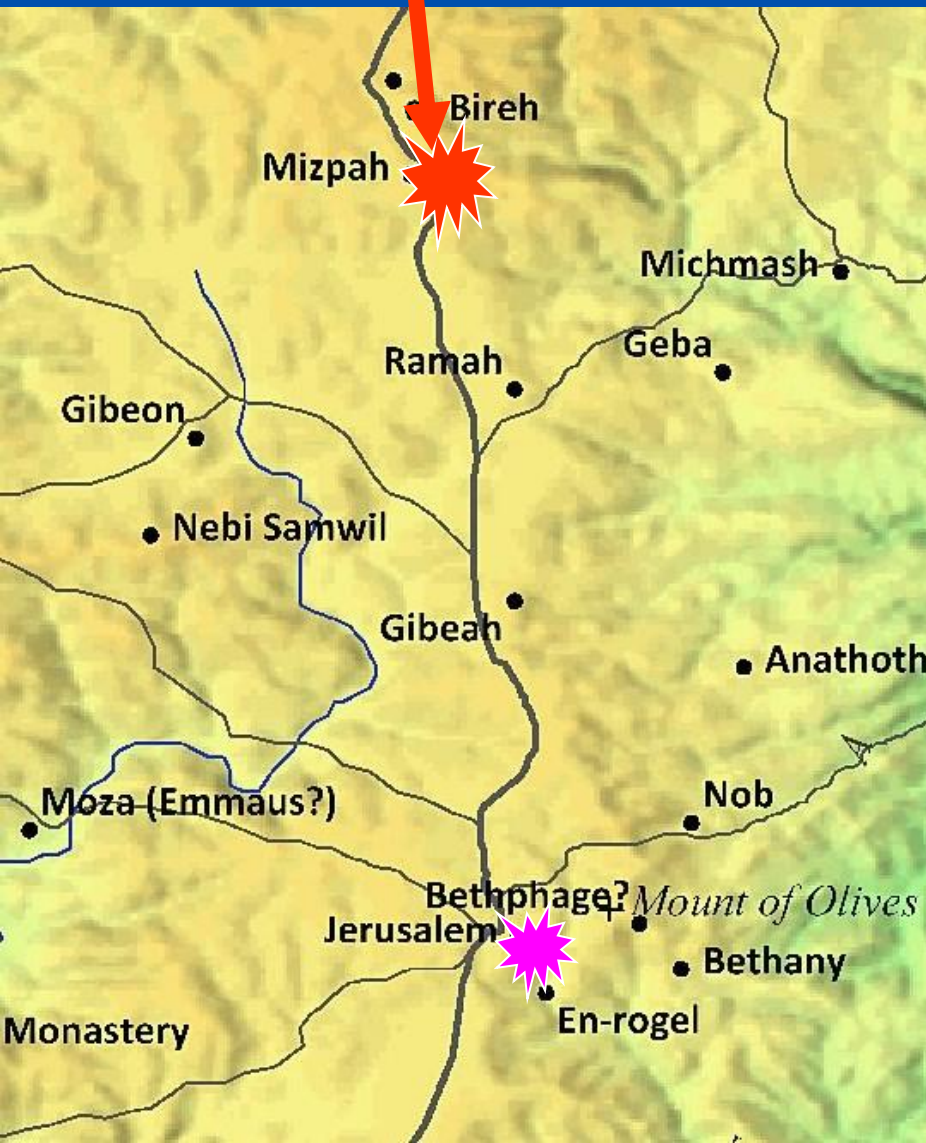


G'DALYAHU: GOVERNOR OF JUDAH



- *G'dalyahu* from a prominent family
- Father part of embassy that went to *Huldah*
- Grandfather the Scribe for King Josiah
- *G'dalyahu* was an aristocrat, but was NOT royalty
- Jeremiah 26:22-24
- Soldiers and officers of Jewish armies came to see *G'dalyahu*
- Also a group led by Ishmael, who didn't accept *G'dalyahu*

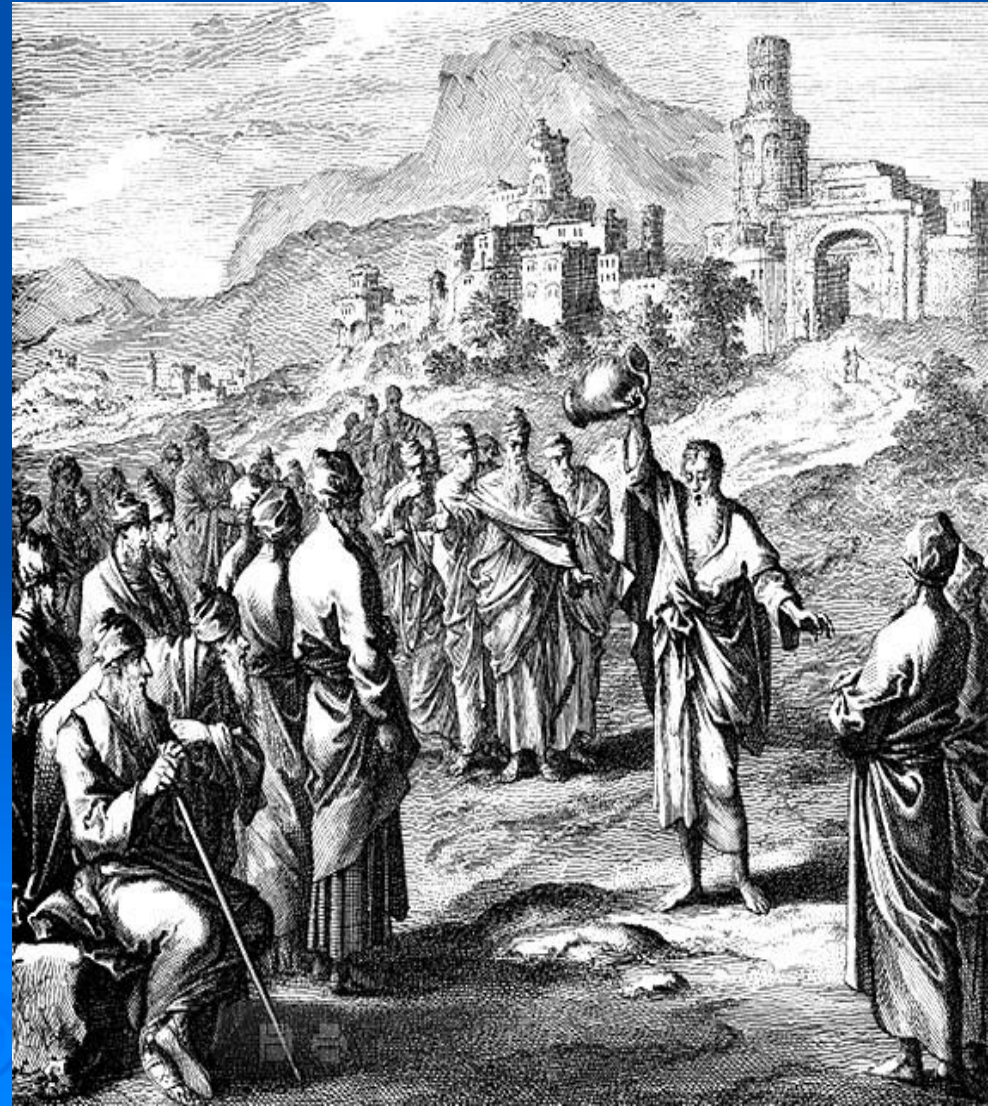
MITZPAH WAS JUDAH'S NEW HEADQUARTERS



- *G'dalyahu* swore to the Jews who came to him that if they didn't rebel, he could protect them
- The returning Jews were free to re-settle anywhere in the Land
- Only 2 months after the fall of Jerusalem, Yishma'el assassinated *G'dalyahu*
- Jeremiah 41
- *Yishma'el* had to regain his honor, as part of David's dynasty, he felt he should rule

JEREMIAH WARNS: Do NOT go down to Egypt !!

- Ishmael slaughtered some pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem
- People feared Nebuchadnezzar would blame them for killing G'dalyahu
- Jeremiah 42:1-16
- Survivors wanted to flee to Egypt for deliverance
- Jeremiah said "NO!"



KING JEHOIACHIN RELEASED



- Jeremiah 43:1
- The people called Jeremiah a liar for telling them not to go to Egypt!
- Jehoiachin had been in prison for 37 years, when a new king of Babylon, Evil-Merodach, released him
- Rabbis say that this was meant as a message of hope to all exiles of Judah and Israel
- Deuteronomy 4:25 – 40
- God is not through with Israel !
- The Church has NOT replaced Israel !