

Handout: Jeremiah Lesson 23

In Jeremiah 51:59-64 (chapter 28 in the Septuagint), Seraiah took the copy of Jeremiah's oracle to Babylon. Upon his arrival, Jeremiah commanded him to perform a prophetic act in four parts:

1. He must read the scroll aloud.
2. He must also address Yahweh, confirming that it is Israel's God who will punish Babylon.
3. After reading the scroll, he must perform a prophetic act by tying a stone around the scroll and casting it into the Euphrates River.
4. Finally, he is to speak a curse on Babylon, using the divine "I," meaning the curse is in Yahweh's name.

Timeline for the Babylonian siege of Jerusalem:

Biblical Source	Jewish/Modern Date	Events
2 Kgs 25:1; Ez 24:1-2	10 Tebeth = 27 January 589 BC	The beginning of the first siege of Jerusalem.
Jer 34: 8-10	1 Tishri = 29 September 588 BC	The release of Hebrew slaves commanded by King Zedekiah and the beginning of what should have been a Jubilee Year.
Jer 34:11-22; 37:5-16	Between Tishri 588 & Nisan 587 BC = October 588 to April 587 BC	The approach of Egyptian army causes the Babylonians to temporarily lift the siege. The slaves are taken back by their owners. Jeremiah is arrested when he attempts to go to Anathoth.
Jer 34:22; Ez 30:20-21	7 Nisan = 29 April 587 BC	The Babylonians force Egyptians to withdraw, and the siege of Jerusalem resumes.
2 Kgs 25:2-4; Jer 39:2, 52:7; Ez 33:21, 40:1	9 Tammuz = 29 July 587	The Babylonians breach the walls of Jerusalem. The Babylonians capture the Judaeans and take them to Ramah. King Zedekiah is captured fleeing with his family.
2 Kgs 25:8	7 Ab/Av = 25 August 587 BC	General Nebuzaradan arrives at Jerusalem from Riblah in Hamath (Syria). He consults with commanders in the field regarding the pillaging of the city. He searches for Jeremiah. Finding Jeremiah at

		Ramah, he releases him.
2 Kgs 25:9-19; 2 Chr 36:18-19; Jer 52:12-25	9 Ab/Av = 28 August 587	The Babylonian army enters Jerusalem to pillage, destroy, and to burn the city, including the palace built by King Solomon and the Temple. The Jewish captives at Ramah are deported to Babylon.
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Dates according to the Jewish calendar and their corresponding modern dates in the chart are from the book, *From Abraham to Paul: A Biblical Chronology*, by Andrew E. Steinman, Concordia Publishing, 2011.

A comparison of the Septuagint with other translations in chapters 25-52:

Hebrew, Vulgate, English Chapters	Septuagint Chapters	Hebrew, Vulgate, English Chapters	Septuagint Chapters
25:1-14	25:1-14	39:3-14	missing
24:14-38	32	40	47
	33	41	48
	34	42	49
27:19-22	missing	43	50
26	35	44 (29-30 the “sign of Hophra)	51:1-30 (sign of Hophra)
27:1-19	36	45	51:31-end
30	37	46	26
31	38	47	29:1-7
32	39	48:1-45	31
33:1-14	40	48:45-47	missing
33:14-26	missing	49:1-5	30:1-5
34	41	49:7-23	29:7-end
35	42	49:23-28	30: last 5 verses
36	43	49:28-34	30 six verses following vs. 5
37	44	49 from vs 34-39	25 from vs 13-end
38	45:1-5 (prophecy for Baruch)	52:1-5 (prophecy for Baruch)	27
39 (first 3 verses and last 5)	46	51 (51:59-64 prophetic action of Seraiah)	28 (28:59-64 prophetic action of Seraiah)
39 last 5	46	52 (end of Jerusalem and release of Jehoiakim)	52 (end of Jerusalem and release of Jehoiakim)
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