

# Jeremiah 41:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then arose Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and the ten men that were with him, and smote Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan with the sword, and slew him, whom the king of Babylon had made governor over the land.

## Analysis

---

Ishmael, of royal blood, assassinates Gedaliah and his supporters 'with the sword.' This treachery destroys the peaceful remnant community Gedaliah was building. Evil persists even after judgment falls. Ishmael's alliance with Ammon (40:14) shows political intrigue continued amid the ruins. Human sin complicates even God's disciplinary work.

## Historical Context

---

Ishmael's assassination of Gedaliah was apparently motivated by royal jealousy and Ammonite political interests. This act brought more disaster to the already devastated remnant.

## Related Passages

---

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

---

1. How does persistent human evil complicate God's redemptive purposes?
2. What does this assassination teach about the ongoing nature of spiritual warfare?

## Interlinear Text

---

וַיָּקָם	יִשְׁמָעֵל בֶּן נְתַנְיָה וְעֶשְׂרֵת	אֲשֶׁר הָאָנָשׁ יִמּוֹ	
<b>Then arose</b>	<b>Ishmael</b>	<b>the son</b>	<b>of Nathaniah</b>
H6965	H3458	H1121	H5418
			<b>and the ten</b>
			H6235
			H376
			H834
אֵת הַיּוֹדֵי וְ	אֲנָשֵׁי	בֶּן גִּדְלִיָּהוּ אֶת	אֲחִיקָם
H1961	H854	<b>that were with him and smote</b>	H853
		H5221	<b>Gedaliah</b>
			H1436
			<b>the son</b>
			H1121
			<b>of Ahikam</b>
			H296
בֶּן שַׁפָּן	בְּחֶרֶב	וַיַּמָּת	אֲשֶׁר אֶת
<b>the son</b>	<b>of Shaphan</b>	<b>with the sword</b>	<b>and slew</b>
H1121	H8227	H2719	H4191
			H853
			H834
			<b>had made governor</b>
			H6485
מֶלֶךְ	בָּבֶל	בְּאֶרֶץ:	
<b>him whom the king</b>	<b>of Babylon</b>	<b>over the land</b>	
H4428	H894	H776	

## Additional Cross-References

---

**2 Kings 25:25** (Parallel theme): But it came to pass in the seventh month, that Ishmael the son of Nathaniah, the son of Elishama, of the seed royal, came, and ten men with him, and smote Gedaliah, that he died, and the Jews and the Chaldees that were with him at Mizpah.

**Jeremiah 40:5** (Kingdom): Now while he was not yet gone back, he said, Go back also to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan, whom the king of Babylon hath made governor over the cities of Judah, and dwell with him among the people: or go wheresoever it seemeth convenient unto thee to go. So the captain of the guard gave him victuals and a reward, and let him go.

