

# Jeremiah 51:59

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The word which Jeremiah the prophet commanded Seraiah the son of Neriah, the son of Maaseiah, when he went with Zedekiah the king of Judah into Babylon in the fourth year of his reign. And this Seraiah was a quiet prince.

## Analysis

**The word which Jeremiah the prophet commanded Seraiah the son of Neriah** (הַדָּבָר אֲשֶׁר־צִוָּה יִרְמְיָהוּ הַנָּבִיא אֶת־שָׂרְיָה בֶן־נְרִיָּה, haddavar asher-tsiyvah Yirmeyahu hannavi et-Serayah ben-Neriyvah)—Jeremiah commissions Seraiah, brother of Baruch (Jeremiah's scribe, 32:12). This was a prophetic symbolic act. **When he went with Zedekiah the king of Judah into Babylon in the fourth year of his reign** (בְּלֶכְתּוֹ אֶת־צִדְקִיָּהוּ מֶלֶךְ־יְהוּדָה בְּבִלְהָ בְּשָׁנַת הָרִבְעִית לְמַלְכוֹ, b'lekhto et-Tzidqiyvahu melek-Y'hudah Bavelah bish'nat harevi'it l'malkho)—594/593 BC: Zedekiah traveled to Babylon, likely to reaffirm vassalage and quell Nebuchadnezzar's suspicions.

**And this Seraiah was a quiet prince** (וְשָׂרְיָה שָׂר מְנוּחָה, uS'rayah sar m'nuchah)—Either 'prince of rest' (a title, perhaps quartermaster) or 'a quiet/peaceable official.' Seraiah's character enabled him to carry this subversive prophetic message into Babylon itself without arousing suspicion. God uses diverse personalities for diverse missions.

## Historical Context

Zedekiah's trip to Babylon (594 BC) was a loyalty visit during his early reign, before his later rebellion that triggered Jerusalem's destruction (586 BC).

Seraiah's participation shows Jeremiah's prophetic network extended even to royal delegations. This daring symbolic act occurred in Babylon's zenith—audacious faith.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. Why would God have Jeremiah send a prophecy of Babylon's doom into Babylon itself during Babylon's peak power?
2. What does Seraiah's character (quiet, peaceable) teach about the diverse ways God uses His servants?
3. How does this symbolic act demonstrate faith—performing an apparently futile gesture trusting God to vindicate it?

## Interlinear Text

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וְשָׂרְיָה ה	אֶת	הַנָּבִיא יֵא	יֵרֵמְיָהּ הוּ	צִוָּהוּ	אֲשֶׁר	הַדָּבָר ר
And this Seraiah	H853	the prophet	H5030	which Jeremiah	H3414	commanded
H8304					H6680	H1697
מֶלֶךְ	צִדְקִיָּהוּ הוּ	אֶת	בְּלָכַת ו	מַחֲסִיָּה	בֶּן	נִרְיָה בֶּן
the king	H4428	with Zedekiah	H6667	H854	H1980	of Neriah
				H4271	H1121	the son
					H5374	H1121
וְשָׂרְיָה ה	לְמַלְכוֹ ו	הָרְבַע יָת	בְּשָׁנָה	בָּבֶל ל	יְהוּדָה	
And this Seraiah	H8304	of his reign	H4427	in the fourth	H7243	year
				H8141	H3063	into Babylon
					H894	H8269
מְנוּחָה:	שָׁר					
was a quiet	H4496	prince				H8269

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 32:12** (Parallel theme): And I gave the evidence of the purchase unto Baruch the son of Neriah, the son of Maaseiah, in the sight of Hanameel mine uncle's son, and in the presence of the witnesses that subscribed the book of the purchase, before all the Jews that sat in the court of the prison.

**Jeremiah 36:4** (Word): Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah: and Baruch wrote from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the LORD, which he had spoken unto him, upon a roll of a book.

**Jeremiah 28:1** (Kingdom): And it came to pass the same year, in the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the fourth year, and in the fifth month, that Hananiah the son of Azur the prophet, which was of Gibeon, spake unto me in the house of the LORD, in the presence of the priests and of all the people, saying,

**Jeremiah 45:1** (Kingdom): The word that Jeremiah the prophet spake unto Baruch the son of Neriah, when he had written these words in a book at the mouth of Jeremiah, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, saying,