

Jeremiah 52:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the captain of the guard took Seraiah the chief priest, and Zephaniah the second priest, and the three keepers of the door:

Analysis

The captain of the guard took Seraiah the chief priest (שָׁרֵיה פָּהָן הַרְאֵשׁ) — Seraiah, great-grandson of Hilkiah who found the Law under Josiah (2 Kings 22:8), now captured. His lineage continued through Ezra (Ezra 7:1). **Zephaniah the second priest** (צְפַנְיָה פָּהָן הַמְּשִׁנָּה) served as deputy high priest.

The three keepers of the door (שְׂתְּרֵי הַסְּפָר) guarded the Temple threshold—sacred guardians now prisoners. The religious leadership, who should have led covenant faithfulness, are taken first for judgment. Leadership bears greater accountability (James 3:1).

Historical Context

Seraiah's execution (v. 27) created a high priestly succession crisis. His son Jehozadak went into exile (1 Chronicles 6:15), and the line continued through Ezra the scribe, showing God's preservation of the priesthood despite judgment.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the targeting of religious leaders first emphasize the greater accountability of those who teach God's Word?
2. What does Seraiah's lineage (from Hilkiah to Ezra) teach about God's faithfulness to preserve a remnant even through judgment?
3. In what ways are you called to 'keep the threshold' of spiritual truth in your sphere of influence?

Interlinear Text

וְאֶת	פָּרֶאשׁ	כֶּה	וְאֶת	שְׁבִיה	אֶת	טַבְּחֵם	כֶּבֶשׂ	וְאֶת	יָמִים	טַבְּחֵם	וְאֶת	נָקָח
took	And the captain		of the guard		H853			Seraiah		priest	the chief	H853
H3947	H7227		H2876					H8304		H3548	H7218	
וְאֶת	שְׁמָרִים	וְאֶת	שְׁלַשֶּׁת	וְאֶת	מִשְׁנֵה	וְאֶת	הַמִּשְׁנֵה	וְאֶת	הַמִּשְׁנֵה	וְאֶת	אַפְנֵי	
and Zephaniah	priest	the second	H853	and the three		H7969		keepers	of the door			H6846
	H3548	H4932						H8104				H5592

Additional Cross-References

2 Kings 25:18 (Parallel theme): And the captain of the guard took Seraiah the chief priest, and Zephaniah the second priest, and the three keepers of the door:

Jeremiah 37:3 (Parallel theme): And Zedekiah the king sent Jehucal the son of Shelemiah and Zephaniah the son of Maaseiah the priest to the prophet Jeremiah, saying, Pray now unto the LORD our God for us.

Jeremiah 35:4 (Parallel theme): And I brought them into the house of the LORD, into the chamber of the sons of Hanan, the son of Igdaiah, a man of God, which was by the chamber of the princes, which was above the chamber of Maaseiah the son of Shallum, the keeper of the door:

Jeremiah 21:1 (Parallel theme): The word which came unto Jeremiah from the LORD, when king Zedekiah sent unto him Pashur the son of Melchiah, and Zephaniah the son of Maaseiah the priest, saying,

Jeremiah 29:25 (Parallel theme): Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, saying, Because thou hast sent letters in thy name unto all the people that are at Jerusalem, and to Zephaniah the son of Maaseiah the priest, and to all the priests, saying,

1 Chronicles 6:14 (Parallel theme): And Azariah begat Seraiah, and Seraiah begat Jehozadak,

Jeremiah 52:15 (Parallel theme): Then Nebuzar-adan the captain of the guard carried away captive certain of the poor of the people, and the residue of the people that remained in the city, and those that fell away, that fell to the king of Babylon, and the rest of the multitude.

Jeremiah 29:29 (Parallel theme): And Zephaniah the priest read this letter in the ears of Jeremiah the prophet.

Ezra 7:1 (Parallel theme): Now after these things, in the reign of Artaxerxes king of Persia, Ezra the son of Seraiah, the son of Azariah, the son of Hilkiah,