

A Study of JEREMIAH



Lesson Eleven– Chapters 41-44

TREASON!

Jeremiah 41:1-18

- The traitor, **Ishmael**, fulfilled his mission by killing **Gedaliah** and some of those with him including Babylonian soldiers (v1-3)
- Later he killed 80 men who came to **Mizpah** to worship (v4-9)
- He then took a number of Jews captive (including the king's daughters) and fled back toward Ammon (v10)
- **Johanan** and others assembled a force to pursue Ishmael, The succeeded in freeing the captives but Ishmael escaped to Ammon (v11-16)
- Since they feared reprisal from the Babylonians, they settled in Chimham rather than Mizpah (v17-18)

'PLEASE PRAY FOR US'

Jeremiah 42:1-6

The murder of Nebuchadnezzar's appointed governor left the remaining Jews in fear of Babylonian retaliation.

"¹Now all the captains of the forces ... and all the people, from the least to the greatest, came near ²and said to Jeremiah the prophet, 'Please, let our petition be acceptable to you, and pray for us to the LORD your God, for all this remnant (since we are left but a few of many, as you can see), ³that the LORD your God may show us the way in which we should walk and the thing we should do.

⁶Whether it is pleasing or displeasing, we will obey the voice of the LORD our God to whom we send you, that it may be well with us when we obey the voice of the LORD our God."

THE LORD'S RESPONSE

Jeremiah 42:7-17

The Lord answered Jeremiah's prayer for the people:

- "¹⁰If you will still remain in this land, then I will build you and not pull you down, and I will plant you and not pluck you up. For I relent concerning the disaster that I have brought upon you. ¹¹Do not be afraid of the king of Babylon, of whom you are afraid; do not be afraid of him,' says the LORD, 'for I am with you, to save you and deliver you from his hand'" (v10-11).
- "¹³But if you say, 'We will not dwell in this land,' disobeying the voice of the LORD your God, ¹⁴saying, 'No, but we will go to the land of Egypt where we shall see no war, nor hear the sound of the trumpet, nor be hungry for bread, and there we will dwell' ... ¹⁶then it shall be that the sword which you feared shall overtake you there in the land of Egypt; the famine of which you were afraid shall follow close after you there in Egypt; and there you shall die" (v13-14, 16).

“YOU WERE HYPOCRITES IN YOUR HEARTS”

Jeremiah 42:18-22

The Results: “Now therefore, know certainly that you shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence in the place where you desire to go to dwell.” (v22)

- What about us; are we sometimes like them...
 - If we pray for wisdom from God then allow ourselves to be guided by earthly wisdom?
 - If we pray, “Not my will but your will be done” and then act rebelliously; seeking our own will?

THE PEOPLE FLEE TO EGYPT

Jeremiah 43:1-7

The people responded:

- You are a false prophet and do not speak the words of God (v1-2)
- You are trying to put us in the hands of the Babylonians (v3)

Then they did what they planned to do all the time – they took all the people (including Jeremiah) and went to Egypt (v4-7)

- God had promised protection from the Babylonians if they obeyed
- But they sought protection from the Egyptians instead

The entire nation of Judah was left deserted with virtually no inhabitants!

NO SAFETY IN EGYPT

Jeremiah 43:8-13

⁷“So they went to the land of Egypt, for they did not obey the voice of the LORD. And they went as far as Tahpanhes.”

⁸“Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah in Tahpanhes, saying . . . , ¹⁰“Behold, I will send and bring Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant And he will spread his royal pavilion over them.”

¹¹“When he comes, he shall strike the land of Egypt and deliver to death those appointed for death, and to captivity those appointed for captivity, and to the sword those appointed for the sword.”

HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN?

Jeremiah 44:1-14

- ❖ To the Exiles in Egypt (v1)
- ❖ You saw what I did to Judah (v2)
- ❖ Because of its great wickedness (v3)
- ❖ In spite of numerous warnings (v4)
- ❖ But they would not listen (v5)
- ❖ So My fury and anger were poured out! (v6)
- ❖ Why do you repeat the same mistake of idolatry? (v7-10)
- ❖ Therefore, I will set My face against you for catastrophe (v11-14)

AUDACIOUS INSANITY!

Jeremiah 44:15-19

Everything Jeremiah prophesied about Judah had come true. Everyone should know that he truly spoke for God

Yet they said, “We will not listen to you.” We will continue to worship the ‘Queen of Heaven’ (v16-17, 43:5)

- They admit the pervasive idolatry of the past (v17)
- They attribute their blessings to those gods saying, “For then we had plenty of food, were well-off, and saw no trouble.” (v17, but it was God’s patience – Rom 2:4-5)
- And attributed their recent troubles to their stopping such worship (v18)
- Perhaps it was mainly the women involved in worship of ‘the Queen of Heaven’ but their husbands knew and approved the practice (v15, 19)

JEREMIAH’S RESPONSE

Jeremiah 44:20-30

The true reason for the adversity of Judah

- ❖ Not the disfavor of an idol
- ❖ But the fury of the Lord God who “could no longer bear” their unrelenting evil rebellion (v20-23)

And as a result of the evil of these exiles...

- ❖ You vowed to an idol and I will vow to you... (v25-26)
- ❖ “... all the men of Judah who are in the land of Egypt shall be consumed by the sword and by famine, until there is an end to them” (v27)
- ❖ “Yet a small number who escape the sword shall return from the land of Egypt to the land of Judah” – as a sign (v28-29)
- ❖ And the King of Egypt will be punished (v30)