

Jeremiah Study

Chapters 39-43 (~min) The Enemy Within

- Jerusalem falls

Chapter 39

(39:1-2) Siege started (9th year) around 588 BC, it Fell (11th year) 586 BC

(39:3-10) The prophecies against Zedekiah come to pass. (because he did not surrender)

- He ran & was captured in Jericho
- They brought him to King Nebby in Riblah (land of Hamath)
- King Nebby killed Zedekiah's children in front of him
 - He also killed the nobles of Judah
- King Nebby pokes out Zedekiah's eyes (blinds him)
- Then, Zedekiah is taken to Babylon (which he will never "see")
- The Chaldeans burned the king's house, houses of the people & broke down the walls of Jerusalem

(39:10) Poor people were left behind.

- Babylon's method was to kill leadership & powerful people, tell the average people "it's not your fault, it was your bad leaders", so then, they are taken captive & encouraged to "become good Babylonians". (Assimilate).
- However, the poorest people they would hand over the land of the now dead leadership. So people who were struggling under their previous leadership are now handed vineyards & houses of the former rich people. They just have to take those over, pay taxes & be a good Babylonian.
- This was an effective tactic for assimilating conquered societies.

(39:11-14) King Nebby gives Jeremiah favor. "do to him just s he says to you".

- We see here that King Nebby has respect for Jeremiah.
- Perhaps this comes from his experience with Daniel (and the God of Daniel)
- Perhaps he had heard of the letters where Jeremiah wrote to the captives already in Babylon (Chapter 29)

Interesting Point:

Remember back in Chapter 15 where Jeremiah was having a major pity party? "cursed is the day I was born!"

- We talked about from his perspective he was “in” the mess. God is prophesying that Judah & Jerusalem would fall. (But wouldn’t that be Jeremiah too?) One could see how Jeremiah might be a little concerned that he was standing in the middle of it.
 - At a minimum it stands to reason that Jeremiah might have assumed that he would (at least) be taken as a captive.
- Interesting how terribly he was treated by his own people. Punched in the face, put in prison (multiple times), placed in pit of muck up to his neck. They wanted to kill him, but feared God’s wrath.
 - But then when Jerusalem falls, the King of the most powerful nation in the world at that time says “Give Jeremiah whatever he wants”.

(39:15-18) God saves Ebed-Melech

- This is the Ethiopian that interceded on behalf of Jeremiah to rescue him from the pit.
- God makes Ebed-Melech a reassuring promise.

Chapter 40

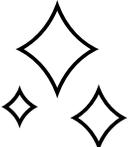
- Back to Jeremiah being freed

(40:1-4) The captain of the army frees Jeremiah & gives him the option to go back with him to Babylon (as a free man) or stay.

(40:5-6) King Nebby appointed Gedaliah governor over the cities of Judah. Jeremiah goes to stay with him & remain among the people left behind.

(40:7-12) Word spreads and Jewish people who had been scattered (but not taken captive) start to make their way back to Judah.

- It probably seemed like a remnant had been saved from captivity.

	<p>Symbolism: Ishmal & Johanan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The name “ishmal” is always synonymous with “the Flesh” • The name “Johanan” in Hebrew means “Jehova has graced”
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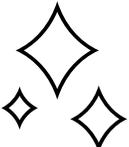
(40:13-16) Johanan warns the governor Gedaliah that Ishmal was sent to kill him

- Johanan does not listen, but instead rebukes Johanan.
- Ishmal is the enemy within. He appears to be “one of them”.
- After ~18 years of focusing on Babylon as the enemy, perhaps they’ve created tunnel vision to where they can’t any other enemies.

Chapter 41

(41:1-3) Breaking bread together was a big deal in this culture. It symbolized unity & friendship.

- Ishmael & his 10 men (who likely were eating with them) rose & killed everyone.
 - The governor appointed by King Nebby (Gedaliah)
 - The Jews that were there
 - The Chaldeans that were there.

	<p>Symbolism (Fun Fact) : Number 10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In reference to the 10 commandments this sometimes represents a fullness of God's covenant.• It can also refer to "Testing" (i.e. 10 days of Testing in Daniel)
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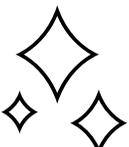
(41:4-18) People taken, people freed. But now what?

- They were content living in their own land & serving King Nebby.
- But this Ishmeal characters just wiped out the appointed leaders.
 - They are afraid that *they* will be blamed for this, so they plan to run to Egypt.

Chapter 42

(42:1-6) They FINALLY believe? They finally promise to "Obey the voice of God" so that it will "be well" with them. Well, that's what they say..

(42:7-23) God says "DON'T GO TO EGYPT!"

	<p>Symbolism : Egypt Egypt is often symbolic of "the world". We see this reaction to "run to the safety of the world" rather than "stay under God's protection".</p> <p>The "world" often promises safety, but it can't deliver. God CAN deliver, but sometimes that means you are "safe" in a seemingly scary place.</p>
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Chapter 43

(43:1-7) They promised to obey... but they did not.

(43:8-13) God pinpoints the exact location where King Nebby's pavilion will be setup when he comes to conquer Egypt. This happened shortly after the fall of Jerusalem in 586 BC