1. The Fall of Jerusalem

Jeremiah 39:1-2

- 1 Now when Jerusalem was captured [b]in the ninth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the tenth month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and all his army came to Jerusalem and laid siege to it;
- 2 in the eleventh year of Zedekiah, in the fourth month, in the ninth day of the month, the city wall was breached.

Jeremiah 39: 4-7

4And when Zedekiah the king of Judah and all the men of war saw them, they fled and left the city at night by way of the king's garden through the gate between the two walls; and he went out toward the Arabah.

5But the army of the Chaldeans pursued them and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho; and they took him and brought him up to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon at Riblah in the land of Hamath, and he passed sentence on him.

- 6 Then the king of Babylon slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes at Riblah; the king of Babylon also slaughtered all the nobles of Judah.
- 7 He then blinded Zedekiah's eyes and bound him in shackles of bronze to bring him to Babylon.

2. God's eyes are on the sparrows.

Jeremiah 39:8-10

8The Chaldeans also burned the king's palace and the houses of the people with fire, and they tore down the walls of Jerusalem.

9And as for the rest of the people who were left in the city, the deserters who had deserted to him and the rest of the people who remained,

Nebuzaradan the captain of the bodyguard took them into exile in Babylon.

10But some of the poorest people, who had nothing, Nebuzaradan the captain of the bodyguard left behind in the land of Judah, and gave them vineyards and fields]at that time.

Jeremiah 39:11,12.

- 11 Now Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon gave orders regarding Jeremiah through Nebuzaradan the captain of the bodyguard, saying,
- 12"Take him and]look after him, and do not do anything harmful to him, but rather deal with him just as he tells you."

3. God's Favored People Saved!

Jeremiah 39:16-18.

16"Go and speak to Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, saying, 'This is what the LORD of armies, the God of Israel says: "Behold, I am going to bring My words on this city for disaster and not for [k] prosperity; and they will take place before you on that day.

17But I will save you on that day," declares the LORD, "and you will not be handed over to the men of whom you are afraid.

18For I will assuredly rescue you, and you will not fall by the sword; but you will have your own life as plunder, because you have trusted in Me," declares the LORD."

Jeremiah 40:4-6

4 But now, behold, I am setting you free today from the chains that are on your hands. If you would prefer to come with me to Babylon, come along, and I will]look after you; but if]you would prefer not to come with me to Babylon,]do not come. Look, the whole land is before you; go wherever it seems good and right for you to go."

5 As]Jeremiah was still not going back,]he said, "Go on back then to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, whom the king of Babylon has appointed over the cities of Judah, and stay with him among the people; or else go anywhere it seems right for you to go." So the captain of the bodyguard gave him a ration and a gift, and let him go.

6Then Jeremiah went to Mizpah to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam and stayed with him among the people who were left in the land.

4. The plot to kill Gedaliah!

Jeremiah. 40:13-16.

13Now Johanan the son of Kareah and all the commanders of the forces that were in the field came to Gedaliah at Mizpah,

14and said to him, "Are you well aware that Baalis the king of the sons of Ammon has sent Ishmael the son of Nethaniah to take your life?" But Gedaliah the son of Ahikam did not believe them.

15Then Johanan the son of Kareah spoke secretly to Gedaliah in Mizpah, saying, "Let me go and kill Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and no one will know! Why should he take your life, so that all the Jews who are gathered to you would be scattered and the remnant of Judah would perish?"

16But Gedaliah the son of Ahikam said to Johanan the son of Kareah, "Do not do this thing, for you are telling a lie about Ishmael."

5. We must heed to good advice!

Jeremiah. 41:1-3.

- 1 Now in the seventh month Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, the son of Elishama, of the royal]family and one of the chief officers of the king, along with ten men, came to Mizpah to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam. While they were eating bread together there in Mizpah,
- 2 Ishmael the son of Nethaniah and the ten men who were with him rose up, and struck and killed Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, with the sword and put to death the one whom the king of Babylon had appointed over the land.
- 3 Ishmael also struck and killed all the Jews who were with him, that is with Gedaliah in Mizpah, and the Chaldeans who were found there, the men of war.

Jeremiah 41:11-14

11But Johanan the son of Kareah and all the commanders of the forces that were with him heard about all the evil that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah had done.

- 12So they took all the men and went to fight with Ishmael the son of Nethaniah and they found him by the large]pool that is in Gibeon.
- 13 Now as soon as all the people who were with Ishmael saw Johanan the son of Kareah and all the commanders of the forces that were with him, they were joyful.
- 14 So all the people whom Ishmael had taken captive from Mizpah turned around and came back and went to Johanan the son of Kareah. 15But Ishmael the son of Nethaniah escaped from Johanan with eight men and went to the sons of Ammon.

6. The remnant wanted to run to Egypt!

Jeremiah 42:4-6.

4Then Jeremiah the prophet said to them, "I have heard you. Behold, I am going to pray to the LORD your God in accordance with your words; and I will tell you the whole [b]message which the LORD gives you as an answer. I will not withhold a word from you."

5Then they said to Jeremiah, "May the LORD be a true and faithful witness against us if we do not act in accordance with the whole]message with which the LORD your God will send you to us.

6Whether it is [d]pleasant or]unpleasant, we will listen to the voice of the LORD our God to whom we are sending you, so that it may go well for us when we listen to the voice of the LORD our God."

7. God told them through Jeremiah, not to go to Egypt.

Jeremiah. 42:10-12.

10'If you will indeed stay in this land, then I will build you up and not tear you down, and I will plant you and not uproot you; for I [f]will relent of the disaster that I have inflicted on you.

11Do not be afraid of the king of Babylon, whom you are now fearing; do not be afraid of him,' declares the LORD, 'for I am with you to save you and rescue you from his hand.

12I will also show you compassion, so that he will have compassion on you and restore you to your own soil.

Jeremiah 42:15-17.

- 15 then in that case listen to the word of the LORD, you remnant of Judah. This is what the LORD of armies, the God of Israel says: "If you really set your minds to enter Egypt and go in to reside there,
- 16 then the sword, of which you are afraid, will overtake you there in the land of Egypt; and the famine, about which you are anxious, will follow closely after you there in Egypt, and you will die there.
- 17 So all the people who set their minds to go to Egypt to reside there will die by the sword, by famine, or by plague; and they will have no refugees or survivors from the disaster that I am going to bring on them."

8. The rebellion and the punishment

Jeremiah 43:2-4.

- 2 Azariah the son of Hoshaiah, Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the arrogant men said to Jeremiah, "You are telling a lie! The LORD our God has not sent you to say, 'You are not to enter Egypt to reside there';
- 3 but Baruch the son of Neriah is inciting you against us in order to hand us over to the Chaldeans, so they will put us to death or exile us to Babylon!"
- 4 So Johanan the son of Kareah and all the commanders of the forces, and all the people, did not obey the voice of the LORD to stay in the land of Judah.

Jeremiah 43:5-7

- 5 Instead, Johanan the son of Kareah and all the commanders of the forces took the entire remnant of Judah who had returned from all the nations to which they had been scattered, in order to reside in the land of Judah—
- 6 the men, the women, the [a]children, the king's daughters, and every person whom Nebuzaradan the captain of the bodyguard had left with Gedaliah

the son of Ahikam [b]and grandson of Shaphan, together with Jeremiah the prophet and Baruch the son of Neriah—

7and they entered the land of Egypt (for they did not obey the voice of the LORD) and went in as far as Tahpanhes. going to listen to you!

Jeremiah 44:15-18

15Then all the men who were aware that their wives were burning]sacrifices to other gods, along with all the women who were standing by, as a large assembly,]including all the people who were living in Pathros in the land of Egypt, responded to Jeremiah, saying,

16"As for the]message that you have spoken to us in the name of the LORD, we are not

17But we will certainly carry out every word that has proceeded from our mouths,]by burning]sacrifices to the queen of heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her, just as we ourselves, our forefathers, our kings, and our leaders did in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem; for then we had plenty of]food and were well off and saw no]misfortune.

18But since we stopped burning]sacrifices to the queen of heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her, we have lacked everything, and have met our end by the sword and by famine."

9. God's Judgement

Jeremiah 44:27

27Behold, I am watching over them for harm and not for good, and all the people of Judah who are in the land of Egypt will]meet their end by the sword or by famine until they]are completely gone.

10. Prophesies against nations

Prophesy against Egypt. Ch. 46

Prophesy against Philistia. Ch. 47

Prophesy against Moab. Ch.48

Prophesy against Ammon Ch. 49

Prophesy against Babylon Ch. 50,51.

Conclusion

- 1. God's Word will never fail
- 2. God's Eyes are always on His favored people
- 3. God's Heart has always a special place for poor people!
- 4. Listen to sound advice from people!
- 5. Do not go against the Will of God