

JEREMIAH 21 vs 1

In the book of Jeremiah, this is the midway point of this very lengthy and detailed prophetic book;

finally we hear from headquarters, loser-central: the faithless leader of the faithless people

¹ The word from the LORD which came to Jeremiah,

when king Zedekiah sent Pashur the son of Melchiah / who may be different than the guy in the previous chapter, the chief priggish thug of a fool... who beat up Jeremiah,

and Zephaniah the son of Maaseiah the priest to him, saying,

² I ask you to inquire of the LORD for us / Zedekiah was a morally bankrupt fool, a stubborn jackass, who was not asking the LORD's advice or help... this is just a perfunctory, knee-jerk response especially seen whenever clueless leadership attempts to save their own sorry derriere;

for Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon makes war against us; perhaps the LORD will deal with us... ac-Cording to all His wONDrous Works / spoken with intonations of grandeur; in other words:

WE NEED A MIRACLE!!!

that he / Nebuchadnezzar may go up from us / that the enemy may get the hell out of our business!

³ Then said Jeremiah to them / most likely without a pause of hesitation,

This you shall say to Zedekiah:

⁴ Thus says the LORD God of Israel; Behold / pay attention,

I will turn back / render useless...

the weapons of war that are in your hands, wherewith you fight against the king of Babylon, and against the Chaldeans / fierce tribes, hatchet men from the N Persian Gulf region, who have always lived by the sword,

besiegers outside the walls, and I will assemble them in the midst of this city.

⁵ In My anger, and fury, and great wrath,

I will fight against you with an outstretched hand and with a strong arm / in other words,

with all My might.

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⁶ I will strike down the citizens

of this city / Jerusalem, some call it the holy City... it is **not**; even young Stephen, the first martyr, put that notion to rest forfeiting his life... in the holy Land... it is **not**; it is the land promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob... but that doesn't make it holy. Only Moses, in the middle of the Sinai desert, was told to remove his sandals... because where he stood was **holy** ground; what made it holy was: the presence of **God. HE is HOLY.**

On JLTV the other day, I heard the guy who many decades ago... first thought up the TV marketing strategy for tourism to that country and City... using the term: **holy land**; and they were so surprised when it stuck with all the church people. Holy land tours are BIG business... even though it is **not** holy.

I will strike down the citizens of this city,

both man and beast shall die of a great pestilence.

⁷ Afterward, says the LORD,

I will deliver Zedekiah king of Judah, his servants / his officers, and the people in this city who survive the pestilence of sword and famine,

to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and to their enemies, and to those who seek their life: and he shall strike them with the sword;

he shall **not spare them, **no** pity, **no** mercy.**

⁸ To this people you shall say, Thus says the LORD;

Behold / pay attention,

I set before you **the way of life, and **the way of death** / the choice is simple: *life, or death*. 800 years earlier, Joshua said to them, *You choose this day who you will serve, as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord—Joshua 24*. It's a choice His people should gladly affirm every day of their life.**

⁹ Whoever stays in this city shall die by the sword, the famine, or the pestilence:

but anyone who departs and surrenders to the Chaldeans who besiege you shall live, and escape with his life.

¹⁰ For I have determined to harm, and **not benefit this city, says the LORD:**

and hand it over to the king of Babylon, and he will burn it with fire.

¹¹ And to the house of the king of Judah, say,

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Hear **the word of the LORD**;

¹² **O house of David, thus says the LORD;**

Administer justice every morning / the first thing leadership can always do, in spite of pending doom, it is always good to do right,

Deliver / rescue... the one who is robbed from the hand of the oppressor,

lest My fury burn like a fire that none can extinguish,

because of your evil doings.

¹³ **Behold, I am against you,**

O valley dwellers, and rocky plain / lowlives and hardheads?

says the LORD;

who quite confidently think things like: don't you know who I am? Don't you know who we are? Sure! You're a fool, a royal jackass; I just don't know your name...

who say,

Who shall come against us?

or

Who shall enter our dwellings?

And the LORD has a word for them...

¹⁴ **But I will punish you according to the fruit of your doings, says the LORD** / now days, sadly some in the church think their assignment is: chief fruit inspector... and it's interesting, they never inspect themselves; they always inspect everybody else... who are always supposed to look like them...

SORRY!

THE LORD IS THE FRUIT INSPECTOR: the Father tirelessly inspects His vineyard daily; working even on Sunday; He lovingly decides the quality of the fruit, He diligently and skillfully does the pruning—**John 15**

and I will kindle a fire in the forest, and it shall devour everything round about it. And doesn't it sound like the LORD weighed His options about cleaning up the neighborhood? As far as the eye can see... the environs need some radical trimming, that He will gladly do quickly, and thoroughly.