

JEREMIAH 34 vs 1

Moses said to the children of Israel, when they were about to enter the land promised to Abraham, he said, *Hear, O Israel, the statutes and ordinances which I speak today in your hearing. That you learn them and carefully do them...* that it may go well with them and their children... and they may live long and prosper in the land.

This chapter reveals how, by their actions, these people uniquely chosen by God... pushed aside His 10 commands – apparently thinking they were too burdensome; and did what they thought was right in their own eyes. Let's look at one commandment... around since the day Adam was created, they all knew it. *Observe the sabbath day, keep it holy. Six days you can labor, and do all your work; but on the sabbath day... you will not do any work; you, or your son, or your daughter, or your male servant, or your female servant, or your ox, or your ass, or any of your cattle, or the foreigner who is within your gates; that your male and female servant may rest as well as you—Deut. 5.*

¹ The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord, when Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and all his army, and all the kingdoms of the earth under his dominion, and all the nations, fought against Jerusalem, and against all its cities, saying,

² Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel; Go and speak to Zedekiah king of Judah, and tell him, The Lord says this: Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, he will burn it with fire / the deportation of Judah was inevitable; they had not been faithful to keep the Covenant of God written to them; *He could have written 10,000 commands but they would have ignored them—Hosea 8*; they knew their fate:

³ You will not escape from his hand, but will surely be captured, and delivered into his hand; and you will see the king of Babylon eye to eye and speak with him face to face. You will go to Babylon.

⁴ Yet hear the word of the Lord, O Zedekiah king of Judah.

The Lord says this concerning you: You will not die by the sword.

⁵ You will die in peace: and as incense burns for your fathers, the former kings who were before you, so they will burn incense for you; and they will lament you, saying, Alas, lord. For I have spoken the word, declares the Lord.

⁶ Jeremiah the prophet spoke all these words to Zedekiah king of Judah, in Jerusalem,

⁷ when the army of the king of Babylon fought against Jerusalem, and against all the cities of Judah that were left, Lachish, and Azekah / NE of Lachish, SW of Jerusalem:

for these fortified cities of Judah that remained. / Babylon's final assault on Jerusalem had begun but like any battle, the surging advances and retreats took place... did some think Judah was going to repulse the assault? One of the Lachish letters written at the time by an outpost officer, says he could not see the fire signals from Azekah – implying the city may have fallen.

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⁸ The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord,

after king Zedekiah made a covenant with all the people in Jerusalem / the king makes a promise with the elite families of Jerusalem; when God makes a covenant, He is a little different than us; He keeps it to His own hurt,

to proclaim liberty to them;

⁹ everyone should set free his Hebrew male and female servants,

no one should enslave his Jewish brother / in the Covenant God made, the male and female workers were to rest on the 7th day along with their employer's family; and after working the 6th year... they were permitted to go free—apparently the noble families of Judah forgot; as the noble families of Israel forgot 170 years earlier. Moses said, *when you enter the land and are prosperous... remember all the way the LORD your God led you these forty year... testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. Take heed lest you forget the LORD your God... beware let you say in your heart, “My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth. Remember it is the LORD your God who gives you power to get wealth. And if you forget the LORD your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you this day that you will surely perish... like the nations that the LORD makes to perish before you, so will you perish, because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God—Deuteronomy 8;*

the people in Jerusalem hoped Egypt would come to the rescue... but they hadn't heard from them; so, Zedekiah gave orders regarding the release of their slave laborers... as the attacks continued.

¹⁰ And they obeyed, all the rulers and all the people who entered into the covenant that everyone would set free his male servant or female servant, so that they would **not be enslaved again.**

Then they obeyed, and set them free / ...until they heard rumor of the advancing troops from Egypt.

¹¹ But afterward they turned and took the male and female servants, whom they set free, and brought them again into subjection as slaves. / not a good idea; these stubborn, vacillating hardheads of Judah -- much like the Jewish nobility throughout the centuries... who aligned with Rome, *who have not king but caesar*, who endlessly broke the promise and thereby irritated the Lord – still in the 21st century news today; as they work their deals with the world... as they delude themselves and think that it is their hand that gave them power to gain wealth.

¹² The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying,

¹³ Thus says the Lord, the God of **Israel: I made a covenant with your fathers**

when I brought them out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, saying,

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14 At the end of seven years each of you set free every fellow Hebrew who has been sold to you; and when he has served you six years, you must set him free from your service.

But your fathers did not listen to Me, nor incline their ear to Me / they made no attempt to lean in closer and hear the Lord; they pretended they didn't hear what the Lord said.

15 You reconsidered and did what is right in My eyes, proclaiming liberty everyone to his neighbor; and you made a covenant before Me in the house that is called by My name / hardheads doing what was right: Wow! I bet that astonished, and almost shocked the heavenly hosts:

16 But then you turned around and profaned My name, when each of you took back his male and female servants, whom you had set free according to their desire, and brought them again into subjection to be your servants / and to these vacillating traitors we learn He said, *So I permitted them statutes that were not good, and judgments whereby they should not live—* **Ezekiel 20:25.**

17 Therefore thus says the Lord;

Since you have not obeyed Me by proclaiming liberty,

everyone to his brother, and everyone to his neighbor / Judah: the House of praise to God... was given great blessings in order to become an example blessing to the whole world; but they chose to embezzle their blessings; and misused their freedom:

behold, I proclaim to you a new freedom...

free to fall to the sword, to pestilence, and to famine, says the Lord.

Now, I will make you a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth.

18 And the men who transgressed My covenant / not merely the recent covenant to emancipate brothers; but their habit of endlessly stepping over the line; one violation after another; His 10 commands were too burdensome; yet what even a child could gladly do,

who did not keep the words of the covenant they made before Me / in the OT they often made covenants which included an oath and malediction; a curse (May thus and such be done to me if I do not keep this covenant);

so, I will make them like a calf, cut in two and passed between its parts—these words reveal their broken covenant with the Lord. About this verse, John Wesley wrote: Cut the calf - It seems these Jews in making a solemn covenant with God about releasing their servants used this rite; they caused a calf, or heifer to be cut in pieces, and the parts were laid in the temple, right over - against one another; then they recited this covenant, and passed between the parts of the heifer so cut; silently agreeing that God should cut them in pieces like that beast... if they did not make their words good.

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¹⁹ The rulers of **Judah**,

and the rulers of Jerusalem, the eunuchs, the priests,

and all the people of the land who passed between the parts of the calf / everyone of Judah who made and then broke this sacred oath with the Lord—who also knew Moses said they would perish; but they did not care.

²⁰ **And I will even give them into the hand of their enemies,**

and into the hand of those who seek their lives:

and their dead bodies will be food for the birds of the air

and the beasts of the earth / and that is what history tells us happened; as holocaust after holocaust continues to be part of their inheritance; being hated throughout the world, by the entire world—although they have not been hated and murdered in the last bestial govt Rome... to the same extent as the untold millions of true followers of the Lord Jesus have been... and still are persecuted and destroyed by her faithless treachery.

²¹ **And Zedekiah king of Judah and his rulers I will give into the hand of their enemies, and into the hand of those who seek their lives, and into the hand of the army of the king of Babylon, which are withdrawn from you.**

The Lord sees that Babylon has been delayed... probably by the advancing Egyptians; but He assures Jeremiah, Judah will be soon on their way into captivity.

²² **Behold, I will command, says the Lord, and bring them back to this city /** Jerusalem was given a brief reprieve; Babylon may have gotten sidetracked with Egypt, but they were not forgetful of their military goal.

They will fight against it and take it, and burn it with fire. I will make the cities of Judah a desolation without inhabitant / and that is what history tells us happens... when people ignore the Lord. Thankfully there are many today in Messianic movement – Hebrew, Arabic, Russian and other languages not just English, throughout the cities of Judah who are excited about the Lord and His word. Check out some of our friends: [ONE FOR ISRAEL](#) and [RETURN TO ZION – SHAVEI TZION](#).