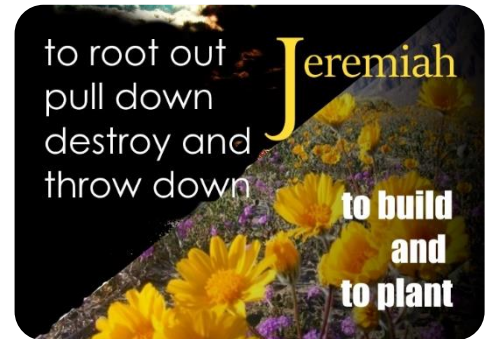


# JEREMIAH 38 vs 1

Much of what Jeremiah wrote was current history when he lived in 600BC; nonetheless... a closer look at what he recorded serves a dual purpose not only speaking to faithless Judah and Jerusalem and lessons that caused the LORD to send them to Babylonian captivity; but also as a reminder to the faithful in both HOUSES **Israel** and **Judah** and to each of us... what to expect wherever we go throughout history, until Messiah comes to rule with a rod of iron.



**1** Then Shephatiah son of Mattan, Gedaliah son of Pashur, Jucal son of Shelemiah, and **Pashur** son of Melchiah, heard the words Jeremiah spoke in public to all the people, saying,

**2** Thus says the LORD, He who remains in this city will die by the sword, by famine, or by pestilence: but he who goes to the Chaldeans will live; for his life will be spared, he will live.

**3** Thus says the LORD, This city will surely be handed over to the army of the king of Babylon, and captured.

**4** So the officials said to the king, We strongly urge you, have this man put to death: for he weakens the heart of all the citizens and warriors who remain in this city, by talking like this to them: for this man does not seek to help the people, but to harm.

**5** Then Zedekiah the king said, Well, he is in your hand -- for the king was powerless against them.

**6** Then they seized Jeremiah, and threw him into the underground cistern belonging to Melchiah son of the king, which was in the court of the guardhouse: and they let Jeremiah down with ropes. In the cistern was no water, only mud: so Jeremiah sank in the mud.

**7** Now Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, a eunuch, while in the king's house, he heard they put Jeremiah in the cistern.

Now the king was sitting in the gate of Benjamin.

**8** So Ebed-melech left the king's palace, and spoke directly to the king saying,

**9** Your majesty, these men have treated Jeremiah the prophet wrongly, they threw him into the cistern; and he will likely die from starvation in that place: for there is no food left in the city.

**10** Then the king instructed Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, saying, Take thirty men from here under your authority, and pull Jeremiah the prophet out of the dungeon, before he dies.

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**11** So Ebed-melech took the men with him, and went to the palace where he got some torn and tattered rags from the lumber-room beneath the treasury, and these he lowered with ropes to Jeremiah in the cistern.

**12** And Ebed-melech the Ethiopian said to Jeremiah, Put these rags between your armpits and the ropes. And Jeremiah did so.

**13** So they pulled up Jeremiah with ropes, lifting him out of the cistern: and Jeremiah stayed in the guardhouse.

**14** Then King Zedekiah sent and took Jeremiah the prophet to him to the third entrance that is in the House of the LORD: and the king said to Jeremiah, I will ask you something; hide nothing from me.

**15** Then Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, If I declare it to you, will you not surely put me to death? and if I give you advice, will you not just ignore me?

**16** So Zedekiah the king pledged secretly to Jeremiah, saying, As the LORD lives, who made this life of ours, I will not put you to death, nor will I hand you over to these murderous men who seek your life.

**17** Then Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, Thus says the LORD, the God of hosts, the God of **Israel**; If you assuredly go to the king of Babylon's officials, then your life will be spared, and this city will not be burned with fire; and you and your household will live:

**18** but if you will not go to the king of Babylon's officials, then this city will be handed over to the Chaldeans, and they will burn it with fire, and you will not escape from them.

**19** And King Zedekiah said to Jeremiah, I am afraid of the Jews who have surrendered to the Chaldeans, lest they deliver me to them, and they mock me.

**20** But Jeremiah said, They will not deliver you. I strongly urge you, Obey the voice of the LORD, which I speak to you: so it will be well with you, and your life will be spared.

**21** But if you refuse to go, this is what the LORD has shown me:

**22** Indeed, I saw all the women who were left within the palace of the king of **Judah**, they were handed to the officials of the king of Babylon, and these women sang as they went:

Your closest friends were too much for you and led you far astray; they got your feet sunk deep in mud, and then they turned away / Dr. James Moffett.

**23** So all your wives and children will be led away to the Chaldeans: and will not escape from them, but will be handed to the king of Babylon: and this city will go up in flames.

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<sup>24</sup> Then Zedekiah said to Jeremiah, Keep this interview secret, and you will not die.

<sup>25</sup> If the officials hear I talked with you, and come to you, and insist that you tell them what you said to the king, and not hide it, upon pain of death; also what the king said to you:

<sup>26</sup> then you will tell them, I presented my requests before the king, that he would not cause me to return to the house of Jonathan, to die there.

<sup>27</sup> Then all the officials came to Jeremiah, and questioned him: and he told them just as the king instructed him. So they left speaking with him; for the matter was not perceived.

<sup>28</sup> Then Jeremiah remained within the guardhouse until the day that Jerusalem was taken: and he was there when Jerusalem was captured.

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