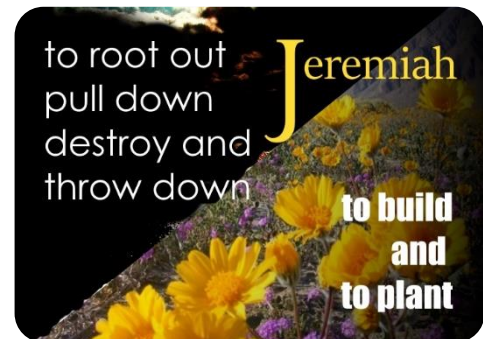


JEREMIAH 39 vs 1

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 into 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 In the ninth year of Zedekiah king of **Judah**, in the tenth month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and all his army came against Jerusalem, and they besieged it.

2 In the eleventh year of Zedekiah, in the fourth month, on the ninth day of the month, a breach was made in the city.

3 All the rulers of the king of Babylon came and sat in the middle gate: Nergal-sarezer of Samgar, Nebu-sar-sekim the Rab-saris, Nergal-sar-ezer the Rab-mag, with all the rest of the rulers of the king of Babylon.

4 And it happened, when Zedekiah king of **Judah** and all the soldiers saw them, they fled, going out of the city by night by way of the king's garden, through the gate between the two walls: and went toward the Arabah.

5 But the army of the Chaldeans pursued them and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho: and when they had taken him, they brought him up to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon at Riblah, in the land of Hamath, where he gave judgment on him.

6 Then the king of Babylon slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah in Riblah before his eyes: also, the king of Babylon slaughtered all the nobles of **Judah**.

7 He put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him with chains, to take him to Babylon.

8 The Chaldeans burned the king's house, and the house of the people, and broke down the walls of Jerusalem.

9 Then Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard, carried away captive to Babylon the rest of the people who remained in the city -- those who deserted to him, and those who remained.

10 But Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard left in the land of **Judah** the poor of the people who owned nothing, and gave them vineyards and fields at the same time.

11 Now Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon gave command concerning Jeremiah through Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard, saying,

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¹² Take him, and look after him well,

and do him **no** harm;

but do to him as he tells you / Jeremiah still had much work to do for the Lord; he was caretaker of the royal daughters and was also assured from his earliest years, that he was not merely to oversee a reformation; the destruction of Judah and Jerusalem, **but he would also build and plant**; most bible scholars remain silent on where Jeremiah built and planted since the last place we know in this book identified with Jeremiah and the royal remnant was their going to a city in Egypt.

¹³ So Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard, Nebushazban the Rab-saris, Nergal-sar-ezer the Rab-mag, and all the rulers of the king of Babylon,

¹⁴ they sent and took Jeremiah from the court of the prison.

They committed / they entrusted him to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, son of Shaphan, that he should take him home; so he lived among the people.

¹⁵ The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, while he was shut up in the court of the prison,

¹⁶ **Go and speak to Ebed-melech the Ethiopian** / who is this guy? He is mentioned by name 6 times in the bible, 5 times in the previous chapter, where we learn: Ebed-melech was a eunuch in the king's palace, so he was a trusted officer to the king Zedekiah. Ebed-melech, a foreigner in the king's court was the only one who had enough sense to approach the king to spare Jeremiah's life; and in doing so, he was told to take 30 men under his authority... and rescue him from the cistern. Now, for his heroic faith the Lord assures Ebed-melech that he will be rescued (and probably those 30 men, too).

saying, **The Lord of hosts** / this oft repeated phrase in the OT indicates the Lord of glory, who created all things, He has in His arsenal any and every animate or inanimate thing available as a weapon which He can summons to accomplish His purposes,

the God of Israel / literally, the God of **the one ruled by God**; He responded to Ebed-melech the Ethiopian says this; **Behold, I fulfill My words against this city for harm and not for good; and they will be accomplished before you in that day.**

¹⁷ **But I will deliver you in that day, says the LORD: and you will not be given into the hand of the men of whom you are afraid.**

¹⁸ **For I will surely deliver you; you will not fall by the sword,**

but you will have your life as a prize of war: because you trusted in Me, says the LORD. the Lord values faithfulness; when we get to His eternity, someday I want to thank Ebed-melech from Ethiopia, don't you?