

JEREMIAH 40 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 The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, after Nebuzaradan, the commander-in-chief released him from Ramah, when he was taken bound in chains among all the captives of Jerusalem and **Judah, who were taken captive to Babylon.**

2 And the commander-in-chief took Jeremiah, and said to him, The LORD your God spoke doom on this place.

3 Now the LORD has done according as He said: because your people sinned against the LORD, and have not listened to His voice; so this has happened to you.

4 Well now, Indeed this day, I release you from the chains on your hands. If it seems good to you to come with me to Babylon, come; and I will take good care of you: but if you prefer not to come with me to Babylon, never mind: look, all the land is open to you: go wherever it seems good and right for you.

5 Now while Jeremiah had not yet gone, he said, Go back to Gedaliah son of Ahikam, grandson of Shaphan, whom the king of Babylon made governor over the cities of **Judah, and remain with him among the people: or go wherever it seems right for you to go. So the commander-in-chief gave him supplies and money, and let him go.**

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

7 Now when all the leaders of the Jewish forces who were in the country, heard that the king of Babylon appointed Gedaliah son of Ahikam, governor of the land, in charge of destitute men, women and children -- the poor of the land, who were not taken captive to Babylon;

8 then they came to Gedaliah at Mizpah, there was Ishmael son of Nethaniah, Johanan and Jonathan the sons of Kareah, Seraiah son of Tanhumeth, the sons of Ephai from Netopha, and Jezaniah son of a man from Maakah.

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⁹ And Gedaliah son of Ahikam, grandson of Shaphan pledged to them and to those with them, saying, Do not fear serving the Chaldeans: remain in the land, and serve the king of Babylon, and all will go well with you.

¹⁰ For me, indeed, I will remain at Mizpah, to serve the Chaldeans, who will soon come to us: but you can gather wine, summer fruits, and oil, and store them in your containers, and remain in any town that you want to occupy.

¹¹ When all the Jews in Moab, Ammon, and in **Edom**, and other places, heard that the king of Babylon left a remnant of **Judah**, and appointed over them Gedaliah son of Ahikam, grandson of Shaphan;

¹² **then others who were taken away, returned to the land of Judah**, to Gedaliah, at Mizpah, and they also gathered up large amounts of wine and summer fruits.

¹³ Likewise Johanan son of Kareah, and all the leaders of the Jewish forces who were in the country, came to Gedaliah at Mizpah,

¹⁴ and they asked him, Are you men aware that Baalis king of those in Ammon sent Ishmael son of Nethaniah to kill you? But Gedaliah son of Ahikam did not believe them.

¹⁵ Then Johanan the son of Kareah spoke in private to Gedaliah at Mizpah saying, Please let me go, and I will kill Ishmael son of Nethaniah; no one needs to know about it. Why should he murder you, that would only scatter all the Jews who have rallied around you, and would ruin the remnant left in **Judah**.

¹⁶ But Gedaliah son of Ahikam said to Johanan son of Kareah, No! You must not do that: for you speak falsely of Ishmael.

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