

Jeremiah 21, 38, 39 & 32

Jeremiah & the King

Lesson 22

Early in Zedekiah's reign the Lord had sent Jeremiah, wearing a wooden yoke around his neck, to proclaim their coming captivity. The Lord also commanded Judah to serve Babylon because the Lord had chosen them to rule over Judah. At the same time, false prophets like Hananiah were declaring that within two years Babylon would no longer be in power and their king and temple treasures would be returned.

Zedekiah's Request - Jeremiah 21

1. What was Jeremiah's message to the king? (Jeremiah 27:12)

2. After Jeremiah delivered the Lord's message, what did king Zedekiah do? (2 Chronicles 36:12, 13)
 - When? (2 Kings 25:1a)
 - What was the result? (2 Kings 25:1)

3. Realizing Jeremiah might be right, the king decided he should get in touch with him. What did Zedekiah tell Pashhur and Zephaniah to ask Jeremiah to do? (Jeremiah 21:1, 2)
 - Why? (Jeremiah 21:2b)

4. What was Jeremiah's answer to the king's request? (Jeremiah 21:3-7)

5. The Lord's answer was clear. What further message was Jeremiah to give to the people of Jerusalem? (Jeremiah 21:8-10)

6. The Lord delivered a second message to Zedekiah, descendant of the house of David. What does the Lord say it was not too late for Zedekiah to do? (Jeremiah 21:11-14)

7. What does that message imply regarding the Lord's judgment?

Jeremiah in the Cistern - Jeremiah 38-39

8. After delivering the Lord's message to the king, Jeremiah went through the city and proclaimed the Lord's message to the people. How did the officials of Jerusalem receive that message? (Jeremiah 38:1-4)

9. How did the king respond to their plan? (Jeremiah 38:5)

10. How did that go for Jeremiah? (Jeremiah 38:6)

11. What is a cistern?

12. Who was Ebed-Melech and what did he do? (Jeremiah 38:7-13)

13. What did they do with Jeremiah after that? (Jeremiah 39:15a)

14. King Zedekiah summoned Jeremiah and commanded Jeremiah to answer his question without holding anything back. What was Jeremiah's answer? (Jeremiah 38:14, 15)

15. How would you describe the man Jeremiah?

16. What was the king's answer to Jeremiah? Please comment. (Jeremiah 38:16)

17. Jeremiah then gave King Zedekiah the Lord's message. Using the chart below fill in his choices from Jeremiah 38:17, 18 & 23.

Option	Result for:		
	King	His Family	The City
If you surrender			
If you do not surrender			

18. The message was clear; the choice was up to the king. What point did he raise? (Jeremiah 38:19)

19. Jeremiah assured him that would not happen and then gave the king some advice. What did he advise Zedekiah to do? (Jeremiah 38:20)

20. If you were the king in a heavily fortified city like Jerusalem with a super power like Babylon surrounding you, what do you think you would do given the same choices?

21. What further prophecy did Jeremiah give to the king? (Jeremiah 38:21, 22)

22. Before Jeremiah was allowed to return to confinement in the courtyard, what word of advice did the king give to Jeremiah? (Jeremiah 38:24-26)

23. Was his concern justified? (Jeremiah 38:27, 28)

24. Shortly after his visit with the king, the Lord gave Jeremiah another message to deliver. Who was the message for? (Jeremiah 39:15, 16a)
25. What was the Lord's message? (Jeremiah 39:16b-18)

Jeremiah and the Land - Jeremiah 32

26. Jeremiah had been obediently proclaiming the Lord's message of doom and destruction for about 39 years. Then, in the 10th year of Zedekiah, just before the fall, the Lord asked Jeremiah to do something very strange under the circumstances. Using Jeremiah 32:1-5, explain:
- What was happening outside the wall?

 - What was happening with Jeremiah?

 - What was Jeremiah's message to Zedekiah?
27. While that was going on, the Lord spoke to Jeremiah again. What did He say? (Jeremiah 32:6, 7)
28. What happened? (Jeremiah 32:8a & b)
29. What was he asking Jeremiah to do? (Leviticus 25:23-25)
30. Keep in mind what was going on in Judah and what Jeremiah's present condition was. What did Jeremiah do about his request and why? (Jeremiah 32:8c-12)

31. Jeremiah gave Baruch some very specific instruction. From 32:13-15:
- What were the instructions?

 - Why?

 - Do you think that was an easy or hard decision for Jeremiah and why?
32. How did Jeremiah deal with this confusing situation? (Jeremiah 32:16)
33. Verses 17-25 record Jeremiah's conversation with the Lord. Read through the whole prayer. What was his emphasis?
34. Summarize what he said about the Lord in each verse.
- vs. 17

 - vs. 18

 - vs. 19

 - vs. 20

 - vs. 21

 - vs. 22
35. Using verses 23 & 24, what did he say about the current situation they were in?
36. What do you think Jeremiah was saying to the Lord in verse 25?

37. How did the Lord answer Jeremiah?

- vs. 26 & 27?

- vs. 28 & 29?

38. Then, once again the Lord gave His list of reasons as to why this would happen. What does He say provoked Him to anger?

- vs. 29b

- vs. 30 & 31

- vs. 32

- vs. 33

- vs. 34 & 35

39. After restating Jeremiah's word in verse 36, "*You are saying about this city, 'By the sword, famine and plague it will be handed over to the king of Babylon...'*" the Lord got to the heart of the matter. What was the Lord's point? (Jeremiah 32:37-41)

40. He concluded His message to Jeremiah by answering Jeremiah's question about buying the field. Why does the Lord say Jeremiah should have confidence in this "long-term investment"? (Jeremiah 32:42-44)

Think about it!

What are you putting your long-term investment, faith, and trust in? Is it in wealth, money and land, or is it in the Lord? Remember the Lord said, "*I am the LORD, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?*" Jeremiah 32:27 Think about it!