

Jeremiah 43 **You Can Run, but You Can't Hide**

Sunday School

Numbers 32:23

10/23/22

Review : Jeremiah had faithfully delivered the Lord Jehovah's plain words in the last chapter. Johanan had promised to *obey the voice of the Lord*, 42:6. Here we have their response and reaction.

I. Disparage Jeremiah : God's messenger, v 1 - 3

Religious unbelievers who desire to do their own will reject God's man, rather than God.

JG Butler: The *proud men* charge Jeremiah with :

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| v 2 | 1. falsehood - <i>thou speakest falsely</i> | Proverbs 27:19 |
| | 2. fraud - <i>the Lord hath not sent thee</i> | Gen 26:2, Isa 31:1 |
| v 3 | 3. friend - <i>Baruch ... setteth thee against us</i> | |
| | 4. fatalist - <i>put us to death</i> | |
| | 5. fetters - <i>carry us away captives</i> | |

doct: God's word applies to all; i.e. to his prophets also.

hist: Jeremiah would never use God's word or name unfaithfully.

II. Disobey Jehovah : God's word, v 4

doct: Obstinate infidelity goes hand-in-hand with willful disobedience. **Genesis 11:6**

hist: Jeremiah was not surprised by their disobedience. **Jeremiah 42:20**

III. Depart Judah : God's Provision, v 5 - 7

It is the folly of wayward men force many to go down with them.

hist: (a) Tahpanhes - a royal city in Egypt named after a queen. **1 K 11:19**

(b) *a true Israelite* would've been content in the wilderness of Judah **2 K 4:13**

spir: Tahpanhes - is a type of Roman Catholicism **Jeremiah 2:16**

IV. Declaration of Judgment v 9 - 13

Although Jeremiah is among treacherous Israelites and idolatrous Egyptians God visits him with the grace of a new word. God's men may be bound, *but the word of God is not bound*, 2 Timothy 2:9.

Jeremiah was taken to Egypt by constraint; so God withdrew not his favour.

Two messages are given to Jeremiah. The first declares the judgment on Egypt and is related in this chapter. The second word is for the Jews in Egypt and is told in the next chapter.

God had warned them that *the sword* they feared would follow them if they disobeyed. Now he tells them that it is the sword of Nebuchadnezzar.

The message is foretold by a *sign*, v 9. Egypt was famous for the *brick-kilns* used by slaves for building their royal cities, Exodus 5:6-19.

The object lesson is clear: they left the frying-pan for the fire !

The Jews, by going into Egypt, brought the Babylonians thither and endangered all.

v 11 *When he (Nebuchadnezzar) cometh, he shall smite the land of Egypt.*

v 12 *He shall burn the houses of the gods of Egypt . . . with the fire of God's wrath !*

Exodus 12:12

Hist: The king of Babylon was himself a great idolator and a patron of idols; yet . . .

v 13 *He shall break the images . . . and the houses of the gods .*

Doct: World leaders can be turned into God's servants in a moment of time.

God can make use of them as he pleases, even if they don't know him.

The Mighty God can use one wicked man or nation as a scourge and plague of judgment to another.

Ezekiel 30:8, 10-16

Another word for *images* is icons. Icons are prevalent in many religions among all nations. Many churches are adorned with *icons* - statues, figurines, drawings and stained glass images of saints, Jesus, Mary, Joseph and patriarchs . The distinguishing mark of religious tradition is a love for icons, images and relics.

God forbids such practices in both Testaments.

Exodus 20:1-6

He commands his children to destroy images; a practice called iconoclasm.

Deuteronomy 7:1, 5-6

The Jews had seen God's wrath on idolatry during the Exodus.

Deuteronomy 7:18-26

Idolatry is a great scourge in Christendom, and is associated with Egypt.

The Apostle Paul says idolatry is *a work of the flesh*.

Galatians 5:20

Conclusion : **Numbers 32:23 & Ecclesiastes 12:13-14**