

BOOK OF 2 KINGS
THE EVIL REIGN OF ZEDEKIAH-PART 4
2 KINGS 24:20; 25:1-21; JEREMIAH 38; 39

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Introduction

We have been looking at **THE EVIL REIGN OF ZEDEKIAH, JUDAH'S** final king to reign before the last invasion and the **DESTRUCTION** of **JERUSALEM** at the hands of the **BABYLONIANS!**

We last saw how **ZEDEKIAH** and **JUDAH** rebelled against the king of **BABYLON** in direct opposition to the **WORD OF THE LORD** given by **JEREMIAH**. **ZEDEKIAH** hoped the **LORD** would bail him out of his problems, but it did not happen! He even asked **JEREMIAH** to pray for him, but that wasn't going to happen either as the **LORD** had forbidden **JEREMIAH** to even pray for him!

We also saw **JEREMIAH** falsely accused of treason, physically smitten and injured in some way and then **imprisoned** by some of the princes of **JUDAH**.

While **JEREMIAH** was in prison, **ZEDEKIAH** took him out of the dungeon and arranged a secret meeting with him to ask if there was any **WORD** from **THE LORD**.

JEREMIAH assured him that there was a **WORD** from **THE LORD!**

It was the same **WORD** that **ZEDEKIAH** had been given before and had ignored!

JEREMIAH requested of **ZEDEKIAH** to not to put him back in the dungeon. So, the king commanded that they commit him to the court of the prison with provisions.

And that's where we left off last week. Let's pick up in **JEREMIAH 38**.

I. WE SEE WHERE JEREMIAH'S ENEMIES TRY TO SILENCE HIM FOR GOOD! (JEREMIAH 38:1-13)

Just a short time after **ZEDEKIAH'S** secret meeting with **JEREMIAH**, we see the princes of **JUDAH** made a move to silence his preaching for good! (These were the ones who put him in the dungeon before!)

A. JEREMIAH Preached To These Princes Of JUDAH The Same Message That He Had Proclaimed To ZEDEKIAH! (Jeremiah 38:1-3)

The city of **JERUSALEM** was doomed and their only hope was to surrender to the **BABYLONIANS!**

B. These Princes Again Accused JEREMIAH Of Treason And Petitioned ZEDEKIAH The King To Execute Him! (Vs 4)

C. ZEDEKIAH Claimed That He Could Not Stand Against The Princes And That They Should Do With JEREMIAH As They Pleased. (Vs. 5)

D. They Put JEREMIAH In A Miry Dungeon And Left Him There To Die! (Vs. 6)

E. EBED-MELECH, An ETHIOPIAN Eunuch Who Was In The King's Service, Then Spoke To The King On JEREMIAH'S Behalf! (Vs 7-9)

F. ZEDEKIAH Commanded EBED-MELECH To Take JEREMIAH Up Out Of The Dungeon. (Vs 10)

G. EBED-MELECH And Thirty Men With Him Rescued JEREMIAH From The Dungeon And JEREMIAH Remained In The Court Of The Prison Again. (Vs 11-13)

II. WE SEE YET ANOTHER MEETING THAT ZEDEKIAH ARRANGED WITH JEREMIAH! (JEREMIAH 38:14-28)

Verse 14

For a man who didn't want to obey the **LORD** he certainly met with the **LORD'S PROPHET** as though he wanted to hear from the **LORD!** He told the **PROPHET** not to hide anything from him! His problem was that **he wanted to hear what he wanted to hear...NOT** what **JEREMIAH** by the **WORD OF THE LORD** was actually saying!

Verse 15

So we see here that **JEREMIAH**, after having been **mistreated, wounded and imprisoned twice** now with false accusations of him being a traitor to **JUDAH**, was hesitant to talk with **ZEDEKIAH** out of concern that **ZEDEKIAH** would put him to death this time! Also, he gives indication that in talking to **ZEDEKIAH** he was just wasting breath!

Verse 16

So we see here that **ZEDEKIAH** assured **JEREMIAH** that he would not put him to death and that he would not hand him over again to those who were wanting him dead! But note how **he didn't promise to listen and obey him!**

Verses 17-18

So **once again** we see here that **JEREMIAH** told **ZEDEKIAH** that if he would surrender, **GOD** would spare the city and he and his family would live. However, if he refused, the city would be burned and he would lose his family.

Verse 19

ZEDEKIAH was afraid the **JEWS** who had defected over to the **BABYLONIANS** would **deliver him over** and **“mock”** him!

That word **“mock”** comes from a **HEBREW** word meaning **“to deal severely with.”** He was afraid that they were going to **torture him!**

Verses 20-23

So, **JEREMIAH** assured him that would not be the case if he would just simply obey **GOD!**

JEREMIAH further told **ZEDEKIAH** that if the king did not surrender he would be to blame for **JERUSALEM'S** destruction.
(Vs. 23)

Verses 24-26

We see that **ZEDEKIAH** put conditions on not harming **JEREMIAH!** In order for **JEREMIAH** to live, he had to keep their conversation secret before the **PRINCES** of **JUDAH!**

Verses 27-28

Sure enough the **PRINCES** of **JUDAH** came to **JEREMIAH** inquiring about his conversation with **ZEDEKIAH**. He obeyed the king and didn't tell them anything and surprisingly they left him alone.

The final verse tells us **JEREMIAH** remained in the court of the prison until the day that **JERUSALEM** fell to the **BABYLONIANS**.

III. **WE SEE THE FALL OF JERUSALEM!**

(JEREMIAH 39:1-10; Cf. 2 KINGS 25:1-30)

Verses 1-3; Cf. 2 Kings 25:1-3

After a year and a half siege of the city, the **BABYLONIANS** entered the city and broke it up!

Verses 4-5; Cf. 2 Kings 25:4-5

ZEDEKIAH, acting against the advice of **JEREMIAH**, tried to escape from **NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S** forces and was captured in the plains of **JERICHO** before reaching the **JORDAN RIVER**.

Verses 6-7; Cf. 2 Kings 25:6-7

ZEDEKIAH was taken to **RIBLAH** (about 150 miles north) for his face-to-face meeting with **NEBUCHADNEZZAR**. **ZEDEKIAH'S** punishment was severe.

1. His sons were killed before his eyes.
2. His eyes were then put out.
3. He was bound and carried to **BABYLON** where he was put in prison until the day of his death.

Verses 8-10; Cf. 2 Kings 25:8-21

Everything **JEREMIAH** said would happen came to pass simply because **ZEDEKIAH** refused to humble himself.

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- IV. WE SEE WHAT HAPPENED TO JEREMIAH.
(JEREMIAH 39:11-14)**
- V. WE SEE JEREMIAH'S PROPHECY TO EBED-MELECH!
(JEREMIAH 39:15-18)**

Conclusion

Let me leave you with 3 things here:

GOD Was Patient With ZEDEKIAH And JUDAH!

JEREMIAH spoke directly to **ZEDEKIAH** at least six times, and the message never changed!

GOD was longsuffering until there was no remedy. (*2 Chronicles 36:16*)

GOD Was Faithful To His WORD!

GOD kept every promise **HE** uttered by the mouth of **JEREMIAH!**

GOD Was Just!

JUDAH received the punishment she deserved. **ZEDEKIAH** received the just reward of his disobedience.