

Jeremiah 42 - The Flight to Egypt Forbidden

V. Present calamity of Judah (Jer 34:1—45:5)

(3) After the fall (Jer 40:1—45:5)

(A) Jeremiah's Ministry to those that remained in the land (Jer 40:1—42:22)

(c) Johanan's leadership (41:11—42:22)

(ii) He requests guidance regarding whether to go to Egypt (42:1-22)

(a) Question (42:1-6)

(b) Answer (42:7-22)

(1) Blessings associated with staying in the land (42:7-12)

(2) Curses associated with going to Egypt (42:13-18)

(3) Concluding exhortation not to go to Egypt (42:19-22)

Jeremiah 42

(ii) He requests guidance regarding whether to go to Egypt (42:1-22)

(a) Question (42:1-6)

1 Then all the commanders of the forces, Johanan the son of Kareah, Jezaniah the son of Hoshaiah, and all the people from the small to the great approached

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1 Then all the military leaders, Kareah's son Jonathan, Hoshaiah's son Jezaniah, and all the people from the least to the greatest approached Jeremiah.

1 Then all the captains of the forces, and Johanan the son of Kareah, and Jezaniah the son of Hoshaiah, and all the people from the least even unto the greatest, came near,

2 and said to Jeremiah the prophet, "Please let our pleading come before you, and pray for us to the LORD your God for all this remnant—since we have been left *only* a few out of many, just as your own eyes *now* see us—

2 and said to Jeremiah the prophet, "Please let our petition come before you, and pray for us to the LORD your God, *that is* for all this remnant; because we are left *but* a few out of many, as your own eyes *now* see us,

2 They told Jeremiah the prophet, "Please listen to what we have to ask of you. Pray to the LORD your God for us and for all these survivors. Indeed, only a few of us remain out of many, as you can see.

2 And said unto Jeremiah the prophet, Let, we beseech thee, our supplication be accepted before thee, and pray for us unto the LORD thy God, *even* for all this remnant; (for we are left *but* a few of many, as thine eyes do behold us:)

3 that the LORD your God will tell us the way in which we should walk, and the thing that we should do."

3 that the LORD your God may tell us the way in which we should walk and the thing that we should do."

3 Pray that the LORD your God may inform us as to how we should live and what we should do."

3 That the LORD thy God may shew us the way wherein we may walk, and the thing that we may do.

- They are going to Jeremiah for leading. The real problem is that they have already charted their course, they are looking for God to ratify it. They are not going there to really seek his counsel. They don't say *the Lord our God*. Distance between them and the Lord, they are wanting Jeremiah to intercede and be a middleman. It is interesting when people pray, you often get a sense of their distance from the Lord.

4 Then Jeremiah the prophet said to them, "I have heard *you*. Behold, I am going to pray to the LORD your God in accordance with your words; and I will tell you the whole message which the LORD gives you as an answer. I will not withhold a word from you."

4 Then Jeremiah the prophet said to them, "I have heard *you*. Behold, I am going to pray to the LORD your God in accordance with your words; and I will tell you the whole message which the LORD will answer you. I will not keep back a word from you."

4 Jeremiah the prophet told them, "I've heard, and I'm going to pray to the LORD your God just as you have requested. Whatever the LORD answers, I'll tell you. I won't withhold anything from you."

4 Then Jeremiah the prophet said unto them, I have heard *you*; behold, I will pray unto the LORD your God according to your words; and it shall come to pass, *that* whatsoever thing the LORD shall answer you, I will declare *it* unto you; I will keep nothing back from you.

- Jeremiah is not going to bite off on this idea of getting caught in between, he won't hold back anything that the Lord is saying to them, it is their problem.

5 Then they said to Jeremiah, "May the LORD be a true and faithful witness against us if we do not act in accordance with the whole message with which the LORD your God will send you to us.

5 Then they said to Jeremiah, "May the LORD be a true and faithful witness against us if we do not act in accordance with the whole message with which the LORD your God will

send you to us.

5 Then they told Jeremiah, "May the LORD be a true and faithful witness against us if we don't do everything that the LORD your God tells us through you.

5 Then they said to Jeremiah, The LORD be a true and faithful witness between us, if we do not even according to all things for the which the LORD thy God shall send thee to us.

6 Whether *it is* pleasant or unpleasant, we will listen to the voice of the LORD our God to whom we are sending you, so that it may go well for us when we listen to the voice of the LORD our God."

6 Whether *it is* pleasant or unpleasant, we will listen to the voice of the LORD our God to whom we are sending you, so that it may go well with us when we listen to the voice of the LORD our God."

6 Whether it seems good or bad, we will obey the LORD our God to whom we send you, so it may go well for us. Indeed, we will obey the LORD our God."

6 Whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil, we will obey the voice of the LORD our God, to whom we send thee; that it may be well with us, when we obey the voice of the LORD our God.

- First person possessive pronoun

(b) Answer (42:7-22)

(1) Blessings associated with staying in the land (42:7-12)

7 Now at the end of ten days the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah.

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7 At the end of ten days a message from the LORD came to Jeremiah.

7 And it came to pass after ten days, that the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah.

- They are waiting for 10 days and we presume that Jeremiah is in prayer. Jeremiah doesn't rush out and give them his first impulse, he waits to make sure the Lord is communicating.

10 = responsibility.

8 Then he called for Johanan the son of Kareah and all the commanders of the forces that were with him, and for all the people from the small to the great,

8 Then he called for Johanan the son of Kareah and all the commanders of the forces that were with him, and for all the people both small and great,

8 So he called Kareah's son Jonathan, all the military leaders who were with him, and all the people from the least to the greatest.

8 Then called he Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the captains of the forces which were with him, and all the people from the least even to the greatest,

9 and said to them, "This is what the LORD says, the God of Israel, to whom you sent me to present your plea before Him:

9 and said to them, "Thus says the LORD the God of Israel, to whom you sent me to present your petition before Him:

9 He told them, "This is what the LORD God of Israel says, to whom you sent me to take your request:

9 And said unto them, Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, unto whom ye sent me to present your supplication before him;

10 'If you will indeed stay in this land, then I will build you up and not tear you down, and I will plant you and not uproot you; for I will relent of the disaster that I have inflicted on you.

10 'If you will indeed stay in this land, then I will build you up and not tear you down, and I will plant you and not uproot you; for I will relent concerning the calamity that I have inflicted on you.

10 'If you will just remain in this land, I'll build you up and not pull you down. I'll plant you and not uproot you, for I'm sorry about the disaster I've brought on you.

10 If ye will still abide in this land, then will I build you, and not pull *you* down, and I will plant you, and not pluck *you* up: for I repent me of the evil that I have done unto you.

11 Do not be afraid of the king of Babylon, whom you are *now* fearing; do not be afraid of him,' declares the LORD, 'for I am with you to save you and rescue you from his hand.

11 Do not be afraid of the king of Babylon, whom you are *now* fearing; do not be afraid of him,' declares the LORD, 'for I am with you to save you and deliver you from his hand.

11 Don't be afraid of the king of Babylon as you have been. Don't fear him,' declares the LORD, 'because I am with you to save you and deliver you from his control.

11 Be not afraid of the king of Babylon, of whom ye are afraid; be not afraid of him, saith the LORD: for I *am* with you to save you, and to deliver you from his hand.

12 I will also show you compassion, so that he will have compassion on you and restore you to your own soil.

12 I will also show you compassion, so that he will have compassion on you and restore you to your own soil.

12 I'll show you compassion, so he will have compassion on you and return you to your land.

12 And I will shew mercies unto you, that he may have mercy upon you, and cause you to return to your own land.

(2) Curses associated with going to Egypt (42:13-18)

13 But if you are going to say, "We will not stay in this land," so as not to listen to the voice of the LORD your God,

13 But if you are going to say, "We will not stay in this land," so as not to listen to the voice of the LORD your God,

13 But if you disobey the LORD your God by saying, "We won't stay in this land,"

13 But if ye say, We will not dwell in this land, neither obey the voice of the LORD your God,

14 saying, "No, but we will go to the land of Egypt, where we will not see war, or hear the sound of a trumpet, or hunger for bread, and we will stay there";

14 saying, "No, but we will go to the land of Egypt, where we will not see war or hear the sound of a trumpet or hunger for bread, and we will stay there";

14 and you also say, "No, but we will go to the land of Egypt where we won't see war or hear the sound of the trumpet or hunger for bread, and there we will stay,"

14 Saying, No; but we will go into the land of Egypt, where we shall see no war, nor hear the sound of the trumpet, nor have hunger of bread; and there will we dwell:

- There is always these three things, war, famine and pestilence that reoccur as a theme throughout the rest of this passage.

15 then in that case listen to the word of the LORD, you remnant of Judah. This is what the LORD of armies, the God of Israel says: "If you really set your minds to enter Egypt and go in to reside there,

15 then in that case listen to the word of the LORD, O remnant of Judah. Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, "If you really set your mind to enter Egypt and go in to reside there,

15 then hear this message from the LORD, remnant of Judah: 'This is what the LORD of the Heavenly Armies, the God of Israel, says: "If you are really determined to go into Egypt, and you go there to settle,

15 And now therefore hear the word of the LORD, ye remnant of Judah; Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; If ye wholly set your faces to enter into Egypt, and go to sojourn there;

16 then the sword, of which you are afraid, will overtake you there in the land of Egypt; and the famine, about which you are anxious, will follow closely after you there *in* Egypt, and you will die there.

16 then the sword, which you are afraid of, will overtake you there in the land of Egypt; and the famine, about which you are anxious, will follow closely after you there *in* Egypt, and you will die there.

16 the sword that you fear will overtake you there in the land of Egypt. The famine that you dread will pursue you into Egypt, and there you will die.

16 Then it shall come to pass, *that* the sword, which ye feared, shall overtake you there in the land of Egypt, and the famine, whereof ye were afraid, shall follow close after you there in Egypt; and there ye shall die.

- Interesting that the Lord still sanctions them despite all the ministry of the 40 years of Jeremiah, He says if you will just abide here, I will protect you. That is quite an offer on the part of God.

— They are afraid of the king of Babylon because they have been rabble-rousers, they have bloodied the hillsides, they have created nothing but problems for the locals, they are nervous and frightened of Babylon.

— Their plan all along as it turns out has been to flee to Egypt, Babylon's traditional enemy. That was the whole problem under Zedekiah, they kept making intrigues with Egypt, hoping that Egypt would prevail over Babylon. Jeremiah warned them against it and they wouldn't listen. Even now, they somehow have this notion and they go ahead to Egypt. Their land is bloodied, bodies everywhere, pestilence and sword, Egypt is peaceful and Judah is the wartorn battlefield and they don't trust the Lord to stay there, they are going to go where the grass is greener, presumably.

17 So all the people who set their minds to go to Egypt to reside there will die by the sword, by famine, or by plague; and they will have no refugees or survivors from the disaster that I am going to bring on them.""

17 So all the men who set their mind to go to Egypt to reside there will die by the sword, by famine and by pestilence; and they will have no survivors or refugees from the calamity that I am going to bring on them.""

17 All the people who are determined to go into Egypt to settle there will die by the sword, by famine, and by the plague. No one will survive the disaster that I'll bring on them."

17 So shall it be with all the men that set their faces to go into Egypt to sojourn there; they shall die by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence: and none of them shall remain or escape from the evil that I will bring upon them.

18 For this is what the LORD of armies, the God of Israel says: "As My anger and wrath have gushed out on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so My wrath will gush out on you when you enter Egypt. And you will become a curse, an object of horror, an imprecation, and a disgrace; and you will not see this place again."

18 For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, "As My anger and wrath have been poured out on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so My wrath will be poured out on you when you enter Egypt. And you will become a curse, an object of horror, an imprecation and a reproach; and you will see this place no more."

18 For this is what the LORD of the Heavenly Armies, the God of Israel, says: 'Just as my anger and my wrath were poured out on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so my wrath will be poured out on you when you enter Egypt. You will be a curse and an object of horror, ridicule, and scorn, and you will never again see this place.'

18 For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; As mine anger and my fury hath been poured forth upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem; so shall my fury be poured forth upon you, when ye shall enter into Egypt: and ye shall be an execration, and an astonishment, and a curse, and a reproach; and ye shall see this place no more.

- The Lord can get right down to street level when He wants to, and He lays it on them right there

(3) Concluding exhortation not to go to Egypt (42:19-22)

19 The LORD has spoken to you, you remnant of Judah, "Do not go to Egypt!" You know for certain that I have admonished you today.

19 The LORD has spoken to you, O remnant of Judah, "Do not go into Egypt!" You should clearly understand that today I have testified against you.

19 The LORD has told you, remnant of Judah, 'Don't go to Egypt!' So be fully aware that I've warned you, today,

19 The LORD hath said concerning you, O ye remnant of Judah; Go ye not into Egypt: know certainly that I have admonished you this day.

20 For you have *only* deceived yourselves; for it is you who sent me to the LORD your God, saying, "Pray for us to the LORD our God; and whatever the LORD our God says, tell us so, and we will do it."

20 For you have *only* deceived yourselves; for it is you who sent me to the LORD your God, saying, "Pray for us to the LORD our God; and whatever the LORD our God says, tell us so, and we will do it."

20 that you have deceived yourselves. Indeed, you yourselves sent me to the LORD your God, saying, 'Pray to the LORD your God for us, and whatever the LORD our God tells us we will do.'

20 For ye dissembled in your hearts, when ye sent me unto the LORD your God, saying, Pray for us unto the LORD our God; and according unto all that the LORD our God shall say, so declare unto us, and we will do *it*.

- Deceitfulness revealed. They were not sincere in approaching Jeremiah in finding out the Lord's real will. What they were hoping to do is to ratify or sanction what they had in mind to do all along. How often do we treat the Lord in the same way?

21 So I have told you today, but you have not obeyed the LORD your God in whatever He has sent me to *tell* you.

21 So I have told you today, but you have not obeyed the LORD your God, even in whatever He has sent me to *tell* you.

21 I've told you today, but you haven't obeyed the LORD your God in all that he sent me to tell you.

21 And *now* I have this day declared *it* to you; but ye have not obeyed the voice of the LORD your God, nor any *thing* for the which he hath sent me unto you.

22 And now you shall know for certain that you will die by the sword, by famine, or by plague in the place where you desire to go to reside.

22 Therefore you should now clearly understand that you will die by the sword, by famine and by pestilence, in the place where you wish to go to reside.

22 Now, be fully aware that you will die by the sword, by famine, and by plague in the place where you want to settle."

22 Now therefore know certainly that ye shall die by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence, in the place whither ye desire to go *and* to sojourn.

- They were not to go to Egypt. They were in the land and they were assured in the land that they would be under the Lord's blessing. They chose to go to Egypt. Generations before the Lord went through a lot of trouble to get them out of Egypt, and now they are going back. Egypt was modeled then as the world. We are to be in the world and not of it (1 John 1:9).