

Jeremiah 40,41**9-18-98****1. Intro:**

- 1.1. “One thing we learn from history is we **don’t** learn from history!”
 - 1.1.1. (ww,+me) “There is a cast of characters that is seen in every age. The script of history may change a bit from time to time, but the characters are still the same.”
- 1.2. **Outline:** We’re going watch **Jeremiah** make another good decision; then we’ll meet: **Gedaliah** the good governor; **Johanan** the concerned captain; & **Ishmael** the deceitful descendant.

CHAPTER 40**2. STAY OR GO? (1-6)**

- 2.1. Mixed in w/the captives at Ramah(city) they set Jeremiah free.
 - 2.1.1. The choice: go to babylon or stay here in the land.
- 2.2. The Babylonian captain **Nebuzaradan** preached a sermon that sounded a great deal like what Jeremiah had been saying for 40 years! (2-4)
 - 2.2.1. Here is a pagan Babylonian telling the children of Israel they were sinners!
 - 2.2.2. As Gods people, we bow in shame when the world publicly announces the sins of the saints.
 - 2.2.2.1. Whether it’s **Pharaoh** rebuking Abraham for lying ‘Why didn’t you tell me she was your wife?’ (Gen.12)
 - 2.2.2.2. Or, **Abimelech** w/the same rebuke! (Gen. 20)
 - 2.2.2.3. Or, **Jay Leno** revealing the latest scandal in Christendom. It hurts.
 - 2.2.2.4. The Lord doesn’t like to be embarrassed. Listen to how serious he dealt with it when David embarrassed God in front of His enemies.
 - 2.2.2.4.1. **2 Sam.12:14** "However, because by this deed you have given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme(the sin w/Bathsheba), the child also who is born to you shall surely die."

- 2.3. **Vs.5** – “Rations, a gift basket, & his freedom” - **Prov.16:7** “When a man's ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.”
- 2.4. **Vs.6** – So, should he stay or go?
- 2.4.1. Esp. after telling for many years “go to Babylon for God’s protection”. Shouldn’t he go?
- 2.4.2. We learn **Ezekiel** would start up his ministry in the next 5 years in Babylon (he was deported in 597bc); & **Daniel** was taken there on 605 bc soon to start up his ministry.
- 2.4.3. With 2 prophets there to minister in Babylon, Jeremiah the faithful shepherd stays w/the remnant, though Babylon would have been more comfortable(wasn’t like the Egyptian captivity).
- 2.4.3.1. You must “**Study Yourself!**” - Know **yourself & your** calling! - We are not to study others: **1st** it’s a sin, **2nd** God doesn’t do it! (Howard Hendricks tape) – Know your gifts calling & ministry!

3. **GEDALIAH THE GOOD GOVERNOR! (7-12)**

- 3.1. **Gedaliah** = God is greatness.
- 3.1.1. A good man, from a good family(Dad protected Jeremiah from king Jehoikim in 26:24).
- 3.1.2. Though he was very naïve about practical policies. (see later 13-16)
- 3.1.3. He was a Jew, placed in charge of Judah, while Neb. left back to Babylon.
- 3.1.3.1. Like Julius Caesar did with Herod who wasn’t Roman but was Idumean/Edom yet Jewish in faith. Placed him over Judea.
- 3.2. **Vs.8** – He 1st was able to halt the guerilla warfare led by these men & their soldiers.
- 3.3. **Vs.9,10** - He told the people exactly what Jeremiah was telling them.
- 3.4. **Vs.11,12** – Next, other Jews that were hiding in near by countries came home.

- 3.5. **Arch. Note:** (Halley's pg.317) "Starkey, of the "Wellcome Archaeological Expedition", found in 1935, in the ashes left by Neb.'s fire, among the "Lachish letters", a seal bearing this inscription, *"Belonging to Gedaliah, the one who is over the house."*
- 3.5.1. What a cool job in Israel!

4. **JOHANAN THE CONCERNED CAPTAIN! (13-16)**

- 4.1. **Johanan** – started out a courageous leader, later led the people in the wrong direction.
- 4.2. **Vs.14** – We don't know where he got his info...but it was accurate.
- 4.2.1. Had Gedaliah listened his life would have been spared.
- 4.3. **Vs.15,16** – He offered to take him out for him so the coup wouldn't happen.

4.3.1. **Gedaliah thought the best in people!**

- 4.3.1.1. Like General Robert E. Lee who was asked what he thought of a fellow officer in the Confederate Army who had made some derogatory remarks about him. Lee rated him as being very satisfactory. The person who asked the question seemed perplexed. "General," he said, "I guess you don't know what he's been saying about you." "I know," answered Lee. "But I was asked my opinion of him, not his opinion of me!"
- 4.3.2. Gedaliah should have listened, or at least better protected himself.

CHAPTER 41

5. **ISHMAEL THE DECEITFUL DESCENDANT! (1-10)**

- 5.1. **Vs.1-3 - Ishmael** – He was a cunning, ruthless man, who'd stop at nothing to get his way!
- 5.1.1. We already met him in 40:8 as one of the leaders who rallied his troops to come back to the land, & to Gedaliah.
- 5.1.2. He was from the Royal family(1) (he was a descendant of David!)
- 5.1.2.1. This is why he was probably vying for power!
- 5.1.2.2. Though from this great lineage, he was much the **opposite** of his ancestor David. "Who wouldn't wade through blood to get to the throne, but awaited God's timing!"

- 5.1.3. He probably didn't want to see the Jewish people submit to Neb.
 - 5.1.3.1. He was a **Patriot** – Yet used his patriotism for his own selfish purposes.
- 5.1.4. **He breached he hospitality of the Near East!** – a meal meant “they're pledging their **friendship & loyalty** to one another!”
 - 5.1.4.1. Ishmael used this meal as a trap to catch his prey!
- 5.1.5. Gedaliah only had **2 months** to reign.
 - 5.1.5.1. “The anniversary of his treacherous murder is observed as one of the 4 Jewish feasts (Zech.8:19)”, says Lockyer?
- 5.2. **Vs.4-10** – From a breach of **Hospitality** to bunch of **Hypocrisy!**
 - 5.2.1. **Vs.5** – 80 Jewish pilgrims who came to worship at what's left of the temple. {like the Wailing Wall of our day!}
 - 5.2.1.1. **Cut themselves** – a heathen practice, forbidden in Lev., but they were from Samaria.
 - 5.2.2. **Vs.6** – **Hypocrisy** – In that he weeps (like he's joining them in mourning) before the 80 pilgrims who came to worship he kills 70 of them.
 - 5.2.2.1. He only saves the 10 for there food they have hidden.
 - 5.2.3. **Vs.10** – His crimes climax by kidnapping the helpless remnant & starting for the land of Amon.
 - 5.2.3.1. Here Johanan comes to the rescue & delivered the remnant (Ishmael escapes)
- 5.3. All of this could have been avoided if Gedaliah headed the counsel & acted more with caution.

6. **JOHANAN THE COURAGEOUS CAPTAIN! (11-18)**

- 6.1. **Vs.11-16** – Johanan showed courage in rescuing the remnant.
 - 6.1.1. Johanan was as brave as Noah... “who of course sailed in a wooden boat with **two termites!**”
 - 6.1.2. Though he showed “**goose-bump courage**” in the rescue; he also showed **lack of faith** once he was in charge, by taking the remnant to Egypt! (17,18)

- 6.1.3. How easy to go astray by **not** listening to God's word!
- 6.1.4. Don't act on impulse! **Stop – Think – Ask God for guidance!!!**
- 6.1.5. They do have 2nd thoughts in the next chapter, & finally think to ask Jeremiah (whom they drag w/them) to ask God "what He thinks about Egypt!"

7. **Communion:** 41:1 – "They ate bread together"

- 7.1. I said earlier, "a meal meant "they're pledging their *friendship & loyalty* to the one whom they were eating with!"
- 7.2. The communion table is only for those in *Friendship & Loyalty* to Christ!
 - 7.2.1. **1st – Q: Are you a friend of God's?**
 - 7.2.1.1. "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called **the friend of God.**" (James 2:23)
 - 7.2.1.2. (James 4:4) "Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an **enemy of God.**"
 - 7.2.1.3. Friend or enemy? - Repent & Believe!
 - 7.2.2. **2nd – Q: Friends, are there any holes in your "table cloth of loyalty"?:**
 - 7.2.2.1. Let's confess them to the master of the feast, so our relationship will be sewn!
 - 7.2.2.2. Check for holes as they **pass out the bread** – we'll partake together.
 - 7.2.3. **Juice** – Lets **thank Him** for the opportunity to feast at his banqueting table!
 - 7.2.3.1. **2 Sam 9:11** We like Mephibosheth, shall, " **eat at His table like one of the king's sons.**"
 - 7.2.3.2. Thanks Lord for that position!