

Jeremiah 42,43**9-10-98****1. Intro:**

1.1. **Last week** - The remnant which was left in the land is on their way to Egypt stopped just out of Bethlehem in Chimham & decided to ask Jeremiah what God thought of their going south?

1.1.1. They are ready to pray!

1.1.2. A mother was teaching her three-year-old daughter The Lord's Prayer. For several evenings at bedtime, she repeated it after her mother. One night she said she was ready to solo. The mother listened with pride, as she carefully enunciated each word right up to the end. "**And lead us not into temptation**", she prayed, "**but deliver us some e-mail, Amen.**" [These guys are ready to pray!]

CHAPTER 42**2. PLEASE PRAY FOR US! (1-6)**

2.1. At 1st reading there seems not to be a better plea for guidance than this! {It is unanimous(1); it is unreserved(5,6)}

2.2. Yet we'll see it is an insincere request! – It sounded sincere & spiritual yet there was deception in their hearts(20).

2.2.1. Pray for us Jerry! We will obey! How pious their words sounded!

2.2.1.1. Mt.15:8 "These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me."

2.2.1.2. Q: Have you ever tried to fool one of God's servants w/pious prayers?

2.2.1.3. Q: Doesn't this happen every time we just jump in & pray even when our heart isn't ready? {Greg Ghironzi – "pray for our travel"...wait a minute.}

2.2.2. The children of Israel had made up their minds to go to Egypt. They hoped God would ratify it through Jeremiah.

2.2.2.1. Q: Do you go from counselor to counselor asking for advice, hoping you'll find someone to agree w/you? [I knew someone who did this, till they found someone to agree with them. But the problem was they came back & wanted their pastor(me) to agree with this other(opposite) counsel]

2.2.2.2. Q: What's your counsel? "If a spouse cheats on his/her spouse & they confess it as sin to the Lord & the Lord forgives them...do they need to say anything to their spouse?"

2.2.2.2.1. They say → "I know if I tell them they'll leave & split up our family!" – "I'm forgiven now aren't I?" – "Against you & you only have I sinned" in Ps.51:4.

2.2.2.2.2. What say you? & why? {No more condemnation but there is Consequence! Larry H.} – "Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you..."

2.3. Is "your" God a minute flaw, or a deeper realization then they know?

2.3.1. They do clean it up in vs.6 but???

3. **BLESSED - IF YOU STAY! (7-12)**

3.1. The Lord kept them waiting for 10 days. Why?

3.1.1. "A 10 day delay, to see if they would obey"???

3.1.1.1. He gives them time to search their hearts & confess their sin???

3.1.2. **Faith & patience** go together Heb.6:12 "but imitate those who through **faith** and **patience** inherit the promises.

3.1.2.1. William Law said "**Solemn prayers & rapturous devotions**, are but **repeated hypocrisies unless** the heart & mind be conformable to them."

3.1.2.2. If God has you in a holding pattern there is a reason! (Porte Prince)

3.2. We read here of Jeremiah **waiting patiently** for a word from the Lord, rather than producing an immediate & obvious response!

3.2.1. The Lord spoke to me very loudly on this one!

3.2.1.1. Often I think, & I have said, "why pray when I know His answer" - I even quote Joshua being told to get up (**Joshua 7:10** "So the LORD said to Joshua: "Get up! Why do you lie thus on your face?") Jeremiah knew his answer, all along, No Egypt, stay put!

3.2.1.2. I might know **AN** answer, but not nec. **THE** answer!

3.2.1.2.1. Ask, listen, & wait patiently.

3.3. **Vs.9-12** – Stay in the land & I'll build you & plant you(**10**)!

3.3.1. Remember 1:10

3.3.2. (11) Here is what to remember when we are scared in a situation – even of a big bad mean king that huffs & puffs!... “God was in charge, not the king of Babylon!”

3.3.2.1. Remember God is in charge not your boss, spouse, teacher, or principle!

3.3.2.2. Read Prov.3:25,26

3.3.3. (12) Again here is the true order of things – “I will grant you Mercy, that he(Neb) may have mercy on you.”

3.3.3.1. A little girl asked her dad, “**how big is God.**” Her father thought for a moment and answered, “**Honey, he is always just a little bigger than you need.**”

4. CURSED - IF YOU GO! (13-17)

4.1. Ever since Abraham’s lapse of faith in going to Egypt the Jews had a tendency to follow his example!

4.1.1. “Careful fathers, kids are watching!”

4.2. vs.14 – In their **natural** eyes Egypt looked like a haven(peace; plenty; security). Yet this left out the **supernatural** view!

4.2.1. “**It was NOT the place that God had chosen for them.**”

4.2.2. Whether you’re deciding on moving, or moving jobs, it isn’t: “*is the location better*”, or “*is the money better*”, but “**Is it God’s will**”...that’s all that matters!!!

5. HYPOCRITES AT HEART! (18-22)

5.1. This event warns us not to be insincere as we seek the will of God(20)

5.1.1. Read Prayer; unwise; #2837 QV

CHAPTER 43

6. EGYPT OR BUST! (1-7)

6.1. Johanan once brave(40:14,15), now a spineless jellyfish who would not stand for what he knew was right!

- 6.1.1. He showed himself a strong leader & now I guess still a strong leader,...but in the **Wrong direction**.
 - 6.1.1.1. If your lost w/a group in the forest, & one arises to lead because of his strong leadership skills, yet goes deeper into the forest...the outcome is fatal!
- 6.1.2. Johanan was a leader who led people where they **wanted** to go, rather than where they **needed** to go!
 - 6.1.2.1. He became an Egyptian tour guide instead of a godly leader!
- 6.2. *"All along they had regarded God as a power to enlist, not a Lord to Obey!"* (Kidner)
 - 6.2.1. Q: Do you seek Him for His power, or for direction so you might obey Him?
- 6.3. Knowing God's will is only of value if we are willing to DO it!
 - 6.3.1. Q: Is knowing Gods will our problem or doing it?
- 6.4. Vs.2 - You know once you've decided to disobey the Lord, you can always find excuses for rejecting God's truth.
 - 6.4.1. What **arrogance** these men show in basically saying "thus doesn't saith the lord!"
 - 6.4.2. Arrogance is insistence on getting our own way!
 - 6.4.2.1. Here is a pack of "know-it-all's"(2).
 - 6.4.2.2. "Why is it when more than 1 know-it-all gets together w/another they can never agree?"
 - 6.4.3. One sign of arrogance is when we try to find someone to blame for our wrong or guilty choices.
- 6.5. They didn't like what God had to say!
 - 6.5.1. So, do what I do when I don't like what the Bible says? Just Tear it out!(rip) - You feel uncomfortable about this or that passage?(rip it out) – If that's too drastic then just ignore it!
 - 6.5.2. Or you can always **revise it** to suit A contemporary paraphrase by Shirley MacLaine, the *New Age Version*, renders Rom3:23(what is it 1st? "for all...")as: "For all have experienced momentary lapses and have come up a tad shy of the Divine Entity's absolute idea, but hey, nobody's perfect. So don't worry. Be happy!" {So tear it out; ignore it; or revise it!}

- 6.6. Vs.3 – It is difficult to understand what kind of special power Baruch could possibly have over this courageous prophet...but they had to blame somebody!
- 6.7. Vs.6 – Jeremiah is led off again – not to martyrdom(as he probably wished) but to an alien land not as pilgrims, nor captives, but deserters!
- 6.8. Vs7 – And so they walked by sight & not by faith, right into Egypt.

7. EGYPT JUDGED! (8-13)

- 7.1. This is the final “action sermon.”
- 7.2. They reached their supposed “safe haven” in Tahpanhes. 10 m. west of the Suez canal.
 - 7.2.1. As Jeremiah carried & buried these stones it probably built up anticipation of the people to hear what was going to be said.
 - 7.2.1.1. So we have a double punch of act & speech.
 - 7.2.2. Precisely on that spot Neb. would assert his son over Egypt.
 - 7.2.3. In 1886 Sir Flinders Petrie unearthed both this pavement and palace of the Egyptian Pharaoh. He found a platform of brick work, which was located outside the door of the house, looking very much as if it was the actual platform to which Jeremiah refers in his message, where Nebuchadnezzar was to spread his pavilion. In fact, great stones were actually found embedded under this area.
 > Shortly after 1886 three cylinders were discovered near this site and sold to the Cairo museum. They contain an inscription telling about Nebuchadnezzar's great building activities at Babylon. It would seem they were placed at this spot to commemorate the visit of King Nebuchadnezzar to Egypt.
- 7.3. Vs.12,13 – All of Egypt's gods, temples, & obelisks(a-ba-lisk/A tall, four-sided shaft of stone, usually tapered and monolithic, that rises to a point.¹yhtg) would prove to be merely combustible, portable, & breakable. They were as *easily “picked up & put on”* by a conqueror, as cloak is “*picked up & put on*” by a shepherd.
 - 7.3.1. “Beth Shemesh” – Heliopolis(hele-opolis) = house of the sun or “Sun City”.
- 7.4. God had the final word: “Their trip to Egypt would be their death march!”
 - 7.4.1. You can't runaway from problems! Problems will come & find you, as Babylon came & found them here!
 - 7.4.2. The only safe place is IN the will of God!
 - 7.4.3. When your will is God's will, you will have your will! (Spurg)

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