

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 305 – Enquire About Nebuchadrezzar Through Devouring Fire (Jeremiah 21:1-14)

1. What did Pashur and Zephaniah ask Jeremiah about?

King Zedekiah sent them to see if God would help them with Nebuchadrezzar:

“The word which came unto Jeremiah from the Lord, when king Zedekiah sent unto him Pashur the son of Melchiah, and Zephaniah the son of Maaseiah the priest, saying, Enquire, I pray thee, of the Lord for us; for Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon maketh war against us; if so be that the Lord will deal with us according to all his wondrous works, that he may go up from us” (Jeremiah 21:1-2).

- This Pashur is different than the one whom arrested Jeremiah in the previous chapter (**Jeremiah 20:1-6**).
- Zephaniah the son of Maaseiah the priest is involved in several matters relative to Jeremiah (**Jeremiah 29:24-32** and **Jeremiah 37:1-3**).
- Prophets were sought out for information (**I Kings 22:7**, **II Kings 3:11**, and **Ezekiel 14:7**).
- Nebuchadrezzar did invade Jerusalem (**II Kings 25:1-2** and **Jeremiah 39:1-2**).
- They wanted God’s help as the Lord did, in faithful times (**Exodus 23:22-33**), fight for them (**Numbers 10:9**, **Deuteronomy 1:30**, and **Deuteronomy 20:4**).
- When He was not with them, they lost (**Deuteronomy 1:42**).

2. What was the Lord’s answer to the enquiry of Pashur and Zephaniah?

Not only was God NOT going to help them, He Himself was going to fight against them: *“Then said Jeremiah unto them, Thus shall ye say to Zedekiah: Thus saith the Lord God of Israel; Behold, I will turn back the weapons of war that are in your hands, wherewith ye fight against the king of Babylon, and against the Chaldeans, which besiege you without the walls, and I will assemble them into the midst of this city. And I myself will fight against you with an outstretched hand and with a strong arm, even in anger, and in fury, and in great wrath. And I will smite the inhabitants of this city, both man and beast: they shall die of a great pestilence” (Jeremiah 21:3-6).*

- “Then said Jeremiah unto them, Thus shall ye say...” reminds us that prophets were to say what God told them to say (**II Samuel 23:2**, **Job 32:8**, **Matthew 10:16-20**, **John 16:13**, **I Corinthians 2:9-13**, **I Corinthians 14:37**, **Galatians 1:10-12**, **II Timothy 3:15-17**, and **II Peter 1:20-21**).
- Their weapons turned back on them (**Psalms 37:14-15**).
- God against them (**Leviticus 26:23-25**, **Joshua 22:18**, **Isaiah 63:10**, and **Jeremiah 30:12-14**).
- You do not want God’s wrath (**Nahum 1:1-8** and **Hebrews 10:31**).
- Man and beast were to die in the city of Jerusalem (**Ezekiel 7:15** and **Zephaniah 1:3-4**).
- For those that fled, they didn’t escape (**Jeremiah 42:17**).

3. Was God going to keep Zedekiah and his servants from being harmed?

No: *“And afterward, saith the Lord, I will deliver Zedekiah king of Judah, and his servants, and the people, and such as are left in this city from the pestilence, from the sword, and from the famine, into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, and into the hand of their enemies, and into the hand of those that seek their life: and he shall smite them with the edge of the sword; he shall not spare them, neither have pity, nor have mercy” (Jeremiah 21:7).*

- Nebuchadrezzar was merciless (**II Chronicles 36:17**).
- This included Zedekiah and his children (**II Kings 25:7** and **Jeremiah 52:8-11**).

4. How could an inhabitant of Jerusalem find the way of life?

By surrendering to the Chaldeans: *“And unto this people thou shalt say, Thus saith the Lord; Behold, I set before you the way of life, and the way of death. He that abideth in this city shall die by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence: but he that goeth out, and falleth to the Chaldeans that besiege you, he shall live, and his life shall be unto him for a prey” (Jeremiah 21:8-9).*

- God has given man choices of life or death throughout history (**Deuteronomy 30:15-20** and **Isaiah 1:19-20**).
- This includes the spiritual way too (**Matthew 7:13-14**; cf. **John 14:6**).
- They could go willingly into captivity and live as a spoil of war (**Jeremiah 38:1-3**).

5. Did God want Jerusalem preserved as a city?

No: *“For I have set my face against this city for evil, and not for good, saith the Lord: it shall be given into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall burn it with fire” (Jeremiah 21:10).*

- God’s face against them was for a reason (**Psalms 34:16** and **Ezekiel 14:7-8**).
- The city burned with fire (**Jeremiah 37:8**, **Jeremiah 39:8**, and **Jeremiah 52:12-15**).

6. What did God say concerning the king of Judah of the house of David?

Execute judgment and deliver the oppressed or fury would be on him: *“And touching the house of the king of Judah, say, Hear ye the word of the Lord; O house of David, thus saith the Lord; Execute judgment in the morning, and deliver him that is spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor, lest my fury go out like fire, and burn that none can quench it, because of the evil of your doings” (Jeremiah 21:11-12).*

- It is not right or wise for kings to disobey God (**Nehemiah 9:32-35**).
- A wise king acts a certain way (**Proverbs 16:12-16**, **Proverbs 20:26-28**, and **Proverbs 29:14**).

7. What was going to happen to those who arrogantly thought no one could come down against them?

God would punish them: *“Behold, I am against thee, O inhabitant of the valley, and rock of the plain, saith the Lord; which say, Who shall come down against us? or who shall enter into our habitations? But I will punish you according to the fruit of your doings, saith the Lord: and I will kindle a fire in the forest thereof, and it shall devour all things round about it” (Jeremiah 21:13-14).*

- Some think that they are above challenge, even from God (**Obadiah 1:1-4** and **Zephaniah 1:12-13**).
- God was going to punish them according to the fruit of their doings (**Proverbs 1:22-31**, **Isaiah 3:10-11**, and **Jeremiah 17:10**).
- God would set a devouring fire (**Hosea 8:14** and **Amos 2:4-5**).