

## Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 308 – The Lord Shewed Me Through Consumed Off The Land (Jeremiah 24:1-10)

1. What was set before the temple after Nebuchadrezzar took captives to Babylon?

Two baskets of figs: *“The Lord shewed me, and, behold, two baskets of figs were set before the temple of the Lord, after that Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon had carried away captive Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah, and the princes of Judah, with the carpenters and smiths, from Jerusalem, and had brought them to Babylon” (Jeremiah 24:1).*

- God has had Jeremiah learn from a marred girdle (**Jeremiah 13:1-11**) and pottery (**Jeremiah 18:1-11**).
- Prophets had visions (**Daniel 1:17** and **Hosea 12:10**).
- Nebuchadrezzar carried away Jeconiah, etc. (**Esther 2:6** and **Jeremiah 27:20-22**).
- Jeconiah [Jehoiachin] was the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah (**II Kings 24:6-12**).
- Consider the significance of taking away the carpenters (**II Chronicles 24:12**) and smiths (**I Samuel 13:19**).

2. Were all of the figs in the baskets in good condition?

No, some were very good and some very bad: *“(2) One basket had very good figs, even like the figs that are first ripe: and the other basket had very naughty figs, which could not be eaten, they were so bad. (3) Then said the LORD unto me, What seest thou, Jeremiah? And I said, Figs; the good figs, very good; and the evil, very evil, that cannot be eaten, they are so evil” (Jeremiah 24:2-3).*

- By their fruit they were known (**Matthew 12:33** and **Luke 6:43-46**).
- If the fruit is not there it is useless (**Matthew 3:7-10** and **Luke 13:6-9**).
- See: **Isaiah 5:1-7**
- By using the basket of figs, God clearly showed Jeremiah the point.
  - The sinners of Judah are useless and unchangeable (**Jeremiah 13:21-27**).
  - However, the good figs were the opposite. God knows who His real people are (**I Corinthians 8:3** and **II Timothy 2:19**).

3. Did God plan to destroy all His people in captivity?

No: *“(4) Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, (5) Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel; Like these good figs, so will I acknowledge them that are carried away captive of Judah, whom I have sent out of this place into the land of the Chaldeans for their good. (6) For I will set mine eyes upon them for good, and I will bring them again to this land: and I will build them, and not pull them down; and I will plant them, and not pluck them up” (Jeremiah 24:4-6).*

- “Again...” (**Jeremiah 1:4**, **Jeremiah 1:11**, **Jeremiah 1:13**, **Jeremiah 13:3**, **Jeremiah 13:8**, **Jeremiah 16:1**, etc.; cf. **II Peter 1:20-21**).

- God did not forget the good people (**Jeremiah 29:1-14** and **Nahum 1:7**).
- His relationship with His people was/is either on or off (**Psalms 1:1-6** and **I Peter 3:12**).
- Consider how that captivity was for the good of the faithful (**Amos 9:8-15**).
- In a like manner, we coexist now with sinners, but shall find the separation of the wheat from the chaff to be eternally beneficial (**Matthew 3:12** and **Matthew 13:36-43**).
- God planned to set His eyes upon the remnant (**II Chronicles 16:9**), which there always is (**II Kings 19:30-31**, **Isaiah 1:9**, **Isaiah 10:20-22**, **Jeremiah 23:3**, and **Romans 11:1-5**), for good (**Ezra 6:19-22** and **Jeremiah 23:5-8**).

4. What is the difference between Jeremiah 24:7 and Jeremiah 3:6-10?

In Jeremiah 3:10 they turned to God feignedly, without their whole heart. Here we read this: *“And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart”* (**Jeremiah 24:7**).

- He gave them a heart (**Ezekiel 11:19-20**).
- Lest one miss the point, understand that giving them a heart is NOT to be understood as God taking away their choice on obedience (**Deuteronomy 30:1-20**).
- FOR, their return was a wholehearted return to God (**Deuteronomy 4:29**).

5. What did God plan to do with those whom He compared to evil figs?

Consume them: *“(8) And as the evil figs, which cannot be eaten, they are so evil; surely thus saith the LORD, So will I give Zedekiah the king of Judah, and his princes, and the residue of Jerusalem, that remain in this land, and them that dwell in the land of Egypt: (9) And I will deliver them to be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth for their hurt, to be a reproach and a proverb, a taunt and a curse, in all places whither I shall drive them. (10) And I will send the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, among them, till they be consumed from off the land that I gave unto them and to their fathers”* (**Jeremiah 24:8-10**).

- Zedekiah and his people were in trouble (**II Kings 24:18-25:11**).
- Even those who fled to Egypt were toast (**Jeremiah 43:1-13**).
- Delivered to be a reproach, etc. (**Jeremiah 19:3** and **Lamentations 2:15-17**).
- Consumption by horrible means (**Jeremiah 14:15**, **Jeremiah 16:1-4**, and **Ezekiel 5:12-13**).