

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 316 – Babylon Besieges Jerusalem Through Better Days (Jeremiah 32:1-44)

1. Where was Jeremiah when Jerusalem was besieged and why was he there?

Prison for prophesying that the Chaldeans would take Judah captive: *“(1) The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the tenth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadrezzar. (2) For then the king of Babylon’s army besieged Jerusalem: and Jeremiah the prophet was shut up in the court of the prison, which was in the king of Judah’s house. (3) For Zedekiah king of Judah had shut him up, saying, Wherefore dost thou prophesy, and say, Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall take it; (4) And Zedekiah king of Judah shall not escape out of the hand of the Chaldeans, but shall surely be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon, and shall speak with him mouth to mouth, and his eyes shall behold his eyes; (5) And he shall lead Zedekiah to Babylon, and there shall he be until I visit him, saith the LORD: though ye fight with the Chaldeans, ye shall not prosper” (Jeremiah 32:1-5).*

- The timeframe (**II Kings 24:25:2**).
- Jeremiah was shut up in prison (**Jeremiah 36:5-6**) by Zedekiah (**Jeremiah 37:21**).
- Consider what we later learn about why Jeremiah was in prison, how he was delivered by Zedekiah, how he was moved to another prison, etc. (**Jeremiah 38:1-28**).
- It has long been a problem of people professing to be God’s people in not wanting to hear the truth from faithful men of God (**II Chronicles 18:1-27, Isaiah 30:9-11, Jeremiah 11:21, Jeremiah 26:11, Amos 7:11-17, Micah 2:6, Luke 6:46, Luke 7:29-30, Acts 4:16-20, Acts 5:25-29, and Galatians 4:16**).
- In reaction to the truth, those whom don’t want to hear it have oft sought some form of harm upon the teachers of truth (**II Chronicles 24:19-21, II Chronicles 36:14-16, and John 3:19-21**; cf. **John 7:1**).
- Sometimes those whom harm teachers of truth think they are doing God service (**John 16:1-3**).
- What Jeremiah prophesied occurred (**II Kings 25:3-24**).

2. What investment did God have Jeremiah make and what point was there made concerning the evidence of that investment?

Investment in land which signifies that houses and fields would once again be possessed in the land: *“(6) And Jeremiah said, The word of the LORD came unto me, saying, (7) Behold, Hanameel the son of Shallum thine uncle shall come unto thee, saying, Buy thee my field that is in Anathoth: for the right of redemption is thine to buy it. (8) So Hanameel mine uncle’s son came to me in the court of the prison according to the word of the LORD, and said unto me, Buy my field, I pray thee, that is in Anathoth, which is in the country of Benjamin: for the right of inheritance is thine, and the redemption is thine; buy it for thyself. Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD. (9) And I bought the field of*

Hanameel my uncle's son, that was in Anathoth, and weighed him the money, even seventeen shekels of silver. (10) And I subscribed the evidence, and sealed it, and took witnesses, and weighed him the money in the balances. (11) So I took the evidence of the purchase, both that which was sealed according to the law and custom, and that which was open: (12) And I gave the evidence of the purchase unto Baruch the son of Neriah, the son of Maaseiah, in the sight of Hanameel mine uncle's son, and in the presence of the witnesses that subscribed the book of the purchase, before all the Jews that sat in the court of the prison. (13) And I charged Baruch before them, saying, (14) Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Take these evidences, this evidence of the purchase, both which is sealed, and this evidence which is open; and put them in an earthen vessel, that they may continue many days. (15) For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Houses and fields and vineyards shall be possessed again in this land" (Jeremiah 32:6-15).

- The right of redemption to buy land of a family member under O.T. law, witnesses, etc. (**Ruth 4:1-13**).
- The land was the inheritance and continuation of particular families, tribes, etc. (**Numbers 33:54**).
- Proof of inheritance was required when they came out of captivity (**Nehemiah 7:61-64**). There is much to this law (i.e. **Numbers 36:1-13**).
- The point – Houses, fields, and vineyards would be in the future of Israel again (**Jeremiah 30:18-22**).
- Consider this, what Jeremiah is doing was NOT for his seed (**Jeremiah 16:1-4**). It was for the benefit of the people to have hope in a future (**Jeremiah 31:17**; cf. **Proverbs 10:28**).

3. Based upon Jeremiah's prayer, does he seem to grasp God's might?

Yes, but he appears a bit confused as to why he is buying the field. God's answer (which we will address in question 4; "is anything too hard for me" as well as God's answer at the end of the chapter vs. 43-44) shows Jeremiah needed to understand God's reasoning more. Notice: "(16) Now when I had delivered the evidence of the purchase unto Baruch the son of Neriah, I prayed unto the LORD, saying, (17) Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee: (18) Thou shewest lovingkindness unto thousands, and recompensest the iniquity of the fathers into the bosom of their children after them: the Great, the Mighty God, the LORD of hosts, is his name, (19) Great in counsel, and mighty in work: for thine eyes are open upon all the ways of the sons of men: to give every one according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings: (20) Which hast set signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, even unto this day, and in Israel, and among other men; and hast made thee a name, as at this day; (21) And hast brought forth thy people Israel out of the land of Egypt with signs, and with wonders, and with a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with great terror; (22) And hast given them this land, which thou didst swear to their fathers to give them, a land flowing with milk and honey; (23) And they came in,

and possessed it; but they obeyed not thy voice, neither walked in thy law; they have done nothing of all that thou commandedst them to do: therefore thou hast caused all this evil to come upon them: (24) Behold the mounts, they are come unto the city to take it; and the city is given into the hand of the Chaldeans, that fight against it, because of the sword, and of the famine, and of the pestilence: and what thou hast spoken is come to pass; and, behold, thou seest it. (25) And thou hast said unto me, O Lord GOD, Buy thee the field for money, and take witnesses; for the city is given into the hand of the Chaldeans” (Jeremiah 32:16-25).

- Jeremiah went to God in prayer (**Luke 18:1**).
- God is the Creator and that serves as a reminder of His might (**Psalms 145:5-6** and **Isaiah 40:25-28**).
- Jeremiah stated and understanding that NOTHING was too hard for God (**Job 42:1-2**, **Daniel 4:34-35**, and **Luke 1:35-37**).
- Jeremiah praised God’s lovingkindness/mercy (**Psalms 36:7-10** and **Psalms 136:1-26**) and merciful judgment (**Psalms 62:12**).
- Jeremiah praised God’s knowledge of the ways of men (**I Samuel 16:7**, **I Chronicles 28:9**, **II Chronicles 16:9**, **Psalms 139:1-18**, **Proverbs 5:21**, **Proverbs 15:3**, **Proverbs 15:11**, **Jeremiah 16:17**, **Jeremiah 23:23-27**, **John 2:23-25**, **Hebrews 4:13**, and **I John 3:20**) and of giving every man according to the fruit of their doings (**Isaiah 3:10** and **Jeremiah 17:10**).
- Jeremiah praised God’s showing of mighty signs and wonders (**Deuteronomy 6:22**; cf. **Mark 16:15-20** and **Hebrews 2:1-4**).
- Jeremiah praised God’s deliverance of Israel out of Egypt (**Exodus 13:14**).
- Jeremiah praised God giving Israel the land He promised them (**Joshua 21:43**).
- Jeremiah recognized God’s righteous judgment over the evil He brought on Israel for their disobedience (**Joshua 23:15-16**).
- Jeremiah knew what the Lord had spoken about the Chaldeans was true and is come to pass (**Ezekiel 24:14**).
- Whether or not something makes sense to us, God’s wisdom is unquestionably greater than ours (**Job 5:8-10**, **Psalms 92:5-6**, **Psalms 145:3**, **Psalms 147:5**, **Isaiah 46:9-10**, **Isaiah 55:7-9**, and **Romans 11:33-36**).

4. In God’s answer to Jeremiah’s prayer, what reasons did God state for His judgment against Judah?

The continual evil of Judah, their provoking of Him, from leaders down, for their turning their backs on Him, and for their idolatries: *“(26) Then came the word of the LORD unto Jeremiah, saying, (27) Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me? (28) Therefore thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the Chaldeans, and into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, and he shall take it: (29) And the Chaldeans, that fight against this city, shall come and set fire on this city, and burn it with the houses, upon whose roofs they have offered incense unto Baal, and poured out drink offerings unto other gods, to provoke me to anger. (30) For the children of Israel and the children of Judah have only done evil before me from their youth:*

for the children of Israel have only provoked me to anger with the work of their hands, saith the LORD. (31) For this city hath been to me as a provocation of mine anger and of my fury from the day that they built it even unto this day; that I should remove it from before my face, (32) Because of all the evil of the children of Israel and of the children of Judah, which they have done to provoke me to anger, they, their kings, their princes, their priests, and their prophets, and the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. (33) And they have turned unto me the back, and not the face: though I taught them, rising up early and teaching them, yet they have not hearkened to receive instruction. (34) But they set their abominations in the house, which is called by my name, to defile it. (35) And they built the high places of Baal, which are in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire unto Molech; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my mind, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin” (Jeremiah 32:26-35).

- God heard Jeremiah’s prayer (**I Peter 3:12**) and is answering (**Psalms 118:5**).
- God stated what Jeremiah indicated he understood – God can do anything He wants to (**Deuteronomy 3:24**) do because HE is the God of all (**Acts 17:24**).
- Sending of Babylon, as other nations were sent in the past, was the punishment for their disobedience (**II Kings 17:9-41**, **Isaiah 63:10**, and **Jeremiah 7:22-34**).

5. After God’s fury was carried out, what would happen to the people whom were driven away?

Gathered again into the land they were cast out of and they would dwell safely therein: “(36) And now therefore thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning this city, whereof ye say, It shall be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence; (37) Behold, I will gather them out of all countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely” (Jeremiah 32:36-37).

- “Whereof ye say” (**Jeremiah 32:24**). However, Jeremiah was only recognizing what god did say before to him (**Jeremiah 24:8-10**).
- God had a plan to restore the people all along (**Jeremiah 29:10-14** and **Zephaniah 3:17-20**).

6. Did the people of Judah have hope for a future relationship with God?

Yes: “(38) And they shall be my people, and I will be their God: (39) And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them: (40) And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me. (41) Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will plant them in this land assuredly with my whole heart and with my whole soul. (42) For thus saith the LORD; Like as I have brought all this great evil upon this people, so will I bring upon them all the good that I have promised them” (Jeremiah 32:38-42).

- Remember, promises such as in this context are often very forward looking (**Jeremiah 31:31-34**; cf. **Hebrews 8:1-10:22**).
- The ultimate promise of redemption was coming in the days of Christ (**Matthew 1:21**, **Matthew 18:11**, and **Romans 11:26**).
- In another thought... Consider the language of God saying: “I will plant them in this land assuredly with my whole heart and with my whole soul” (vs. 41 cf. **Genesis 6:6** and **Leviticus 26:11**).

7. As the chapter concludes, does Jeremiah’s investment make sense?

Yes: *“(43) And fields shall be bought in this land, whereof ye say, It is desolate without man or beast; it is given into the hand of the Chaldeans. (44) Men shall buy fields for money, and subscribe evidences, and seal them, and take witnesses in the land of Benjamin, and in the places about Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, and in the cities of the mountains, and in the cities of the valley, and in the cities of the south: for I will cause their captivity to return, saith the LORD” (Jeremiah 32:43-44).*

- God’s point – don’t lose hope for I would not have you buy land that would remain desolate (**Ezekiel 37:11-14**).
- As far back as Solomon’s pray for God to restore Israel any time He punished them with captivity (**II Chronicles 6:13-42**), Israel could know that they could repent and turn to God for captivity to cease (**Jeremiah 29:12-14**).
- Again, God would restore His people (**Jeremiah 30:3**).