

# **Jeremiah 38**

## **Jeremiah 38.1-6**

**V1** – Some of the princes of the people were familiar with what Jeremiah had been preaching to the people

**V2** – **What was the message that Jeremiah was preaching as the city was about to fall to the Babylonians?** Surrender, and your lives will be spared  
-Interesting: there was still a way of escape – God still loved his people

**V3** – The end was in sight, and God was definitely going to destroy the city

**V4** – **Why were the officials upset?** Because they said that Jeremiah was discouraging the people (really they just needed a scapegoat)  
-They were charging him with treason

**V5** – King Zedekiah was a wimp; he really had no authority, because the city princes ran things

**V6** – **What did they do with Jeremiah?** Put him in a cistern – imagine, a prophet of God chosen by him from before his birth, being put in a cistern  
-**Was there water in the cistern?** No, only mud  
-**Was this a dangerous thing for Jeremiah?** Yes – he could not move in the mud, and he would die soon

## **Jeremiah 38.7-13**

**V7** – **Who came to the rescue of Jeremiah?** Ebed-Melech  
-**What do we know about this man?** Ethiopian and a eunuch – two strikes against him, a “low caste” man

**V8** – Ebed-Melech decided that he would try to rescue Jeremiah

**V9** – **To whom did he go with his plans?** King Zedekiah – notice: very little food was left in the city

**V10** – **King?** Told Ebed-Melech to take 30 men and rescue Jeremiah

**V11** – **How did they rescue him?** With old clothes tied together and put under the arms of Jeremiah

**V12** – Details

**V13** – Jeremiah was rescued  
-**Reward? Read Jeremiah 39.15-18** – a righteous man! (one of the great heroes of the faith in the Old Testament)

## **Jeremiah 38.14-16**

**V 14** – The king sent for Jeremiah

-**What did the king want Jeremiah to do?** Tell him the truth (as if he had been lying, all this time)

**V 15** – Jeremiah was tired of the whole matter – the king wouldn't listen anyway

**V 16** –**The promise of Zedekiah?** I will not kill you or turn you over to the princes who were trying to kill you

## **Jeremiah 38.17-23**

**V 17** – **First choice that Jeremiah gave Zedekiah?** If you surrender, you will live, and the city will not be destroyed with fire, and your relatives will survive

**V 18** – Second choice: If you do not surrender, the city will be destroyed, and you will be taken captive

**V 19** – **What was Zedekiah afraid of?** That other captives might consider him a traitor and abuse him

**V 20** – **Jeremiah's promise?** The Babylonians would protect him from the other captives

**V 21** – But if you don't surrender:

**V 22** – Jeremiah seems to have had a vision of the women of Israel being led away into captivity and blaming Zedekiah – this seems to be a taunt against Zedekiah, that he was betrayed by his close friends – his attention was diverted to the mire (mud) on Jeremiah (See *Beacon Bible Commentary*, IV, 452)

**V 23** – **Final word of Jeremiah to the king?** You will be taken captive, and the city will be destroyed

## **Jeremiah 38.24-28**

**V 24** – **Reaction of Zedekiah to Jeremiah?** Just keep quiet about this (in other words, "I won't listen to you")

**V 25** – Zedekiah seems to be terrified of his own princes

**V 26** – **What did Zedekiah want Jeremiah to say about this interview?** I was asking the king not to send me back to the cistern

**V 27** – He answered the truth as far as it went

-He seems to have had great sympathy for Zedekiah (but what a contrast between Zedekiah and Ebed-Melech)

**V 28** – Jeremiah was safe until the capture of Jerusalem

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