

Jeremiah 39

Jeremiah 39.1-10

V 1 – Similar accounts can be found in *2 Kings 25*, *2 Chronicles 36.11-12*, *Jeremiah 52*

- Notice that the entire Babylonia army was present
- This was a major battle
- Israel didn't stand a chance

V 2 – **When were the walls of Jerusalem actually broken through?** Eleventh year of Zedekiah, 4th month, 9th day – Jeremiah is very specific

V 3 – Three of these names have been verified outside the Bible: Rab-saris, Rab-mag, Samgar-nebu (*Beacon Bible Commentary*, IV, 453)

V 4 – **Why did Zedekiah and his men flee the city?** The situation was hopeless – they headed for the desert

V 5 – **But what happened?** The Babylonians captured the king and his men

V 6 – **What was his punishment?** The Babylonians killed his sons before his eyes

- Think of all the times that Zedekiah could have listened to Jeremiah and accepted God's offer of safety
- Who else died at this time?** All those nobles who persecuted Jeremiah (the one also that Zedekiah was so afraid of)
- Great lessons: we must do what is right first, and God will work everything else out

V 7 – **What other kind of punishment did Zedekiah receive?** His eyes were put out

- This tells us about the cruelty and viciousness of the Babylonians (similar to the Assyrians)

V 8 – **What else did the Babylonians do?** Burned down the king's house, houses of the people, tore down walls of Jerusalem

- We begin to understand the sight that Zerubbabel and the freed captives saw when they returned from Babylonian captivity in 536BC

V 9 – Jeremiah had told them that if they surrendered, their lives would be spared – this prophecy came true

V 10 – **What did the Babylonians do with some of the survivors?** Left them to maintain the orchards, vineyards, etc.

Jeremiah 39.11-14

V 11 – The Babylonians generally in the field received orders from Nebuchadnezzar to give Jeremiah his freedom

- Why would the Babylonian king have granted Jeremiah his freedom?** Ideas: he had heard

the prophecies of Jeremiah

-He had heard the prophecies of Jeremiah about the foreign countries (*Jeremiah 46-51*)

-In fact, Jeremiah preached about Babylonia in *Jeremiah 50-51* – it is very possible that Nebuchadnezzar had read those prophecies and wanted to treat Jeremiah as nice as possible.

V 12 – **What were the specific instructions of Nebuchadnezzar concerning Jeremiah?** Give him anything that he wanted

V 13-14 – Jeremiah was put into the custody of Gedaliah (the man who would become the Babylonian governor of Judea)

-It is possible that the Babylonia's had already chosen Gedaliah as the next governor

Jeremiah 39.15-18

V 15 – God spoke to Jeremiah again

V 16 – A bright ending to a rather gloomy chapter in Israel's history –

-**What is the bright spot?** The salvation of Ebed-melech

V 16-18 – This seems to be a review to Ebed-melech of the prophecy that God made: that

Ebed-melech's life would be spared – we assume from this passage that it was carried out – he gained his freedom

-*Beacon Bible Commentary*, IV, 455 – notice the contrast between Ebed-melech and King Zedekiah

-One was a eunuch and a slave; the other was the king of the Southern Kingdom of Israel – but the slave was saved, and the king was lost

-One gained his life and eternal honor, the other received death and eternal disgrace

-*Jeremiah 40.1-6* seems to have a different account of Jeremiah – but it is possible that Jeremiah was freed (*Chapter 39*), but in the confusion of the battle was rearrested and put into chains – then in *Chapter 40* he was ordered freed again (*Beacon Bible Commentary*, IV, 455)

Lessons from this book:

-The great honor of Jeremiah: **Read Matt. 16-13-14**

-The common people thought that Jesus Christ might have been a resurrected Jeremiah

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