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YouTube Prayer Link

God's word doesn't always pleasant

Jeremiah chapter 37 focuses on Jeremiah's conflict with the Babylonian army and Jerusalem officials. During this time, Jerusalem was besieged, and Zedekiah, king of Judah, wanted to turn to Jeremiah for help, but they didn't really believe that God would save them. Before the city of Jerusalem was breached, Zedekiah decided to throw Jeremiah into prison. Jeremiah was asked in prison about the fate of Jerusalem, and he prophesied that if they surrendered to the Babylonian army, they would be saved, but if they continued to resist, the city would be destroyed. In 598 B.C., King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon invaded Judah for the second time, and the following year he took away King Jehoiachin of Judah. On the one hand, he was to be loyal to Nebuchadnezzar, and on the other hand, he was to encircle the people who were close at him. Fearing that the prophet's prophecy would come true, he 'did not listen to Jehovah' through the prophet Jeremiah' (vv.2) and rebelled against Babylon and Egypt (Ezekiel 17:15). The end of man is not always the beginning of God, and without the active work of the Holy Spirit, crises will not only not soften people's hearts, but will harden people's hearts.

The book records four times Zedekiah approached the prophet Jeremiah, but not once did he seek God's will but simply receive God's salvation and blessing. After Zedekiah continued to warn for ten years after his accession to the throne, but he did not hesitate to teach, Zedekiah sent to Jeremiah because he knew more about the truth than the blind people, so he was not sure of the situation, and he needed to ask Jeremiah to intercede so that his dream of self-deception (vv.9) could come true.

God's answer to Zedekiah was, "Do not be deceived"! Pharaoh's army was bluffing and would soon withdraw to protect itself (vv.7), and Babylon would capture and burn Jerusalem (vv.8).

After Pharaoh withdrew, Nebuchadnezzar returned to his army and continued to besiege the city for eighteen months until Jerusalem was completely destroyed.

Now these leaders are ignorant and fearless, and the brief withdrawal of Babylon (vv.11) makes them think that Egypt is enough to rely on and that Jeremiah's prophecy will not be fulfilled, so patriotism is heightened. Not only did the gatekeepers insist that the prophet defect to the enemy (vv.14), but the princes also persecuted the prophet even more brazenly: after Jeremiah was arrested at the gates, he was first 'imprisoned in the house of Jonathan the scribe' (vv.11–15), then 'delivered to the courtyard of the guards' by Zedekiah, then to 'the prison of Macchiah' by the leaders, and then to 'the court of the guards' by Zedekiah. It was not until the fall of Jerusalem that he was taken out of prison by Nebuzaradan, the captain of the Babylonian guard, and finally released in Ramah.

'What has come from the Lord' (vv.17) indicates that Zedekiah already believed that Jeremiah was a true prophet and wanted to ask him 'the inside story of heaven'. Zedekiah asked Jeremiah to pray for him several times, but he had no God in his heart. Like the Jews, he liked the false prophets of his own heart, shouting the banner of patriotism and the name of Yahweh, but he was unwilling to obey God's admonitions, so that the 11 years of Zedekiah's reign could only survive in turmoil. Such a person is exactly what James says, a double-minded man who has no certainty in all his paths, like the waves of the sea, tossed by the wind, and receives nothing from the Lord (James 1:6–8). Zedekiah's mind, like the prayers of many people today, was not ignorant of right and wrong, but only of gain and loss. It's not that they don't understand God's will, but they only care about their own needs. By this time the Babylonian army may have made a comeback and continued to besiege Jerusalem. Zedekiah was afraid of God and man, and he wanted to be saved by God and to go his own way, so he hesitated and asked the prophet "privately."

The false prophets of false prophecy have long since disappeared when the crisis comes, and those who preach the most patriotic slogans have long since scattered and fled for their lives when the army is overwhelmed, leaving behind the people who have to pay the price. But even so, Zedekiah still refused to believe in the true prophets, because human nature always believes only what it wants to believe.

It's hard to come across prophets like Isaiah and Jeremiah today. Still, we live in an environment where there are many servants of God like the prophet Jeremiah, who are faithful in delivering God's message, and we must not underestimate them, because the Bible is the Word of God, and the Word of God speaks in every age. Through His servants, God's Word continues to be conveyed in our environment today. God's Word is not always good, and sometimes it makes us feel sad, uncomfortable, or even unbearable. Therefore, as Christians, we should study the Bible, understand its teachings, and never underestimate or ignore the words of the Bible.

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Let's pray together:

Abba Heavenly Father, we thank You for Jeremiah's faithfulness and faithfulness. Pray that the Lord will help us too, faithfully following You and saying what You want us to say and doing what You want us to do. We believe that blessed are those who suffer for righteousness! Help us not to be afraid of men's intimidation, not to be frightened, and to simply faithfully convey God's word. Let us have a clear conscience, and in whatever we are slandered, we will put those who have liability to shame themselves. We believe that if it is your will that you suffer for doing good, it is better for you to suffer for doing evil. We thank you for your words that have been laid before us, and for the kings of all ages to be set before us as a warning. There are so many kings of Judah, over and over again, they are always struggling with sin and their relationship with you, so they fail again and again, they are weak. Heavenly Father, please allow us to establish a relationship with you. Let us know that only you are the guarantee of our lives. Let us not be shaken, let us not doubt, but follow with steadfast faith.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

Jeremiah 37

37:1 Zedekiah the son of Josiah reigned in place of Corneiah, the son of Jehoiakim, who had made Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon king in the land of Judah. 37:2 But Zedekiah, and his servants, and all the people of the land, did not listen to the words of Jehovah the prophet Jeremiah.

37:3 And king Zedekiah sent Jeremiah the son of Jeremiah and Zephaniah the son of Maziah the priest to Jeremiah the prophet and said, Pray for us to Yahweh and our God of China.

37:4 At that time Jeremiah was in and out of the people . for they have not yet imprisoned him.

37:5 pharaoh's army had already come out of Egypt . The Chaldeans, who were besieging Jerusalem, heard their noise, and departed from Jerusalem.

37:6 The words of Yahweh came to Jeremiah the prophet and said,

37:7 Thus saith the God of Israel, The king of Judah has sent you to ask me, and thus shall ye say unto him. The army that came out to help you Pharaoh will return to Egypt.

37:8 And the Chaldeans will come again against the city; and they shall take and burn with fire.

37:9 Thus saith Jehovah, Do not deceive yourselves, saying, The Chaldeans will surely depart from us. for for his sake they will not depart from him.

37:10 You have slain all the Chaldean army that is fighting against you, but the wounded will rise from their tents and burn the city with fire.

37:11 And when the army of the Chaldeans, for fear of Pharaoh, pulled out of Jerusalem,

37:12 And Jeremiah went out of Jerusalem among the people to go to the land of Benjam, where he might have his own land.

37:13 And when he came to the gate of Benjamin, there was a gatekeeper named Elijah, the son of Sheremiah the son of Hananiah. And he took Jeremiah the prophet, and said, Thou hast surrendered to the Chaldeans.

37:14 And Jeremiah said, You are lying; I did not surrender to the Chaldeans. And when Elijah did not listen to him, she took him and took him to the chief. 37:15 And the princes were angry with Jeremiah, and they beat him, and put him in prison in the house of Jonathan the scribe. for they have made this house a prison. 37:16 And Jeremiah came into prison and went into his cell, where he was imprisoned for many days.

37:17 And the king of Zedekiah sent for him, and asked him privately in his house, What has come to him from Yahweh. And Jeremiah said, Yes, And thou shalt be delivered into the hand of King Babylon.

37:18 And Jeremiah said to the king of Zedekiah, What have I sinned against you, or against your servants, or against these people, that you have put me in prison? 37:19 And it is prophesy unto you Where is the king of Babylon who will not come against you and against the prophets of the land?

37:20 Hear, O Lord my king, and grant my supplication before you. Do not bring me back to the house of Jonathan the scribe, lest I die there.

37:21 Then the king of Zedekiah gave the order, and they put Jeremiah in the courtyard of the guards, and took a loaf of bread from the street of the bakery every day, until the bread was used up in the city. In this way, Jeremiah was still in the courtyard of the guards.

Jeremiah chapter 37 focuses on Jeremiah's conflict with the Babylonian army and Jerusalem officials. During this time, Jerusalem was besieged, and Zedekiah, king of Judah, wanted to turn to Jeremiah for help, but they didn't really believe that God would save them. Before the city of Jerusalem was breached, Zedekiah decided to throw Jeremiah into prison. Jeremiah was asked in prison about the fate of Jerusalem, and he prophesied that if they surrendered to the Babylonian army, they would be saved, but if they continued to resist, the city would be destroyed. The central idea of this chapter is that the fate of Jerusalem has been decided by God, and they need to listen to God's Word and confess their sins and repent.

In Jeremiah 37, here are a few important verses and their contents:

1. Jeremiah 37:2: "King Zedekiah, neither his servants, nor all the people of the land listened to the words of Jeremiah the prophet from the Lord. This verse describes how Zedekiah, king of Israel, and his servants and people did not heed the message of the prophet Jeremiah. The

prophet Jeremiah prophesied that the king of Babylon would come to attack Jerusalem and called for repentance, but his words were ignored.

2. Jeremiah 37:17: "At that time the army of the king of Babylon was attacking Jerusalem, and he kept Jeremiah the prophet in the court of the guard, in the court of Gedaliah, the son of Absalom, the son of Manasseh, king of Judah. At that time, Jeremiah said: "This verse describes Jeremiah's captivity, where he was held in the courtyard of the ruler Gedaliah. Despite this, Jeremiah sent a word of God to Gedaliah, warning him not to give himself over to the Babylonians.

3. Jeremiah 37:21: "Then King Zedekiah commanded, and they put Jeremiah in the courtyard of the guard, and took a loaf of bread from the bakery and gave him every day until the bread in the city was exhausted." Thus Jeremiah remained in the courtyard of the guards. This verse describes a change in King Zedekiah's attitude toward Jeremiah, who ordered Jeremiah's release from prison and allowed him to receive a piece of bread each day. Although Jeremiah's condition improved, he remained imprisoned in the courtyard of the guards.

These verses reflect the plight faced by the prophet Jeremiah during a time of national crisis, as well as his counsel and prophecies to the people and the king. While people often ignored or refused to listen to him, Jeremiah remained faithful in fulfilling his God-given mission, calling people to repentance and foreshadowing the coming judgment.

Jeremiah 37 records the events of Jeremiah during the reign of Zedekiah, king of Judah. In this chapter, Jeremiah is imprisoned in a brick-burning house in the royal palace of Judah because he constantly warns the people and the royal family to repent

and prophesied that Babylon would attack Jerusalem. Here are just a few of the important theological central ideas and theological takeaways: Warning and Repentance: In Jeremiah 37, Jeremiah continues to warn the people and the royal family that he prophesied that Babylon would attack Jerusalem. However, they turned a deaf ear to Jeremiah's words and refused to repent and turn to God. This shows God's expectation of repentance, that people will recognize their sins, repent of their evil deeds, and return to God's ways.

Distinguishing between true and false prophets: In Jeremiah 37, Jeremiah is imprisoned in a brick-burning house in the palace, while the prophet Hananiah in the royal palace delivers a message from the false prophet and scoffs at Jeremiah's prophecy. However, Jeremiah's prophecy was eventually fulfilled, while Hananiah's prophecy was proven to be false. This reminds us to be wary of false information and prophets, and to use God's Word as our standard.

God's Providence: In Jeremiah 37, despite Jeremiah's captivity, God favors him by allowing Baruch to write down his prophecies and deliver them to the people. God does not forget His

servants, and He protects and uses them to deliver His message. This shows God's care and care for His faithful servants.

Testimony of Faith: In Jeremiah 37, Jeremiah's faithfulness testifies to his faith and obedience to God's will. Despite the hardships and persecution he faced, he remained unrelenting in delivering God's Word. This demonstrates the steadfastness and perseverance of faith in times of difficulty, and is an example that we should follow.

Overall, Jeremiah 37 emphasizes warning and repentance, the distinction between true and false prophets, God's providence, and the testimony of faith. The central idea of theology is to emphasize God's expectation of repentance, the truth of His Word, and the need to be wary of false information and prophets. God cares for His faithful servants and protects and uses them to deliver God's message. Jeremiah's faith and perseverance are an example for us to follow, and we should hold fast to God's truth and obey God's will at all times and in all places.