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Jeremiah 42

YouTube Prayer Link

Listen to and obey God's will

Jeremiah 42 is about the flight of the people of Judah and Jeremiah's prayer.

In chapter 41, the Ishmaelites sin the murder of the governor and caused discontent among the Babylonians. Fearing that the Babylonians would retaliate against them, the people of Judah came to Jeremiah and asked him to pray for them and ask for God's will. After Jeremiah's prayer, he received a revelation from God, telling the people not to be afraid of the Babylonians and that God would protect them.

Chapter 41 We read that Ishmari took away the people of Mizpah and the women associated with the royal family, but Johanan led the crowd to catch up, rescued the captives at Gibeon, and prepared to enter Egypt. They (the leaders and the people) came to Jeremiah to ask God's will to allow them to go down to Egypt and leave their homeland. God promises, 'Ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart' (29:13). But Johanan and the people prayed to God "to show us the way we should go and the things we should do," and they had already decided to go to Egypt (41:17) in the hope of God's approval and peace of mind. Such an attempt is to take God's name in vain (v.5), and to manipulate God as an idol. In fact, they ask God before they go to Egypt and burn incense to the queen of heaven when they arrive in Egypt (44:17), and there is no difference between gods and idols. When the people asked the prophet Jeremiah to 'the Lord your God' (v.2, 5), they showed that they were not close to God. But the prophets said, "The Lord your God," emphasizing that they were God's covenant people. In fact,

it is only the God they imagine to be pandering to their own hearts and making themselves "blessed."

Verses 10–17 are God's answer after ten days of silence, and it is simple and straightforward that the people must choose between two ways: 'If you dwell in the land, I will establish you, and I will not tear you down, but plant you, and not uproot' (v.10). God's promises

If the people fear God, they can 'not be afraid of the king of Babylon, whom you fear' (v.11), for God will be responsible for building them up and protecting them. But if the people did not fear God, they would fear the revenge of the king of Babylon, and the result would be that "the sword that you fear will overtake you in the land of Egypt!" The famine that you fear will follow you closely in Egypt' (v.16).

'I regret the calamity that I have brought upon you' (v.10), referring to God's emotional sorrow, not a change of will. If the people trust God and stay in Judah, God will protect them from Babylon's retribution (vv.11–12). But if you rely on yourself and go to Egypt, 'no one will remain' (v.17), and no one will escape God's pursuit. To be built or to be demolished is only a matter of how we choose. If verses 13 and 14 are assumptions, then verses 15 and 16 are consequences. If they refuse to obey Jehovah, they will be responsible for the consequences, and there will be infinite calamity and destruction. We should reconcile our choices with faith, and God will always give us hope. When we choose to respond to God, God's Word, God's protection, God's hope will come to us.

(v.12) "I will also make him have mercy on you, that you may have mercy on you, that you may return to your own land", which is a clear declaration that the king of Babylon is only an instrument for the accomplishment of God's will. Today, we also know that "there is no authority that is not of God. Whoever is in authority is commanded by God" (Romans 13:1), but when the time comes for obedience, we will do the people who are determined to go down to Egypt, with the road to the north and the steps to the south.

Although the people professed to do God's will (vv.5–6), God broke their minds in one word: they had imagined Egypt as a heavenly kingdom on earth. Although the people have not yet answered, the prophet already knew what they were thinking: they were outwardly willing to do God's will, but in their hearts they 'did not obey the will' (v.21), duplicity, and 'deceitful and self-deceitful' (v.20). Are we often like Johanan's group who religiously asked God, and God gave the answer, but we didn't believe it, and we wouldn't do what God wanted? It turns out that when we ask, we already have our own ideas and have decided to do what we want, and we just want God to cooperate with us and agree with what we want to do. Pray that the Lord will keep us and help us to pray and suke before God every time we come to pray and supplied, with sincerity and full trust! In the face of difficulties, choices, and seeking God, do we have prayers that are inconsistent with God? We need to align our words and deeds with our prayers to God. Perhaps we all have a plan in our hearts that we will not harden our hearts in the face of good times and bad times, no matter what the circumstances, because by obeying Jehovah, we will be blessed. Sometimes we feel that we don't understand God's mind, but God's mind is not hard to find, and many principles are already written in the Bible. Of course, there are many special or individual

encounters in life, and as long as we continue to seek God's guidance attentively, God's will will be revealed. God clearly warns 'not to go into Egypt' (v.19). To go to Babylon is to accept God's destruction, and to go to Egypt is to escape God's dealing. The people insisted on fleeing to Egypt because they 'did not listen to the voice of Jehovah', believing that the farther away they were, the safer they could (v.14) and that they could escape discipline. But God would not spare them, and Egypt, as well as Judah and Babylon, were under God's rule. Thus, 'when the people entered Egypt' (v.18), that was when God's recourse came to Egypt. Those who flee to Egypt 'will die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence' (vv.17, 22). When people's faith is weak, it is natural to look at the environment with the eyes of the naked eye, and at the same time, they have many things in their hearts. How can we not be like this in our lives? My heart has been determined, and a symbolic prayer is like a reassuring pill, but in fact, my mind does not want to seek God's will at all, and I do not want to put aside my will and just look to God. The consequence of this is that we are getting farther and farther away from God, and we are less and less able to hear God's voice and understand God's guidance. We must not make decisions in fear, let God's Word and the words of the prophets have space, and we must not use God's Word as a reference only, but obey and follow.

Let's pray together:

Abba Father, pray that the Lord will give us humility and teachable hearts, and help our lives to know how to respond, especially in the face of choices and difficulties, not to harden our hearts, and to take responsibility for your words, our own lives, and to rely on you. We are willing to let go of our own will, our own plans, our own thoughts, we empty ourselves, ask God to give us your heart and guidance, ask the Holy Spirit to fill us according to your will, so that what we say, think, and do is in line with the Lord's heart. Ask God to remove all thoughts and thoughts that do not belong to Him, so that all of us will be in You and submit to Your will. Pray that God will take away that strong self and give us a humble and obedient heart and behavior. Praise the Lord.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

Jeremiah 42

42:1 And the captains of the army, and Johanan, the son of Galia, and Jezaniah, the son of Hosaliah, [Jessania, also known as Azaria, see 43:2] and all the people, from the youngest, to the greatest ones, all come forward,

42:2 And he said unto Jeremiah the prophet, Allow us to pray before thee and pray unto the Lord thy God for the remnant of us. There are many of us, and there are very few of us left, and this is what you have seen with your own eyes.

42:3 May the God of Yahweh show us the way we should take and the things we should do.

42:4 Jeremiah the prophet said to them, "I have heard you. I will pray to your God according to your word. Whatever Yahweh answers, I will tell you that you will not hide it.

42:5 So they said to Jeremiah, "If we do not do everything that Yahweh and your God sent you to say, may Yahweh and Wah be true and sincere witnesses among us."

42:6 Now we invite you to come before the gods of Yahweh, and we will obey what he says, whether good or bad. Let us be blessed if we listen to the words of our God in Jehovah.

42:7 Ten days later, the words of Jehovah came to Jeremiah.

42:8 And he called Johanan, the son of Galia, and the captains of the army with him, and all the people, from the youngest to the greatest.

42:9 Say to them, Yahweh, the God of Israel, the Lord whom you ask me to pray for before him,

42:10 If you still dwell in the land, We will build you up, and you will not be torn down, planted and not plucked out. for I have repented of the calamity that has befallen you.

42:11 Do not be afraid of the king of Babylon, whom you fear; ye said , don't be afraid of him . For I am with you to deliver you from his hand.

42:12 And I will make him feel sorry for you, and I will take pity on you, so that you will return to your own place.

42:13 And if you say, We do not dwell in this land, so that we do not give ear to the voice of your God Jehovah,

42:14 He said, We will not live here, but we will go into Egypt, where we will see no war, no trumpets, no hunger. We will dwell there.

42:15 Now be you, the rest of you Jews, give ear to the words of Jehovah; The God of Israel, Yahweh of hosts, says this, If you are determined to enter Egypt and live there.

42:16 The sword you fear will overtake you in Egypt. The famine you fear will follow you closely in Egypt . You will die there.

42:17 Whoever wishes to enter Egypt and sojourn there will die by the sword, famine and pestilence, and no one will survive the calamity that We have brought upon them.

42:18 Thus saith the God of Jehova and Israel, "How I have poured out my anger and wrath on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so I will pour out my wrath upon you when you enter Egypt. so that thou hast made reproach, and terrified, and cursed, and dishonored, that thou shalt not see this place again.

42:19 And ye Hohwa, who are left of Judah, say to you, Do not go into Egypt. You have to know for sure that I have taught you today.

42:20 You use deceit to harm yourselves. For ye have invited me to come unto the Yahweh your God, saying, Pray for us, Yahweh our God, according to all that Yahweh our God hath said, and we will do it.

42:21 I tell you this today. Yahweh, your God sent me to you for your business, but you did not listen to any of them.

42:22. Now know for sure that you will die by swords, famine, and pestilence in the land where you are going to dwell.

The central idea of Jeremiah 42 is about the flight of the people of Judah and Jeremiah's prayer.

In chapter 41, the Ishmaelites sin the murder of the governor and caused discontent among the Babylonians. Fearing that the Babylonians would retaliate against them, the people of Judah came to Jeremiah and asked him to pray for them and ask for God's will.

After Jeremiah's prayer, he received a revelation from God, telling the people not to be afraid of the Babylonians and that God would protect them. But if they choose to stay in the land of Judah, they will suffer from war, famine, and pestilence. However, the people did not believe Jeremiah's words, believing that they had to go to Egypt to avoid being punished by the Babylonians. Jeremiah warned them that if they went to Egypt, they would die or be taken into captivity. But the people still did not listen to Jeremiah, and they went to Egypt.

In Jeremiah 42, the important verses are as follows:

1. "And all the captains of the hosts, and Gedaliah the son of Johanan, and Jezania the son of Hoshaiiah, and all the people, great and small, came to Jeremiah the prophet" (Jeremiah 42:1).
2. "Whatever we are going to do, we will obey the word of the Lord our God. In this way, we can be blessed. —Jeremiah 42:6.

This was their promise to Jeremiah that whatever Jehovah's word was, they would obey it for their well-being.

3. "So the remnant that dwells in the land of Judah will choose for themselves whence they want to live." Whoever flees to Babylon, I will visit him and bless him. This is what the Lord has said. (Jeremiah 42:10) Here, Jeremiah tells these people that the Lord will take care of them wherever they choose to flee, but if they choose to stay in the land of Judah, then they must obey the word of the Lord and let Him protect them.

Jeremiah 42 records the people of Judah dealing with the prophet Jeremiah after Jerusalem was captured by the Babylonian army

Inquire about God's will. Here are just a few of the important theological central ideas and theological takeaways:

Inquire about God's will: In Jeremiah 42, after the fall of Jerusalem, the people of Judah came to seek instructions from the prophet Jeremiah in the hope that God would show them the way to go. This shows that they are aware of the importance of God's Word to their lives and are willing to submit to God's will.

Faithful Response: Jeremiah prayed to God and received a revelation from God after the people of Judah sought God's will. God told them to stay in Judah and not to go to Egypt, but to protect them and give them mercy. Jeremiah faithfully conveyed God's Word to the people, reminding them to submit to God's will.

The stubbornness of the human heart: In Jeremiah 42, after Jeremiah delivered God's Word, the people of Judah refused to obey and decided not to follow God's instructions and insisted on going to Egypt. They disobeyed God's Word and demonstrated the stubbornness of the human heart and their rebellion against God.

God's faithfulness: In Jeremiah 42, God promises to protect and show mercy to those who choose to remain in Judah and submit to God's will. This demonstrates God's faithfulness to those who are faithful and obedient, and He will answer His promises.

Overall, Jeremiah 42 emphasizes the inquiry of God's will, God's faithful response, the stubbornness of the human heart, and God's faithfulness. The central idea of theology is the emphasis on asking God's will, obeying God's Word, and that God is faithful and will answer His promises. We should humbly inquire about God's will, obey His Word, and not reject God's direction because of stubbornness. As we do God's will, He will watch over and protect us because He is a faithful God.