

/Now, we will bring our eighteenth lecture on Jeremiah. /Today's lecture will begin with chapter 39. /The title of the chapter is "Jerusalem's Fall."

/First, Jerusalem meets its fall. /Verses 1-3. /Second, Zedekiah king of Judah becomes miserable after being captured. /Verses 4-10. /Third, Nebuchadnezzar treats Jeremiah with friendliness during the war. /Verses 11-14. /Fourth, a promise of salvation and blessing for Ebed-Melech the Cushite. /Verses 15-18.

/Chapter 39 contains the details concerning Jerusalem's fall and destruction. /This happened because the people of Judah did not obey the word of God delivered by the prophet Jeremiah. /The people of Judah did not repent of their sins.

/God commanded the people of Judah to carry the yoke of Babylon, but they did not obey him. /Thus during the reign of King Zedekiah, Judah met its complete downfall.

/Verse 1. Please read. / This is how Jerusalem was taken: In the ninth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the tenth month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon marched against Jerusalem with his whole army and laid siege to it.

/Verse 2. / And on the ninth day of the fourth month of Zedekiah's eleventh year, the city wall was broken through.

/On the ninth day of the fourth month of Zedekiah's eleventh year, Judah was defeated. /This was during the nineteenth year of King Nebuchadnezzar. /2 Kings 25:8 /It was the year 586 B.C. /God handed King Zedekiah and his people over to the Babylonians. /Anyone who sins will be punished before God.

/Verse 4. / When Zedekiah king of Judah and all the soldiers saw them, they fled; they left the city at night by way of the king's garden, through the gate between the two walls, and headed toward the Arabah.

/When King Zedekiah was surrounded, he ran away. /He fled in the middle of the night, but the Babylonians knew about this. /Therefore, King Zedekiah was caught. /Zedekiah was taken away to the king of Babylon at Riblah in the land of Hamath.

/Verses 6-7. / There at Riblah the king of Babylon slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes and also killed all the nobles of Judah. Then he put out Zedekiah's eyes and bound him with bronze shackles to take him to Babylon.

/King Nebuchadnezzar interrogated Zedekiah, and he proceeded to kill Zedekiah's two sons. /With his own eyes, Zedekiah watched his sons die. /How tragic is this?

/If we go against the word of God, we will face similar misery. /Revelation 2:23 /Also, King Zedekiah's eyes were put out. /Then, Zedekiah was bound with bronze shackles and taken to Babylon. /34:3

/We must at all times obey God's commands and have a discerning faith. /Today, when we disobey God, the eyes of our souls become dark. /Samson, when he abandoned his faith, had both of his eyes removed.

/Verse 8. / The Babylonians set fire to the royal palace and the houses of the people and broke down the walls of Jerusalem.

/The Babylonians burned the royal palace and the houses of the people. /They then took many of them as captives to Babylon. /2 Kings 24:14 /Ezekiel 17:12,13

/Because the people followed in the sin of their king, they too met their downfall. /The noble men of Judah became prisoners of Babylon. /However, the poor and lowly people remained in the land of Judah.

/Verse 11. / Now Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had given these orders about Jeremiah through Nebuzaradan commander of the imperial guard:

/King Nebuchadnezzar is kind to Jeremiah. /He also gave Jeremiah the choice to stay in Judah or go to Babylon. /King Nebuchadnezzar treated Jeremiah with kindness because Jeremiah delivered the word of God.

/Jeremiah admonished the king and the officials to surrender to Babylon numerous times. /Jeremiah did not do this to help the Babylonians. /He simply did what a prophet should do and delivered God's message exactly as it was. /The king of Babylon thought highly of this.

/Verse 15. / While Jeremiah had been confined in the courtyard of the guard, the word of the LORD came to him:

/Ebed-Melech was the person who saved Jeremiah from the pit. /Ebed-Melech helped the true prophet Jeremiah. /Because of this, God said he would spare Ebed-Melech when Jerusalem is destroyed.

/Ebed-Melech received salvation during a time of destruction. /How was Ebed-Melech saved on the day of disaster? /First, he loved the prophet as he loved himself. /The officials of Judah threw Jeremiah into a pit to kill him.

/When Ebed-Melech saw this, he pleaded to the king to rescue Jeremiah. /38:7-13 /He loved the prophet as he loved himself. /He valued the word of God. /Matthew 10:41; 25:34-40

/Verse 18. / I will save you; you will not fall by the sword but will escape with your life, because you trust in me, declares the LORD.”

/How did Ebed-Melech received salvation? /The second reason is he trusted God. /He put his faith in God. /He relied on the power of God.

/So although Ebed-Melech was a Cushite, God saved him and blessed him. /Those who disobey God will perish and be miserable. /People like Ebed-Melech who help true prophets are blessed.

/We will continue with the lecture on Jeremiah chapter 40. /The name of the chapter is “Governor Gedaliah.”

/First, Jeremiah is released from captivity and finds Gedaliah. /Verses 1-6. /Second, the people of Judah who were scattered come together by finding Gedaliah. /Verses 7-12. /Third, Gedaliah the governor hears the report of a conspiracy, but he does not believe it. /Verses 13-16.

/Gedaliah the governor appears in this chapter. /The king of Babylon had taken King Zedekiah captive to Babylon. /He did not appoint a king in his place.

/Instead, King Nebuchadnezzar appointed Gedaliah governor.

/Verse 1. Please read. / The word came to Jeremiah from the LORD after Nebuzaradan commander of the imperial guard had released him at Ramah. He had found Jeremiah bound in chains among all the captives from Jerusalem and Judah who were being carried into exile to Babylon.

/Jeremiah was freed from Ramah. /The word of the LORD came to Jeremiah at this time.

/Verses 2-3. / When the commander of the guard found Jeremiah, he said to him, “The LORD your God decreed this disaster for this place. And now the LORD has brought it about; he has done just as he said he

would. All this happened because you people sinned against the LORD and did not obey him.

/The command of the guard said, / “Everything has happened the way Jeremiah said it would.” /Disaster happened because the people of Judah sinned before God. /The commander of the guard of the king of Babylon knew the reason for Judah’s fall.

/Verse 4. /But today I am freeing you from the chains on your wrists. Come with me to Babylon, if you like, and I will look after you; but if you do not want to, then don’t come. Look, the whole country lies before you; go wherever you please.”

/The commander of the guard told Jeremiah to go wherever he pleases, giving Jeremiah the freedom to choose where he would go. /He told him to go to Babylon if he wanted to. /The commander said he would treat Jeremiah well. /But Jeremiah had the option to stay in Judah.

/Judah chose to remain in the land of Judah. /Jeremiah had the opportunity to live in Babylon under proper treatment. /However, he chose to stay in Judah. /Babylon already had the prophet Ezekiel and Daniel.

/Jeremiah chose to stay in Judah and continue his work as a prophet. /He wanted to share the pain of those who remained in Judah, to fulfill his duties as prophet. /He stayed to deliver God’s word to the people and teach them the ways of God. /Hebrews 11:24-26

/Verse 7. /When all the army officers and their men who were still in the open country heard that the king of Babylon had appointed Gedaliah son of Akiham as governor over the land and put him in charge of the men, women, and children who were the poorest in the land and who had not been carried into exile to Babylon,

/The king of Babylon appointed Gedaliah as governor. /The remaining people came to find Gedaliah. /Gedaliah told the people to serve the king of Babylon.

/The governor taught his people that they would be blessed when they serve the king of Babylon. /Gedaliah was speaking the will of God. /God’s will was for them to carry the yoke of Babylon.

/In verses 11 and 12, we see the scattered people of Judah come together. /Gedaliah selects Mizpah as the capital city. /In verse 12, he prepares plenty of wine and summer fruits for them to eat.

/Verse 13. / Johanan son of Kareah and all the army officers still in the open country came to Gedaliah at Mizpah

/Johanan came to speak to Gedaliah. /Johanan was a person of importance.

/Verse 14. / and said to him, “Don’t you know that Baalis king of the Ammonites has sent Ishmael son of Nethaniah to take your life?” But Gedaliah son of Akiham did not believe them.

/The Ammonite king had sent Ishmael to kill Gedaliah. /Johanan told this truth to the governor. /Again, the king of the Ammonites had sent Ishmael to kill Gedaliah.

/Here, Ishmael is behaving like a servant of the devil. /God was building Judah up again through Gedaliah. /However, Ishmael is attempting to kill Gedaliah. /He is destroying God’s movement for salvation.

/Ishmael is doing the devil’s work. /But Gedaliah does not believe this story. /Johanan had spoken the truth to the governor Gedaliah. /However, Gedaliah refused to believe that Ishmael would kill him.

/Gedaliah did not believe the truth. /He was deceived by the devil. /He did not have discernment. /He could not tell between right and wrong. / He did not have good judgment. /We must have the ability to discern with spiritual eyes. /We must not fall into the schemes or traps of the devil.

/Verses 15-16. / Then Johanan son of Kareah said privately to Gedaliah in Mizpah, “Let me go and kill Ishmael son of Nethaniah, and no one will know it. Why should he take your life and cause all the Jews who are gathered around you to be scattered and the remnant of Judah to perish?” But Gedaliah son of Akiham said to Johanan son of Kareah, “Don’t do such a thing! What you are saying about Ishmael is not true.”

/Johanan told Gedaliah the facts. /He said he would secretly kill Ishmael. /If Ishmael is left free, Gedaliah would die. /Johanan was aware of the conspiracy, so he asked the governor to let him kill Ishmael.

/However, Gedaliah did not listen to the truth. /If Gedaliah were to die, the people of Judah would be dispersed again. /But Gedaliah did not listen to Johanan. /Eventually, in chapter 41, Gedaliah is killed.

/We must be able to discern things. /We must make the right decisions.  
/We need to know who is out to kill us and who is willing to help us.  
/We must defeat the work of the devil.

/With the wisdom God gives us, we must make proper judgments.  
/Also, it is important that we protect ourselves. /Gedaliah is unable to  
protect himself, and his nation and people suffer the consequences.

/We will continue with the lecture on Jeremiah chapter 41. /The title of  
the chapter is "Gedaliah's Death." /First, Ishmael kills governor  
Gedaliah, the Jews who are with Gedaliah, and Babylonian soldiers.  
/Verses 1-3. /Second, Ishmael kills seventy men who come to give  
offerings to God. /Verses 4-9.

/Third, Ishmael attempts to take the remaining people in Mizpah to  
Ammon. /Verse 10. /Fourth, Johanan defeats Ishmael and tries to lead  
the people to Egypt. /Verses 11-18.

/Verse 1. Please read. / In the seventh month Ishmael son of  
Nethaniah, the son of Elishama, who was of royal blood and had been  
one of the king's officers, came with ten men to Gedaliah son of  
Ahikam at Mizpah. While they were eating together there,

/Ishmael went searching for Gedaliah the governor. /Gedaliah was  
welcoming, supplying them with food to eat. /Previously, we saw  
Johanan warning Gedaliah about Ishmael's plot to kill him. /40:13,14

/However, Gedaliah did not listen to Johanan. /Instead, he welcomed  
Ishmael and gave him food to eat. /Gedaliah was not careful about the  
danger that threatened him.

/During this time, when they needed a worker, Gedaliah may have  
tried to recruit Ishmael. /He may have been looking for talented men  
when he welcomed Ishmael. /But Gedaliah thought wrong.

/Verses 2-3. / Ishmael son of Nethaniah and the ten men who were with  
him got up and struck down Gedaliah son of Ahikam, the son of  
Shaphan, with the sword, killing the one whom the king of Babylon had  
appointed as governor over the land. Ishmael also killed all the Jews  
who were with Gedaliah at Mizpah, as well as the Babylonian soldiers  
who were there.

/Ishmael was dining with Gedaliah and other people. /During the meal,  
Ishmael suddenly rose from his place and killed Gedaliah with the  
sword. /He also killed the Jews and Babylonian soldiers who were with  
them.

/Why did Ishmael kill these people? /First, he did not focus on the work of God, but was thinking about his personal gain. /He thought the Ammonite king would praise Ishmael for doing this task. /40:14

/Ishmael killed his own people to succeed. /He followed his greed rather than focusing on the kingdom of God. /We must prioritize the church over our personal matters. /We must abandon humanism and become God-centered. /Ephesians 6:20

/Second, Ishmael did not obey the will of God. /God's will was for the people to serve Babylon. /Instead of serving Babylon, Ishmael killed Babylonian soldiers.

/Third, Ishmael envied the governor. /Ishmael was an officer of a king. /It says this in verse 1. /He was also part of the royal family. /Because of these things, Ishmael saw himself above Gedaliah.

/Ishmael believed that a person lower than him had become governor. /This is envy. /Fourth, Ishmael wanted revenge on the Babylonian soldiers. /He believe Babylon's invasion of Judah destroyed his nation.

/At the time, there were a few Babylonian soldiers remaining. /Seeking vengeance, Ishmael murdered the Babylonians. /Ishmael not only destroyed himself, but also his country.

/What was the reason for Gedaliah's failure as governor? /Put simply, he could not protect himself. /Rather than discerning good people from bad people, he was only concerned with recruiting men of talent. /He could not see that someone was coming to destroy him and his nation. /We must know how to protect ourselves. /We must be able to discern the devil's schemes and lies.

/Verse 4. / The day after Gedaliah's assassination, before anyone knew about it,

/80 godly men came to give offerings to God. /These people came forward in repentance. /They came to give offerings to God. /However, they encountered Ishmael. /Ishmael killed almost all of them. /Ishmael is a very evil person.

/Verse 8. / But ten of them said to Ishmael, "Don't kill us! We have wheat and barley, oil and honey, hidden in a field." So he let them alone and did not kill them with the others.

/Of the eighty, ten spoke to Ishmael. /They told them they had wheat, barley, oil and honey. /They asked him not to kill them. /So Ishmael did not kill them.

/The ten people exchanged their possessions for their life. /Ishmael received the items and did not kill them. /Ishmael valued material possessions. /The ten people gave their belongings and was spared of their lives. /Life is more important than possessions. /Matthew 16:26

/Verse 9. / Now the cistern where he threw all the bodies of the men he had killed along with Gedaliah was the one King Asa had made as part of his defense against Baasha king of Israel. Ishmael son of Nethaniah filled it with the dead.

/Verse 10. / Ishmael made captives of all the rest of the people who were in Mizpah—the king’s daughters along with all the others who were left there, over whom Nebuzaradan commander of the imperial guard had appointed Gedaliah son of Ahikam. Ishmael son of Nethaniah took them captive and set out to cross over to the Ammonites.

/Ishmael made captives of the people remaining in Mizpah and planned to flee to the Ammonites. /Ishmael wanted to succeed where the Ammonites were. /He ruined his nation and took his people to the Ammonites.

/Verse 11. / When Johanan son of Kareah and all the army officers who were with him heard about all the crimes Ishmael son of Nethaniah had committed,

/Johanan and the people who were with him met Ishmael. /At that moment, all the people who were being taken by Ishmael began returning to Johanan.

/Verse 13. / When all the people Ishmael had with him saw Johanan son of Kareah and the army officers who were with him, they were glad.

/The people of Judah who were with Ishmael were glad when they saw Johanan. /Then, they all returned to Johanan. /In this way Johanan rescued the people. /When the people left Ishmael to go to Johanan, Ishmael ran away.

/Johanan had reported the conspiracy plans of Ishmael to the governor. /40:14,15 /Johanan did the right thing when he fought against the forces of fire. /But Johanan did something wrong. /First, he failed to protect the governor to the end.



/Although the governor did not listen to him, Johanan should have done whatever he could to protect Gedaliah. /Another mistake Johanan made was trying to take the people to Egypt. /16:18 /Even though God told the people not to go to Egypt, Johanan led them there anyway.

/Verse 15. / But Ishmael son of Nethaniah and eight of his men escaped from Johanan and fled to the Ammonites.

/Ishmael avoided Johanan and fled to the Ammonites.

/Verse 16. / Then Johanan son of Kareah and all the army officers who were with him led away all the survivors from Mizpah whom he had recovered from Ishmael son of Nethaniah after he had assassinated Gedaliah son of Ahikam: the soldiers, women, children and court officials he had brought from Gibeon.

/Verses 17-18. / And they went on, stopping at Geruth Kimham near Bethlehem on their way to Egypt to escape the Babylonians. They were afraid of them because Ishmael son of Nethaniah had killed Gedaliah son of Ahikam, whom the king of Babylon had appointed as governor over the land.

/Johanan took the people to escape to Egypt. /What was the reason Johanan tried to flee to Egypt? /First, he was afraid the Babylonian army would attack again. /He was afraid they would retaliate.

/The second reason he wanted to flee to Egypt was it was difficult to stay in the desolate land of Judah. /However, he thought with his mind instead of thinking of God's word.

/Carrying the yoke of Babylon as God commanded would have brought blessings upon the people. /42:10-12 /What did Johanan do right? /First, he knew about Ishmael's schemes and attempted to remove him.

/He was able to discern the devil's tricks. /40:13-15 /Second, when Ishmael was taking the people to the Ammonites, Johanan rescued them. /He saved the people. /41:11-14

/Johanan also chased Ishamel and his evil followers back to the Ammonites. /41:15 /But Johanan did some things wrong. /He tried to take the people to Egypt. /Johanan and his people did not realize the will of God.

/They eventually enter Egypt and perish there. /We must always walk in the truth. /We need to follow God's will for us. /That is the only way we are blessed.

/We are blessed when we obey God's commands, /and we are punished when we disobey him.

/This ends the eighteenth lecture on Jeremiah. /Thank you.