

We will now begin the nineteenth lecture on Jeremiah. /Today we will begin with chapter 42. /The title of chapter 42 is "Do Not Go to Egypt." /First, Johanan's men ask Jeremiah about God's will. /Verses 1-6.

/Second, Jeremiah tells the people that they will be saved if they remain in Judah. /Verses 7-12. /Third, God says that the people of Judah will surely be destroyed if they go to Egypt. /Verses 13-18. /Fourth, Jeremiah rebukes the people's hypocrisy and disobedience. /Verses 19-22.

/Judah was completely ruined. /Only Johanan and a few people remained. /A small group of people also remained. /They asked Jeremiah, "Should we remain in Judah? Or should we go down to Egypt?"

/Jeremiah gave them an answer ten days later. /Jeremiah told them to remain in Judah as God commanded them. /However, Johanan and the people said that Jeremiah was lying.

/Then they said that they would go down to Egypt. /Then Jeremiah said, "You will surely be destroyed if you go to Egypt." /This is the important point of today's passage.

/Read verse 1. /Then all the army officers, including Johanan son of Kareah and Jezaniah son of Hoshaiah, and all the people from the least to the greatest approached

/The army officers, Johanan, Jezaniah, and all the people came to Jeremiah. /They asked him to pray. /They asked him to ask God what his will was.

/The people said, "Pray that the LORD your God will tell us where we should go and what we should do." /It was good that Johanan and the people wanted to seek God's will.

/It was also good that they came looking for a prophet. /Today, we must seek God's will, and if we cannot find it on our own, we must ask God's servants.

/Verse 4. /"I have heard you," replied Jeremiah the prophet. "I will certainly pray to the LORD your God as you have requested; I will tell you everything the LORD says and will keep nothing back from you."

/Jeremiah said that he would pray to God. /The prophet prayed for the people. /Jeremiah always prayed for the people. /If Jeremiah had gone down to Babylon, he would have receive a great welcome there. /However, Jeremiah remained in Judah to receive sufferings with the people. /Then he continuously prayed for the people.

/Verse 5. /Then they said to Jeremiah, "May the LORD be a true and faithful witness against us if we do not act in accordance with everything the LORD your God sends you to tell us.

/The people said, "We will obey the LORD our God." /The people of Judah also said that they would obey whether God's Word was favorable or unfavorable to them.

/This was good that they thought this way. /We must obey God's Word whether it is difficult or easy to obey. /Faith is to obey God's Word, whether it appears good or bad.

/Verse 7. /Ten days later the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah.

/Ten days later God's word of prophecy came to Jeremiah. /Jeremiah prayed for ten days. /What was God's revelation and command?

/Verse 10. /If you stay in this land, I will build you up and not tear you down; I will plant you and not uproot you, for I am grieved over the disaster I have inflicted on you.

/God's will and command was that the people remain in Judah. /However, the people of Judah did not want to stay in Judah. /Why didn't they want to stay in Judah? /It was because the king of Babylon could invade them again.

/It was also difficult to live there because the land had become empty as a result of war. /There was also a chance that other nations would invade them. /The people did not want to live in a land where there was continuous hardships.

/There was also disagreement among the people remaining in Judah. /However, God's command was that they remain in Judah. /It is a road to blessing to obey God's commands even if it is physically difficult.

/Verse 11. /Do not be afraid of the king of Babylon, whom you now fear. Do not be afraid of him, declares the LORD, for I am with you and will save you and deliver you from his hands.

/God told the people not to be afraid of the king of Babylon. /They were not to run away to Egypt because of their fear of Babylon. /God held the king of Babylon in his hands. /Even if it seemed as if Babylon would invade, God was able to keep them away. /It was God's will for the people to remain in Judah.

/Verse 13. /"However, if you say, 'We will not stay in this land,' and so disobey the LORD your God,

/However, if the people disobeyed God's command and went to Egypt, they would fail. /The people thought that there would be no war and no scarcity of food in Egypt.

/The people believed that it was a good idea to go to Egypt where there were no hardships. /However, God said that they would die of war, famine, and plague if they went to Egypt.

/Verse 17. /Indeed, all who are determined to go to Egypt to settle there will die by the sword, famine and plague; not one of them will survive or escape the disaster I will bring on them.'

/If the people were to go to Egypt to escape hardships, they would die by the sword, famine and plague. /In verse 18, it says that they would be an object of cursing and horror, or condemnation and reproach.

/They were bound to be destroyed if they went to Egypt. /God would not help them. /However, God would protect them if they remained in Judah, even if it would be difficult to remain there.

/Verse 19. /"O remnant of Judah, the LORD has told you, 'Do not go to Egypt.' Be sure of this: I warn you today

/God warned the people of Judah not to go to Egypt.

/Verse 20. /that you made a fatal mistake when you sent me to the LORD your God and said, 'Pray to the LORD our God for us; tell us everything he says and we will do it.'

/Jeremiah said, "you made a fatal mistake." /The peoples asked Jeremiah what God's will was. /They asked him to pray. /Yet, in their hearts, they wanted to go to Egypt.

/They fooled themselves. /They fooled themselves because they did not obey God's Word. /They acted like they were going to listen to God, yet, they knew they weren't going to listen. /The people asked Jeremiah to pray to God, but in their hearts, they were prepared to go to Egypt.

/This was Balaam's prayer. /If we pray to God knowing what we want in our hearts, we will not know what God's will is and we will be mistaken. /If we pray while wanting to go somewhere, we will be mistaken and think that is God's will. This is Balaam's prayer.

/Verses 21-22. /I have told you today, but you still have not obeyed the LORD your God in all he sent me to tell you. So now, be sure of this: You will die by the sword, famine and plague in the place where you want to go to settle."

/The people of Judah disobeyed God's command and went down to Egypt. /Jeremiah warned them that they would die by the sword, famine, and plague if they went to Egypt.

/Today, we must obey God's will and command no matter how difficult or easy our circumstances may be. /We will live if we obey God's commands. /God will lift us up if we obey his commands.

/We will continue with Jeremiah chapter 43. /The title is "The People of Judah Go to Egypt."

/First, Johanan and his people say that Jeremiah is lying. /Verses 1-3. /Second, Johanan and his people take the others and go to Egypt. /Verses 4-7. /Third, Jeremiah prophesies that King Nebuchadnezzar will invade Egypt, and those who sought refuge in Egypt will

be destroyed. /Verses 8-13.

/Read verse 1. /When Jeremiah finished telling the people all the words of the LORD their God-- everything the LORD had sent him to tell them--

/Jeremiah told the people all the things that God said, and told them not to go to Egypt. / However, Johanan and the officers said to Jeremiah, "You are lying!" /They said that God's true words were a lie.

/Ten days earlier, they said, "Pray to God for us. Let us know what God's will is." /Then Jeremiah told them God's will, but the people refused to believe him. /They said that the true prophet was a liar.

/Verse 3. /But Baruch son of Neriah is inciting you against us to hand us over to the Babylonians, so they may kill us or carry us into exile to Babylon."

/The people said that Baruch incited Jeremiah so that he would falsely prophesy. /They could not accuse Jeremiah to his face, but rather, they said that Baruch was wicked.

/Verse 4. /So Johanan son of Kareah and all the army officers and all the people disobeyed the LORD's command to stay in the land of Judah.

/Johanan and all the others went to Egypt.

/Verse 7. /So they entered Egypt in disobedience to the LORD and went as far as Tahpanhes.

/The people reached Tahpanhes. /They forcefully took Jeremiah and Baruch with them. / Then Jeremiah went with the people and he prophesied God's Word in Egypt. /According to old stories, Jeremiah was martyred in Egypt.

/Verse 8. /In Tahpanhes the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah:

/The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah when the people reached Tahpanhes. /King Pharaoh was in that area.

/Verse 10. /Then say to them, "This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: I will send for my servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and I will set his throne over these stones I have buried here; he will spread his royal canopy above them.

/God said that he will send Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon to invade Egypt. /The king of Babylon would invade Egypt. /Then, the king of Babylon would burn all the gods and houses of the Egyptians. /The people of Judah who went to seek refuge in Egypt would all be destroyed.

/The people of Judah ran away to Egypt to live in safety. /However, God sent King

Nebuchadnezzar to Egypt to destroy the people of Judah.

/The people of Judah disobeyed God and went to find safety. /However, there was no true peace there. /We must obey God's commands, and we must make God our refuge.

/We will continue with Jeremiah chapter 44. /The title is "Jeremiah Prophecies in Egypt."

/First, the Jews in Egypt do not repent, and therefore, they will be punished. /Verses 1-14. /Second, the Jews say that they were well when they served the Queen of Heaven. /Verses 15-19. /Third, Judah was destroyed because they sinned against God. /Verses 20-23. /Fourth, those who disobey God's Word and serve idols will be destroyed. /Verses 24-30.

/Read verse 1. /This word came to Jeremiah concerning all the Jews living in Lower Egypt-- in Migdol, Tahpanhes and Memphis-- and in Upper Egypt:

/God's Word came to Jeremiah concerning the Jews living in Egypt. /God's Word came to Jeremiah.

/Verse 3. /because of the evil they have done. They provoked me to anger by burning incense and by worshiping other gods that neither they nor you nor your fathers ever knew.

/The people of Judah were destroyed because they served other gods. /It was because they worshiped idols. /They provoked God to anger by serving idols. /God continuously sent true prophets.

/However, the people served idols instead and disobeyed God's Word. /Hence, God said that he would burn all the cities and towns of Judah.

/Verse 7. /"Now this is what the LORD God Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Why bring such great disaster on yourselves by cutting off from Judah the men and women, the children and infants, and so leave yourselves without a remnant?

/God said that he would destroy the men and women, the children and infants. /The people of Judah went to Egypt and served many idols there. /God's wrath was upon them.

/Verse 9. /Have you forgotten the wickedness committed by your fathers and by the kings and queens of Judah and the wickedness committed by you and your wives in the land of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem?

/The fathers and kings of Judah were all wicked. /They were not humble. /They did not obey God's law and decrees.

/Verse 11. /"Therefore, this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: I am determined to bring disaster on you and to destroy all Judah.

/God said that he would bring disaster on Judah. /The people of Judah went to Egypt, but there would be disaster there as well.

/Verse 13. /I will punish those who live in Egypt with the sword, famine and plague, as I punished Jerusalem.

/God said that he would punish those who lived in Egypt with the sword, famine and plague.

/Verse 14. /None of the remnant of Judah who have gone to live in Egypt will escape or survive to return to the land of Judah, to which they long to return and live; none will return except a few fugitives."

/None of the people who ran away to Egypt would survive. /There would be very few among them who would return to Judah. /Only a few fugitive should return to the land of Judah.

/Verse 15. /Then all the men who knew that their wives were burning incense to other gods, along with all the women who were present-- a large assembly-- and all the people living in Lower and Upper Egypt, said to Jeremiah,

/The men and the women served idols. /Rather, they said that they were well when they served idols.

/Verse 17. /We will certainly do everything we said we would: We will burn incense to the Queen of Heaven and will pour out drink offerings to her just as we and our fathers, our kings and our officials did in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. At that time we had plenty of food and were well off and suffered no harm.

/When the wives served idols, the men also served idols and let the women be. /The men led the women alone when they knew that their wives served idols. /Therefore, both the men and women would be destroyed.

/They believed that they were well when they served idols. /Then they believed that they were currently suffering because they stopped serving idols. /They resented God. /They served idols and they were selfish. /They wanted to fill their greed.

/Verse 19. /The women added, "When we burned incense to the Queen of Heaven and poured out drink offerings to her, did not our husbands know that we were making cakes like her image and pouring out drink offerings to her?"

/The men cooperated with the women to serve idols. /Therefore, they were all together ruined.

/Verse 20. /Then Jeremiah said to all the people, both men and women, who were

answering him,

/Jeremiah correctly taught the people of Judah. /He taught them the reason why they were destroyed. /Jeremiah said that it was because the people burned incense to idols. /They served idols and they did not listen to God. /Hosea 4:14

/Verse 22. /When the LORD could no longer endure your wicked actions and the detestable things you did, your land became an object of cursing and a desolate waste without inhabitants, as it is today.

/We must obey God's commands, laws, and decrees.

/Verse 24. /Then Jeremiah said to all the people, including the women, "Hear the word of the LORD, all you people of Judah in Egypt.

/Almost all the women of Judah, who lived in Egypt, served the Queen of Heaven. /The husbands carried out vows to serve the Queen of Heaven. /God told them to serve the idols just as they vowed to.

/There are times when God remains still when people sin. /Such people will be destroyed in the future. /It is a great punishment when God remains still. /God disciplines those whom he loves. /When he disciplines us, we must repent and be upright, and then we will receive blessings.

/Verse 26. /But hear the word of the LORD, all Jews living in Egypt: 'I swear by my great name,' says the LORD, 'that no one from Judah living anywhere in Egypt will ever again invoke my name or swear, "As surely as the Sovereign LORD lives."

/The people of Judah who were in Egypt disobeyed God's Word. /They served the Queen of Heaven. /Therefore, God said that he would destroy them with the sword and famine.

/Verse 28. /Those who escape the sword and return to the land of Judah from Egypt will be very few. Then the whole remnant of Judah who came to live in Egypt will know whose word will stand-- mine or theirs.

/The people of Judah who escape the sword would be few. /Only a small number would return to Judah from Egypt. /Then the people would know whether or not God's Word was true.

/The people of Judah disobeyed God's command and went to Egypt. /Then, they would be destroyed there. /God's Word ultimately came true. /Jeremiah's prophecies came true.

/Verses 29-30. /"'This will be the sign to you that I will punish you in this place,' declares the LORD, 'so that you will know that my threats of harm against you will surely stand.' This is what the LORD says: 'I am going to hand Pharaoh Hophra king of Egypt over to his enemies who seek his life, just as I handed Zedekiah king of Judah over to

Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the enemy who was seeking his life."

/The people who went to Egypt faced disasters just as God said they would. /Just as King Zedekiah was handed over to the king of Babylon, the people of Judah would eventually be handed over to the king of Babylon. /The people of Judah relied on Pharaoh Hophra king of Egypt.

/They went to Egypt, and they relied on the king of Egypt. /The people attempted to live in peace there. /However, God would send the sword to destroy the Jews in Egypt.

/We must rely on God. /God must be our refuge. /We must not rely on the world. /We must remain where God tells us to, no matter how difficult circumstances may be.

/Then, we will live even if it seems as if we will die. /We will have life if we obey God's commands.

/Here we will conclude the nineteenth lecture on Jeremiah. /Thank you.