

Jeremiah 34

King James Version (KJV)

Jeremiah warns King Zedekiah of his impending downfall at the hands of Nebuchadnezzar. This will make Jeremiah an "enemy of the state")

34 The word which came unto Jeremiah from the LORD, when Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and all his army, and all the kingdoms of the earth of his dominion, and all the people, fought against Jerusalem, and against all the cities thereof, saying,

²Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel; Go and speak to Zedekiah king of Judah, and tell him, Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall burn it with fire:

³And thou shalt not escape out of his hand, but shalt surely be taken, and delivered into his hand; and thine eyes shall behold the eyes of the king of Babylon, and he shall speak with thee mouth to mouth, and thou shalt go to Babylon. (He is telling the king that he cannot win against Babylon. The king won't take it well)

⁴Yet hear the word of the LORD, O Zedekiah king of Judah; Thus saith the LORD of thee, Thou shalt not die by the sword: (Zedekiah will refuse to listen so he will die by the sword, but not in battle. He will be executed)

⁵But thou shalt die in peace: and with the burnings of thy fathers, the former kings which were before thee, so shall they burn odours for thee; and they will lament thee, saying, Ah lord! for I have pronounced the word, saith the LORD. (This would have happened only if Zedekiah had listened to the Lord; instead, he sent to Egypt to get mercenaries to fight against Babylon, and he died like a dog, in disgrace, for having defied God's advice)

⁶Then Jeremiah the prophet spake all these words unto Zedekiah king of Judah in Jerusalem, (Jeremiah always obeyed God, regardless of the consequences to himself. He trusted God to protect him)

⁷When the king of Babylon's army fought against Jerusalem, and against all the cities of Judah that were left, against Lachish, and against Azekah: for these defenced cities remained of the cities of Judah.

⁸This is the word that came unto Jeremiah from the LORD, after that the king Zedekiah had made a covenant with all the people which were

at Jerusalem, to proclaim liberty unto them; (Zedekiah gave them all liberty in hopes that they would fight for him against the Chaldeans. It didn't help him)

⁹That every man should let his manservant, and every man his maidservant, being an Hebrew or an Hebrewess, go free; that none should serve himself of them, to wit, of a Jew his brother.

¹⁰Now when all the princes, and all the people, which had entered into the covenant, heard that every one should let his manservant, and every one his maidservant, go free, that none should serve themselves of them any more, then they obeyed, and let them go.

¹¹But afterward they turned, and caused the servants and the handmaids, whom they had let go free, to return, and brought them into subjection for servants and for handmaids. (They couldn't even keep that agreement; they broke their word with their own people. These people had become worthless, with no integrity. Their word meant nothing)

¹²Therefore the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,

¹³Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel; I made a covenant with your fathers in the day that I brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondmen, saying,

¹⁴At the end of seven years let ye go every man his brother an Hebrew, which hath been sold unto thee; and when he hath served thee six years, thou shalt let him go free from thee: but your fathers hearkened not unto me, neither inclined their ear. (A bondservant could only serve 6 years max. After 6 years, the law was to set them free of their debt)

¹⁵And ye were now turned, and had done right in my sight, in proclaiming liberty every man to his neighbour; and ye had made a covenant before me in the house which is called by my name: (They made a promise in the temple, before God)

¹⁶But ye turned and polluted my name, and caused every man his servant, and every man his handmaid, whom he had set at liberty at their pleasure, to return, and brought them into subjection, to be unto you for servants and for handmaids. (When they got over their fright of the Chaldeans, they broke their oath to the people that they had set

free. These people had become habitual contract breakers and liars. Their word wasn't worth anything)

¹⁷ Therefore thus saith the LORD; Ye have not hearkened unto me, in proclaiming liberty, every one to his brother, and every man to his neighbour: behold, I proclaim a liberty for you, saith the LORD, to the sword, to the pestilence, and to the famine; and I will make you to be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth. (Judgment for Zedekiah, and all these Jews; they were thrown out of pretty much every country throughout the centuries since those days. Even today, the Jews are fighting to keep their homeland)

¹⁸ And I will give the men that have transgressed my covenant, which have not performed the words of the covenant which they had made before me, when they cut the calf in twain, and passed between the parts thereof, Genesis-15:9-10 (That was the method of swearing a contract to God – walking between the 2 parts of a sacrifice to God)

(Today, we do not sacrifice animals to God; we give God our love as our offering)

¹⁹ The princes of Judah, and the princes of Jerusalem, the eunuchs, and the priests, and all the people of the land, which passed between the parts of the calf; (The leaders of the city & of the temple - all those that made the contract, and then broke it)

²⁰ I will even give them into the hand of their enemies, and into the hand of them that seek their life: and their dead bodies shall be for meat unto the fowls of the heaven, and to the beasts of the earth. (They were judged to death)

²¹ And Zedekiah king of Judah and his princes will I give into the hand of their enemies, and into the hand of them that seek their life, and into the hand of the king of Babylon's army, which are gone up from you. (Zedekiah and all his sons were killed by Nebuchadnezzar. His daughters were spared, and went into Egypt with Jeremiah. They later went to the British Isles and established new kingdoms there)

²² Behold, I will command, saith the LORD, and cause them to return to this city; and they shall fight against it, and take it, and burn it with fire: and I will make the cities of Judah a desolation without an inhabitant. (God was through with Zedekiah and his ilk. He ended the nation of Judah, but not the people. Those who obeyed God did just fine in Babylon and afterwards. Those who refused to obey died)

