

Jeremiah 38

King James Version (KJV)

38 Then Shephatiah the son of Mattan, and Gedaliah the son of Pashur, and Jucal the son of Shelemiah, and Pashur the son of Malchiah, heard the words that Jeremiah had spoken unto all the people, saying,

²Thus saith the LORD, He that remaineth in this city shall die by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence: but he that goeth forth to the Chaldeans shall live; for he shall have his life for a prey, and shall live. (God judged Judah and condemned it for their corruption, idolatry and perversion. The people that accept and obey His word will do well. Those who still fight against Him will die)

see chapter-17:5 (cursed be the man who puts his faith in man, instead of God)

³Thus saith the LORD, This city shall surely be given into the hand of the king of Babylon's army, which shall take it. (They still refuse to believe God)

⁴Therefore the princes said unto the king, We beseech thee, let this man be put to death: for thus he weakeneth the hands of the men of war that remain in this city, and the hands of all the people, in speaking such words unto them: for this man seeketh not the welfare of this people, but the hurt. (They want to murder him for preaching God's Word) (Future – antichrist will deceive the whole world. Those who are faithful to God will testify against him, and will be hated by the whole world)

⁵Then Zedekiah the king said, Behold, he is in your hand: for the king is not he that can do any thing against you. (Zedekiah is telling them to go do it, as long as he has no part in Jeremiah's murder)

⁶Then took they Jeremiah, and cast him into the dungeon of Malchiah the son of Hammelech, that was in the court of the prison: and they let down Jeremiah with cords. And in the dungeon there was no water, but mire: so Jeremiah sunk in the mire. (They put him in an old cistern; He was neck deep in mud, hanging by ropes under his arms. This would be a slow painful way to die)

⁷Now when Ebedmelech the Ethiopian, one of the eunuchs which was in the king's house, heard that they had put Jeremiah in the dungeon;

the king then sitting in the gate of Benjamin; (He wasn't even an Israelite. He was a gentile) (Ebedmelech = servant of the king) (Meanwhile the king is doing nothing about Jeremiah's predicament)

⁸ Ebedmelech went forth out of the king's house, and spake to the king saying,

⁹ My lord the king, these men have done evil in all that they have done to Jeremiah the prophet, whom they have cast into the dungeon; and he is like to die for hunger in the place where he is: for there is no more bread in the city. (A gentile was the only one pleading Jeremiah's case to the king. Not a single Israelite did) (By now the siege was in full force and people were out of food in Jerusalem)

¹⁰ Then the king commanded Ebedmelech the Ethiopian, saying, Take from hence thirty men with thee, and take up Jeremiah the prophet out of the dungeon, before he die. (Was Zedekiah just trying to look innocent now that there were witnesses? Or did he have compassion for Jeremiah's plight? Either way, God saw to it that Jeremiah was rescued) (Note: 30 is also the number of shekels that was paid to betray Jesus)

¹¹ So Ebedmelech took the men with him, and went into the house of the king under the treasury, and took thence old cast clouts and old rotten rags, and let them down by cords into the dungeon to Jeremiah.

¹² And Ebedmelech the Ethiopian said unto Jeremiah, Put now these old cast clouts and rotten rags under thine armholes under the cords. And Jeremiah did so. (The ropes were cutting into Jeremiah. These rags were to cushion Jeremiah's wounds)

¹³ So they drew up Jeremiah with cords, and took him up out of the dungeon: and Jeremiah remained in the court of the prison. (He saved Jeremiah's life) see 1Corinthians-10:13

¹⁴ Then Zedekiah the king sent, and took Jeremiah the prophet unto him into the third entry that is in the house of the LORD: and the king said unto Jeremiah, I will ask thee a thing; hide nothing from me.

¹⁵ Then Jeremiah said unto Zedekiah, If I declare it unto thee, wilt thou not surely put me to death? and if I give thee counsel, wilt thou not hearken unto me? (If he speaks the truth, Zedekiah will have him killed)

¹⁶ So Zedekiah the king swore secretly unto Jeremiah, saying, As the LORD liveth, that made us this soul, I will not put thee to death, neither will I give thee into the hand of these men that seek thy life.

¹⁷ Then said Jeremiah unto Zedekiah, Thus saith the LORD, the God of hosts, the God of Israel; If thou wilt assuredly go forth unto the king of Babylon's princes, then thy soul shall live, and this city shall not be burned with fire; and thou shalt live, and thine house: **(Listen to God, and live)**

¹⁸ But if thou wilt not go forth to the king of Babylon's princes, then shall this city be given into the hand of the Chaldeans, and they shall burn it with fire, and thou shalt not escape out of their hand.

¹⁹ And Zedekiah the king said unto Jeremiah, I am afraid of the Jews that are fallen to the Chaldeans, lest they deliver me into their hand, and they mock me. **(Zedekiah's own fears are destroying him. Daniel and his friends would not have mocked him)**

²⁰ But Jeremiah said, They shall not deliver thee. Obey, I beseech thee, the voice of the LORD, which I speak unto thee: so it shall be well unto thee, and thy soul shall live.

²¹ But if thou refuse to go forth, this is the word that the LORD hath shewed me:

²² And, behold, all the women that are left in the king of Judah's house shall be brought forth to the king of Babylon's princes, and those women shall say, Thy friends have set thee on, and have prevailed against thee: thy feet are sunk in the mire, and they are turned away back. **(The Egyptians have played you, and then deserted you, to your doom. It will be Zedekiah's own family that will mock him and call him a fool)**

²³ So they shall bring out all thy wives and thy children to the Chaldeans: and thou shalt not escape out of their hand, but shalt be taken by the hand of the king of Babylon: and thou shalt cause this city to be burned with fire.

²⁴ Then said Zedekiah unto Jeremiah, Let no man know of these words, and thou shalt not die. **(Zedekiah is whimpering out again)**

²⁵ But if the princes hear that I have talked with thee, and they come unto thee, and say unto thee, Declare unto us now what thou hast said

unto the king, hide it not from us, and we will not put thee to death; also what the king said unto thee:

²⁶ Then thou shalt say unto them, I presented my supplication before the king, that he would not cause me to return to Jonathan's house, to die there. (Zedekiah was telling Jeremiah to lie to them – only tell them part of the truth)

²⁷ Then came all the princes unto Jeremiah, and asked him: and he told them according to all these words that the king had commanded. So they left off speaking with him; for the matter was not perceived. (This is why the sons of Zedekiah would die. They fought against God right to the end, and they tried to kill Jeremiah)

²⁸ So Jeremiah abode in the court of the prison until the day that Jerusalem was taken: and he was there when Jerusalem was taken.

NOTE: After Nebuchadnezzar took Jerusalem, he blinded Zedekiah and killed his sons. He released Jeremiah, who took Zedekiah's daughters to Egypt and later to Ireland and Britain where they called him Ollam Fodhla. He presented the princess Tamar Tephi to the Heremon and they were wed at Tara around 583 BC. Ollam Fodhla means a very wise man in Gaelic. Also, Zedekiah's daughter Scota married into Scotland royalty. Scotland was later named for her. – History, not scripture