### Jeremiah

## Chapter 37

1Well thereafter, ZedekiAh (son of JosiAh) started reigning in place of ConiJah (son of JehoiAkim), whom NebuChadNezzar the king of Babylon had appointed to reign in the land of Judah. 2But he, his servants, and the people of the land wouldn’t listen to the words that Jehovah had spoken through JeremiAh either.  
  
3Yet later, King ZedekiAh sent JehuKal (son of ShelemiAh) and ZephaniAh (son of MaAseJah) the Priest to JeremiAh to say this to him:  
  
 ‘Please pray to Jehovah your God for us.’  
  
4Well at the time, JeremiAh was free to come and go in the city as he wished, because they hadn’t locked him up yet. 5However, when the Chaldeans heard that the armies of PharaOh were marching from the land of Egypt, they [started their attack] on JeruSalem. 6And that’s when the Word of Jehovah came to JeremiAh and said:  
  
 7‘Jehovah the God of IsraEl says that you are to go and shout these words to the king of Judah – the person who sent you to inquire of Me:  
  
 ‘{Look!} This army of PharaOh that is marching to help you  
 Will turn and flee back into Egypt.  
 8And then the Chaldeans will come here  
 To wage war on this city…  
 They will take it and burn it with fire!’  
  
 9‘Jehovah says:  
  
 ‘Now your souls shouldn’t think about saying,  
 ‘The Chaldeans will turn back once more,’  
 For there is no way this will happen!  
  
 10‘And if you should beat the Chaldeans  
 Who are coming to wage war against you;  
 Even the wounded that they leave behind  
 Will arise and burn this city with fire.’  
  
11Well, that’s what happened… Soon the Chaldean armies [attacked] JeruSalem right in front of the armies of PharaOh.  
  
  
12Meanwhile, JeremiAh had left JeruSalem and gone to the land of BenJamin to purchase some land there among his people. 13But when he arrived at the gates of BenJamin, IriJah (son of ShelemiAh and grandson of HananiAh) had him arrested. He seized JeremiAh and accused him of running away to the Chaldeans. 14Yet, although [JeremiAh] told him that was a lie and he wasn’t running away to the Chaldeans, IriJah refused to listen. He arrested JeremiAh and took him before the local rulers.  
  
15Then, because the rulers [hated] JeremiAh, they had him flogged and sent him to the house of JoNathan the scribe, which had been turned into a prison. 16There JeremiAh [was thrown] into an [outhouse] pit [near] the [main] house, where he was confined for several days.  
  
17Fortunately, King ZedekiAh thereafter sent for him, and the king asked him secretly if he had received any word from Jehovah. And JeremiAh replied:  
  
 ‘Yes… He says that you’ll be handed over to the king of Babylon!’  
  
18Then JeremiAh asked the king this:  
  
 ‘How have I wronged you, your servants, or your people, so that you would have me thrown into a prison latrine… 19And where are those prophets that prophesied to you and told you there’s no way that the king of Babylon will ever come into this land?  
  
 20‘Now, hear this, O Lord, O king; you must show mercy on me as I’m standing here before you… You must not return me to the house of JoNathan the scribe and allow me to die there!’  
  
21So the king gave orders, and then they locked JeremiAh in the guard house, where they provided him with a loaf of bread each day (which was baked outside of the city, because there was no bread left there). And after that, JeremiAh stayed in the courtyard of the guards.