### Jeremiah

## Chapter 40

1Then the Word of Jehovah came to JeremiAh again after he had been led off in shackles by NabuZarAdan (the chief of the guards) and after he’d been separated from the rest of the Judeans who were being relocated from RamAh to [the empire of] Babylon. 2And as the chief of the guards was leading him away, he said this to JeremiAh:  
  
 ‘Your God Jehovah spoke to you against this place and against all of its badness, 3and then the Lord did just as He said He would do, because you had all sinned against Him and you refused to listen to His voice. So, these things that happened to you are just the things that He said He would do.  
  
 4‘Therefore, after I remove the manacles from your hands, you can choose to travel with me to Babylon where I’ll watch out for you, or you can just run away from here! Look… The whole land before you is good! So you can go anywhere that pleases your eyes, 5or you can choose to return to GedaliAh son of AhiKam, grandson of ShaPhan, whom the king of Babylon has appointed to be over the land of Judah, and you can live among your people under him… Yes, if it seems good in your eyes to go there, then go!’  
  
Well after that, the chief of the guards held a feast for JeremiAh and they gave him some gifts before sending him away. 6Then [JeremiAh] went to GedaliAh at MizPah and stayed among the people who’d been left behind in the land.  
  
  
7Meanwhile, when all the [Judean] generals who were still in the fields with their armies heard that the king of Babylon had appointed GedaliAh to be over the land, they brought their men and their wives to him, along with the simple people and the poor of the land… All those who hadn’t been relocated by the Babylonians.  
  
8Then IshMaEl (son of NethaniAh), JoHanan (son of KareAh), SeraiAh (son of TanHumeth), the sons of EphAi the NetoPhathite, and JezaniAh (son of the MaAchathite) came to GedaliAh at MizPah… They and all their men went to him. 9And GedaliAh swore an oath to them and their men, saying:  
  
 ‘You will no longer have anything to fear from the servants of the Chaldeans. Therefore, I urge you to come and live in this land and work for the king of Babylon, since this would be the best thing for you to do!  
  
 10‘{Look!} As I’m sitting here in MizPah, I’m doing so before the faces of the Chaldeans, and [they’re protecting us from anyone] who might come against us. So, collect your wine, autumn fruits, and olive oil in jars, then come and live in these cities that we’ve been able to retain!’  
  
11Well, when those Judeans who were in MoAb and all the rest who had stayed among the sons of AmMon (those who’d been scattered throughout the land of Edom) heard that the king of Babylon had given an allotment to Judah and that he had appointed GedaliAh (son of AhiKam) to be over them, 12they each returned from the places where they’d been scattered and they gathered to GedaliAh in MizPah in the land of Judah, bringing along all their wine, autumn fruits, and a tremendous amount of olive oil.  
  
13However, JoHanan (son of KareAh) and all the generals of the armies who were still in the fields then went to GedaliAh at MizPah 14and they warned him, saying:  
  
 ‘Don’t you know that BaAl Ish, the king of the sons of AmMon, is sending IshMaEl son of NathaniAh to [assassinate] you?’  
  
But GedaliAh (son of AhiKam) just didn’t believe them.  
  
15Then JoHanan (son of KareAh) went and spoke to GedaliAh in secret there in MizPah.  
  
He told him:  
  
 ‘I will go and strike down IshMaEl son of NathaniAh… However, don’t tell anyone! For he’s going to kill you and scatter all the Judeans who have gathered here with you, then he will wipe out the rest of Judah!’  
  
16But GedaliAh told JoHanan (son of KareAh):  
  
 ‘Don’t you dare to do this thing… For you’re really lying about IshMaEl!’