### Jeremiah

## Chapter 42

1Well, they traveled on from there – all the generals, JoHanan (son of KareAh), JezaniAh (son of HoshaiAh), and all the people from the least to the greatest – and they went to JeremiAh the Prophet and said this:  
  
 2‘May our need for mercy fall before you! Please pray to Jehovah your God about all these things; for there were once as many of us as your eyes could see, but now we are so few. 3Tell us which way Jehovah your God says we should go, and that’s the way we will go!’  
  
4And JeremiAh the Prophet said to them:  
  
 ‘I’ve heard you, so {Look!} I will pray to Jehovah our God about the things you’ve said, and then I’ll announce to you whatever Jehovah tells me to say… There’s no way that I’ll hide a single word from you!’  
  
5Then they replied to JeremiAh:  
  
 ‘May Jehovah be a righteous and trustworthy witness against us if we fail to follow every word that Jehovah your God sends to us. 6We will obey [every word] from the voice of our God Jehovah, the One we’re sending you to, whether it’s for the good or for the bad! We’ll pay attention and listen to the voice of our God Jehovah, so that things will go well for us!’  
  
7Well, it was 10 days later that the Word of Jehovah finally came to JeremiAh. 8So he called for JoHanan (son of KareAh), the generals, and all the people (from the least to the greatest), 9and he said this to them:  
  
 ‘Jehovah the God of IsraEl to whom you sent me, has heard all your prayers before Him. 10[He told me to tell you this]:  
  
 ‘If you wish to survive, you must stay in this land,  
 For I’ll build you up, not wipe you away…  
 I’ll plant you and not pluck you out…  
 I’ll bring you rest from the bad that I’ve sent.  
  
 11‘So don’t worry about Babylon’s king,  
 The one whose face you now fear…  
 No, don’t be afraid,’ says Jehovah;  
 ‘For I’m with you, and I will save you…  
 From his hands, I will save you!  
  
 12‘I will grant you this one act of kindness,  
 And I will show mercy upon you…  
 For I’ll take you back to your land.  
  
 13‘But if you should say to yourselves,  
 ‘No way will we stay in this land,’  
 And you fail to obey the voice of your God…  
 14If you should say: ‘There’s no way…  
 For we’ve chosen to go down to Egypt  
 So that we will no longer know fighting  
 Or hear the sounds of the trumpets,  
 Nor will we go hungry, because there’s no bread…  
 Yes, we’ll [go down to Egypt] and live there...’  
  
 15‘Then, hear the Word of Jehovah,  
 O you remnant of Judah!  
 For Jehovah of Armies, the God of IsraEl says this:  
  
 ‘If you point your faces towards Egypt,  
 And enter [that land] and then plan to stay…  
 16The broadsword that you are now facing  
 – The one of which you’re in fear –  
 Will also find you in Egypt.  
 And the famine that you have been facing  
 Will also overtake you in Egypt…  
 So, there is where you will die!  
  
 17‘Yes, all those men whose faces are set  
 To go down to Egypt and live,  
 Will fall by the broadsword, famine, and plague…  
 None will survive all the evils  
 That I will be bringing upon them!’  
  
 18‘Then Jehovah of Armies, the God of IsraEl, said this:  
  
 ‘As My rage has dripped on JeruSalem,  
 My rage will then drip upon you,  
 Should you choose to go down into Egypt.  
  
 ‘You’ll become a land that’s unwalked,  
 And come under the hands of other men…  
 You’ll be a cursed [people] who’s scorned,  
 And never again will you see this [land]!’  
  
 19‘Yes, this is what Jehovah spoke against you, O remaining ones of Judah… You must not go down into Egypt!  
  
 ‘Now, you’re aware of all this, for I’ve testified to you about it today! 20But you [weren’t really being honest] with yourselves when you sent me to Jehovah your God and said:  
  
 ‘Pray to the Lord for us and we’ll do whatever Jehovah our God tells us… Whatever He says, we will do!’  
  
 21‘And now, although I’ve warned you, you won’t listen to the voice of Jehovah your God and follow [the words] that He sent to you.  
  
 ‘So, by means of the broadsword, famine, and plague  
 You will come to your end in that place  
 Where you’ve chosen to go and to live.’