

# (Through the Bible) Jeremiah 41-45

by Chuck Smith

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*God warns the people of Judah not to leave for Egypt, but to stay in the land and obey Him, promising to build and plant them and not to pull them down or pluck them up.*

**Duration:** 1:20:50

**Scripture:** Deuteronomy 32:39, Jeremiah 36:4-42

**Topics:** "Gods Timing", "Faithful Living"

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## Description

In this sermon, the speaker emphasizes the importance of trusting in God's timing rather than relying on our own limited perspective. He shares personal experiences of feeling like God had missed His chance, only to later realize that God was working according to His eternal clock. The speaker warns of the impending judgment of God, as described in the Bible, and encourages listeners to pray and commit their lives to God in order to be part of the faithful remnant. He also cautions against being consumed by worldly pleasures and distractions, as they can prevent us from being prepared for the coming judgment.

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## Transcript

Tonight, let's turn to Jeremiah chapter 41 as we continue our study through the Bible. Now, these are prophecies that Jeremiah made to the people after Nebuchadnezzar had come and carried away King Zedekiah as a captive to Babylon and left the poor of the people in the land and he gave unto Gedaliah the office of governor over the people that remained there in the land. Jeremiah was given his choice of going to Babylon where he was promised special treatment or of staying in the land with the people.

And Jeremiah opted for staying in the land with the people. And so Jeremiah continued then to prophesy to the people that remained there in the land. Now he dates this particular prophecy in the seventh month that Ishmael, the son of Nethaniah, who was of the royal seed and the princes of the king, even ten men that were with him, came to Gedaliah, the son of Ahikam, to Mizpah and there they did eat bread together in Mizpah.

Now this would have been about three months after Zedekiah had been taken away captive. Now, Johanan had warned the governor, Gedaliah, that this fellow Ishmael was no good. He said, the king of the Ammonites has really sent him to murder you.

He said, let me go out secretly and I'll take care of him. He's really no good. He's intending to assassinate you.

But Gedaliah says, ah, you've been reading too many mystery novels, you know. That's not so at all. And so, Gedaliah did not heed the warning of Johanan.

Now about 30 days after Johanan had given him this warning, of course, Johanan had left Mizpah, that in the seventh month, now this was the month in which, of course, they gathered for worship. It was the month of the latter part of September, the early part of October in the Jewish calendar. And it was that important month for their various feasts, the Feast of Tabernacles, the Feast of Trumpets, the Yom Kippur.

All of that took place at this particular time. And so, no doubt, this Ishmael came and he was of the royal seed. He wasn't a descendant of Zedekiah because all of Zedekiah's sons were wiped out.

But he was probably a nephew to Zedekiah. At least he felt that he had a right to the throne and was no doubt upset that Nebuchadnezzar had set Gedaliah, who was not from the royal seed at all, as the governor over the land. And so he came, no doubt under the guise as a friend to worship, and Gedaliah received him and they ate bread together.

There in Mizpah, which he had set up as the capital because Jerusalem had been devastated. Then Ishmael arose and the ten men that were with him and they smote Gedaliah with a sword and they killed him whom the king of Babylon had made governor over the land. And Ishmael also slew all the Jews that were with him there at Mizpah and the Chaldeans that were there, that is the men of war.

Now, all is to be thought of not in a literal sense, but all of those that might rise up against him, all of the military men that were there, all of the men that had surrounded him, his officers and those that were his military men who could retaliate against Ishmael. So it came to pass the second day after he had slain Gedaliah that they had been able to keep it a secret, no one knew it, that there was coming certain men from Shechem and Shiloh and Samaria, 80 men who had their beards shaved and their clothes were rent and they had cut themselves with offerings and incense in their hand to bring them to the house of the Lord. Now, under the law if you wanted to make a special vow to God you would shave yourself and you would tear your clothes, you'd wear rags.

But it was forbidden to cut yourselves. God didn't want them making any markings on their bodies and quite often in the pagan worship people would cut themselves. You remember when the prophets of Bel were in contest with Elijah on Mount Carmel and they had built their altars and the conditions were that the God who answered by fire would be the God.

And it said that these prophets of Bel prayed until about lunchtime and Elijah began to sort of kid around with them and say, I bet your God's on a vacation or maybe he's gone to the bathroom. Why don't you cry a little louder? Elijah was a coarse fellow and the Bible says he was and so he was just, you know, that kind of a guy. And so these guys, it says, began to cut themselves.

That was typical in the pagan worship of defiling your body. They would cut themselves with their nails, scratch themselves until they bleed or they would take knives and slash themselves before their gods. So that these 80 men who were coming with their offering unto the Lord and with their incense were a sort of a strange admixture but you remember they're coming out of Samaria and Shechem and Shiloh.

Now, when Israel had been taken away captive by the Assyrian king, he sent other people into the land so that there was probably the admixture of these religious systems and because it was the seventh month, it would appear that these men were probably going to Jerusalem because Ishmael, when he meets them,

he invites them. He says, well, come and see Gedaliah. Turn in and see Gedaliah.

Of course, they didn't know and maybe he was testing to see if they knew about Gedaliah being slain. Now, the reason why he turned on these men is to keep them from spreading the word. He was trying to keep the word from going out that Gedaliah had been killed because he feared that the other people might come and get him if they found out.

So he wanted to really establish himself firmly in the position of the ruler of the land and keep the news from going out until he could really secure himself in that position and then it would have been too late for anybody to react or respond. So he went out to these 18 men and he invited them. He said in the last part of verse 6, Come to Gedaliah, the son of Ahicham.

And it was so when they came into the midst of the city that Ishmael slew them and cast them in the middle of the pit, he and the men that were with him. But 10 men among them said unto Ishmael, Don't kill us, for we have hid treasures in the field of wheat and of barley and of oil and of honey. Now, this didn't mean that they had crops out in the field because at the seventh month all of the barley and wheat crops were already in.

But they had to hide them, the barley and all. They would dig pits and put them in them to keep the enemy from discovering them and finding them and ripping them off. And so they said, Hey, we've got these treasures.

We've hid them in our fields. We've got some honey and barley and wheat and all. And it was really a ransom that they were offering for themselves.

So he did not slay them from among their brethren. Now this pit that he threw them was the pit that Asa, the king, had dug probably to get a fresh water supply within the city when Basha, the king of Israel, was ready to attack them. And so he filled this pit with these dead bodies.

Verse 10, Then Ishmael carried away captive all of the residue of the people that were there at Mishpah. He took all of the rest of the people as captives and he was heading back towards Ammon. And even the king's daughters, probably the daughters of Zedekiah, they left them, they killed his sons, but there's no reason to kill the girls.

They couldn't do much anyhow. And so all of the people that remained in Mishpah who Nebuchadnezzar, the captain of the guard, had committed to Gedaliah. Ishmael carried them away and departed to go over to the Ammonites.

But when Johanan, now he was the one that had warned Gedaliah that this guy is out to kill you and he was wanting Gedaliah's permission to go and kill him first. The son of Korea and all of the captains of the forces that were with him heard of all of the evil that Ishmael, the son of Nethaniah, had done that they took all of the men and went to fight with Ishmael and they found him at the great waters that are in Gibeon. Now to go from Mishpah to Gibeon is not a direct route to Ammon but he was probably going to pick up the loot that these guys said that they had hid.

In Gibeon there were these beautiful pools of water. We remember that the men of Ishbatheth and David met by the pools of Gibeon sitting on either side and then the generals had the guys fighting and killing each other for their own sport. They're at the pools of Gibeon.

So there at Gibeon Johanan caught up with the people and when all of the people saw Johanan they left Ishmael and Ishmael of course escaped and returned to Ammon. Then Johanan verse 16 and all of his captains and the forces that were with him and all of the remnant of the people that he had recovered from Ishmael they were brought again from Gibeon and they departed and dwelt in Chimham which is by Bethlehem. In other words they started south toward Egypt.

They were fearful now of the retaliation of Nebuchadnezzar because Gedoliah had been slain. And so they were heading south now and were as far as Chimham which was near Bethlehem and so it indicates that they already had purposed in their hearts to go to Egypt. It's something they'd already determined to do.

Because of the Chaldeans for they were afraid of them because Ishmael the son of Nethaniah had killed Gedoliah and he was the appointed governor of from the Babylonian Nebuchadnezzar. So in chapter 42 then all of the captains of the forces and Johanan the son of Korea they came unto Jeremiah and said unto him we beg you that you will accept our supplication and pray for us unto the Lord or unto Jehovah thy God even for all of this remnant for we are just a few of the many as your eyes behold us. In other words there's just a few of us left.

Now pray to the Lord your God for us that the Lord or Jehovah thy God may show us the way wherein we may walk and the thing that we may do. So they're asking now that Jeremiah will seek the Lord for guidance. Now notice that they are saying the Lord thy God or Jehovah thy God and when Jeremiah answers them he said I will pray unto Jehovah your God.

They are saying to Jeremiah pray to Jehovah thy God not really acknowledging Jehovah as their own God in the request. But Jeremiah turns it around and says I will pray unto Jehovah thy God and then later on he mentions Jehovah our God. So he said I will pray unto Jehovah your God according to your words and it shall come to pass that whatever Jehovah shall answer you I will declare it to you.

I will not keep anything back from you. Then they said to Jeremiah Jehovah be a true and faithful witness between us if we do not even according to all the things which Jehovah thy God shall send thee to us whether it is good or whether it is evil we will obey the voice of Jehovah our God. So they acknowledge Jehovah and of course this is when you this is what it's all about when obedience when he is Jehovah your God then that it just has the intimation of obedience that's what worshipping or serving God is all about that is submission to God as Lord of our lives and God being a title is the title of that master of your life what is it that masters your life? That's your God.

People say well I don't believe in God that's not true. Everybody is mastered by some principle some ideal and whatever it is that masters your life that is your God. So when you acknowledge God you're acknowledging whatever force or guiding or directing principle there is in your life and you're always obedient to that guiding force or principle of your life.

So inquire now here they are look we promise we will obey whatever the Lord tells us if it's good or if it's bad we'll obey it the Lord judge between us we're going to obey it so it came to pass after 10 days now this is interesting to me because Jeremiah no doubt had a pretty good connection you know we read all the way through how the word of the Lord was coming to Jeremiah in so many different situations and here he is coming to the Lord now for a specific purpose to receive instruction and guidance from God for these people who are asking him to seek the Lord for them and it's interesting to me that he did not hear for 10 days how often when we come to God are we looking and expecting for an immediate response and

if God doesn't speak in the first five minutes that I give him the

opportunity well then I'll try something else you know after all I've waited here for five minutes to give God a chance to talk to me and yet here is Jeremiah waiting for 10 days to hear the word of the Lord God's timing does not always coincide with mine I so often look at a situation and I say well Lord as I see it you have just about five hours to take care of this situation and if in the next five hours you don't do something it's down the tubes it's too late so you've got five hours to do your work Lord then I come back say well Lord 60 minutes that's about all you've got Lord you've got about five minutes oh Lord you're too late you had your chance too bad now I'm gonna have to step in and do something Lord because you didn't make it and there are so many cases where I was so

certain that God missed his chance and yet I found out later that I was just ahead of God's schedule I was going by my watch and he was going by his eternal clock and God worked and God did it and I thought it's too late he can't do it now there have been times that I was sure it's just too late Lord oh God you could have done it why didn't you do it Lord now it's too late you know often times God delays the answers to prayer in order that he might give more you remember when Hannah had gone with her husband Elkanah in order to offer their sacrifices unto the Lord and Elkanah looked at her and he says how come you're so depressed she said oh your other wife and I have been having a real time she said you give me a son he said am I God that I can give you a son the other wife was having

lots of kids she couldn't have any that was a disgrace in that culture and it was obvious that Elkanah loved her more than he did his other wife I can see that polygamy would have all kinds of problems who can handle one and these wives were at each other and this other one was really getting to Hannah because she didn't have any children and so she said give me a son or I perish and he said am I God that I can give you a child he said but look you've got me aren't I worth many sons to you that didn't work she didn't answer him but her silence said a lot so when they came to the house of the Lord she was in such bitterness over this whole issue that she was there on the temple steps the temple wasn't built then but there on the steps of the court of the place of worship tabernacle and she

was pouring out her soul to God in deep bitterness and so much so that she wasn't even uttering the words just her mouth was moving but she wasn't uttering the words and Eli the priest came by and looked at her there in that you know just tense and strained condition and he said woman you better leave the bottle alone it'll take you to the bottom she said I'm not drunk sir I'm not a woman of wine she said my soul is bitterly grieved before God and he said go your way God grant your request well what she was praying was God if you'll just give me a son I'll give him back to you all the days of his life well you see the condition of Israel was so low that God couldn't find any man to lead the people God needed a man God couldn't find a man so he had to find a woman in order to get a man and

he got her attention by closing up her womb and making her childless and no doubt she had prayed many many times that God would give her a child take away the disgrace of her barrenness but God waited God delayed the answer God was intending all the time to answer her prayer but God needed a man and so he delayed the answer until her prayer came into harmony with the will of God Lord if you'll just give me a man child I'll give him back to you alright now you're in harmony with the purpose of God and she bore a son and she called his name Samuel and he became one of the greatest leaders of Israel leading them out of sure tragedy in that particular period of history and became a marvelous prophet and priest of God God delayed the prayer answering the prayer in order that he might give more

God often times does that for us Jeremiah waited for ten days and the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah and so he called Johanan and all of those captains that were with him and all of the people together down near Bethlehem they're on their road towards Egypt and he said unto them thus saith Jehovah the God of Israel unto whom ye sent me to present your supplication before him if you will still abide in this land then will I build you and not pull you down and I will plant you and not pluck you up for I repent me of the evil that I have done unto you and again here the idea of repent it's a term that we use of God because we describe the actions of God in human terms but we read that God is not a man Deuteronomy that he should repent hath he not spoken shall he not perform it but yet God

is saying I have changed from the evil or I've completed the evil that I've purposed upon you and I'm not going to bring any further evil basically is what God is saying don't be afraid of the king of Babylon of whom you are afraid for I am with you to save you and to deliver you from his hand and I will show mercies unto you that he may have mercy upon you and cause you to return your own land now don't be afraid of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon you don't need to fear him you are afraid of him but you don't need to be afraid of him for I will have mercy upon you and I will give you mercy in his eyes that he will return you to the land but if you say we will not dwell in this land neither obey the voice of the Lord your God saying no we will go into the land of Egypt where we shall

see no war nor hear the sound of the trumpet nor have hunger of bread and there will we dwell so this is what was in the back of their minds in going to Egypt we'll be able to escape war we won't hear the sound of trumpet that is the trumpets that are calling the troops to battle we'll not have hunger and there will we dwell so their going to Egypt was a case of convenience it was a peace at any price kind of a thing we'll escape from war the sound of the trumpets of war and there we'll have ease we'll eat bread and have plenty now therefore hear the word of the Lord ye remnant of Judah thus saith the Lord of hosts the God of Israel if you wholly set your faces to enter into Egypt and go to sojourn there then it shall come to pass that the sword which you feared will overtake you and the

famine of which you are afraid will follow close after you there in Egypt and there you will die so shall it be when the men that set their faces to go to Egypt to sojourn there they shall die by the sword by the famine by the pestilence and none of them shall remain or escape from the evil that I will bring upon them for thus saith the Lord of hosts the God of Israel as my anger and fury has been poured forth upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem so shall my fury be poured forth upon you when you enter into Egypt and you shall be an excretion and an astonishment and a curse and a reproach and ye shall see this place no more the Lord has said concerning you O remnant of Judah go not into Egypt know certainly that I have admonished you this day for you have dissembled in your hearts when you

sent me to the Lord your God saying pray us unto the Lord our God and our God whatever our God says or declares to us that we will do you were deceitful you were not telling the truth when you vowed to obey the voice of the Lord and now I have this day declared it to you but you have not obeyed the voice of the Lord your God nor anything for the which he has sent me unto you now therefore know certainly that ye shall die by the sword and by the famine and by the pestilence in the place whether you desire to go and sojourn now here is a classic example of proper counseling by a minister or by a pastor as pastors we really are not here to give you legal advice nor are we here to give you medical advice nor are we here to give you psychological counseling we are here to give spiritual

counseling to people and to talk to them concerning their spiritual problems and that's all that we're qualified to do and if a person comes for counsel and their problem is legal then all we can do is send you

to an attorney if it's medical we can send you to a doctor if it's a deep psychological problem then we can send you to a psychologist we're here to counsel people on the spiritual things and to give to you the word of the Lord on spiritual issues now we cannot force your action all we can do is give you the alternatives here's what the Lord says about this if you stay here then this is what God is going to do for you and this is what God has promised to do if you go down there then this is what is going to happen and this is what the Lord says will happen if you go down there and

that's all we can do is lay out the alternatives from a spiritual standpoint and what the word of God says about the alternatives but you have to always make your own choice and own decision of what you are going to do and really we can't tell you what to do all we can do is give you the word of the Lord and lay the alternatives before you and then you make your decision on what you want to do the choice is always yours all we can do is lay out the choices and the result of the choices and then you must decide which path you are going to take so look how effectively Jeremiah did that now look if you stay in the land you don't need to be afraid of Nebuchadnezzar because God will plant you here and God will be with you and He'll give you mercies and you'll find mercies before Nebuchadnezzar

and all and you're going to prosper you'll be blessed if you go down to Egypt because you think that you can escape war down there you think that you can have plenty of bread and you think it's going to be well down there the very things that you're trying to escape are going to follow you down there the sword will follow you there the famine will follow you there war and the famine that you're worried about here they'll follow you there and you'll die in Egypt you'll never come back to the land again you're going to perish in Egypt it's all over if you go down there that's it, it's over for you and so he told them what the Lord had said and the Lord just gave to them the various choices and the consequence of each choice so it came to pass when Jeremiah was through speaking to all of the

people the words of Jehovah their God then spake Azariah and Johanna and all of the proud men saying to Jeremiah you're speaking falsely Jehovah our God has not sent you to say don't go to Egypt to dwell there now here they came and said please pray to God oh we beg you pray to God for us you know whatever God tells us we'll do whether it's good or evil oh please you know make supplication to God now Jeremiah lays it out to them and said oh you're lying God didn't tell you to say that to us but Baruch that conspirator he's the one that advised you to tell us this stuff in order that he might deliver us over as captives to the Babylonians that they might put us to death and carry us away to Babylon so Johanna and the captains of the forces of the people obeyed not the voice of the Lord to

dwell in the land of Judah but they returned and all these people had to return from these nations that were with them even the men the women the children the king's daughters and every person that Nebuchadnezzar the captain of the guard or Nebuchadnezzar the captain of the guard had left with Gadaliah along with Jeremiah and Baruch and it would seem according to Josephus that they forced Jeremiah to come and Baruch they sort of kidnapped them took them by force so they came into the land of Egypt for they obeyed not the voice of the Lord and thus they came even to Topanhes this of course to me is one of those sad and tragic scriptures it ranks really as one of the most tragic of all of the passages in the word of God for it is always tragic when a man returns to that from which God has

once delivered him he goes back to Egypt Egypt is a type of our life in sin a life after the flesh and the bondage to our flesh and whenever a man or a nation returns to that place from which God had once delivered them that is always a sad and a tragic day 900 years earlier God had delivered their fathers out of the horrible cruel oppression of their Egyptian slavery and bondage and now the sad day that they

return the reason for their return fear a lack of faith and trusting in God to sustain them in the land and the fear of the retaliation of the Babylonians against them drove them back to Egypt a lack of faith which resulted in their disobedience and so they obeyed not the voice of the Lord and thus they came to Tapani then came the word of the Lord unto Jeremiah in Tapani saying take

great stones in your hand and hide them in the clay that is in the brick kiln which is at the entry of the Pharaoh's house there in Tapani in the sight of all of the men of Judah and saying to them thus saith the Lord of hosts the God of Israel behold I will send and take Nebuchadnezzar the King of Babylon my servant and will set his throne upon these stones that I have hid and he shall spread his royal pavilion over them and when he comes he will smite the land of Egypt and deliver such as for death to death and such as for captivity to captivity and such as for the sword to the sword and I will kindle a fire in the houses of the gods of Egypt and he shall burn them and carry them away captives and he shall array himself in the land of Egypt as a shepherd puts on his garments and he

shall go forth from thence in peace he shall break also the images of Beth Shemesh that is in the land of Egypt and the houses of the gods of the Egyptians shall he burn with fire so God said take these great stones and put them in this clay pit where they had taken out the clay to make the bricks in the sight of all of the people and say unto them over the top of these stones Nebuchadnezzar is going to build the pavilion of his court and he is going to set right here ruling over Egypt destroying Egypt and their gods you've come down here to escape Nebuchadnezzar you're not going to escape him you try to run from your problems you can't run from your problems God always wants us to face our problems with his strength and with his help never to run a person never successfully runs away

from a problem we need to deal with the issues squarely with the help of the Lord God will give us his strength God will give us the help Flinders Petrie famous archaeologist several years ago now I think it was in the twenties was excavating in Egypt Tel Daphne and as he was excavating there in Tel Daphne he came across this big pavement pavilion paved pavilion which was next to the ruins of the palace and he dug under the bricks of this pavilion and found these very stones that Jeremiah had buried these stones are now in a museum the last I heard in Cairo the very stones that Jeremiah buried were found by Petrie as a witness to the truth of God's word because Nebuchadnezzar did come down he did conquer Egypt he set his throne right there above the stones that Jeremiah buried God's word

came to pass God's word will always come to pass you can trust that God will keep his word always chapter 44 the word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the Jews which dwell in the land of Egypt and this is Jeremiah's final message to the people God's last word to the nation that had turned their backs on him and had gone to Egypt back to the place from which God had delivered them and God gives to them his final word the word which came to Jeremiah to the Jews which were in the land of Egypt which dwell at Migdal and to Panis and Nop in the country of Petra saying thus saith the Lord of hosts the God of Israel you have seen all of the evil that I brought upon Jerusalem the cities of Judah and behold this day they are desolate and no man is dwelling there because of their wickedness

which they have committed to provoke me to anger in that they went to burn incense and to serve other gods whom they knew not neither they ye nor your fathers you see what's happened you see the desolation of the land and it all took place because the people forsook me God said and they began to worship these other gods how be it I sent warnings to you through my servants the prophets who rose early and they said don't do this abominable thing that God hates but they did not hearken they did not incline their ear to turn from their wickedness and they continued to burn their incense to these other gods

wherefore my fury and my anger was poured forth and was kindled in the cities of Judah in the streets of Jerusalem and they are wasted and desolate as they are this very day therefore now

thus saith the Lord the God of hosts the God of Israel why do you commit this great evil against your souls to cut off from you man and woman child and nursing child out of Judah to leave you none to remain in that you are continuing to provoke me to wrath with the works of your hands because you are still burning incense to other gods in the land of Egypt where you have gone to dwell that you might cut yourselves off and that you might be a curse and reproach among all of the nations of the earth why are you doing this God said it was because of the burning of the incense and the worshipping of these other gods that you were driven from the land that your land is desolate today but you've continued these very practices now that you've come into Egypt the very thing that brought the

judgment of God upon you you've not ceased doing even though you are here in Egypt suffering the judgment of God as your land is desolate yet you continue in these abominations have you forgotten the wickedness of your fathers and the wickedness of the kings of Judah and the wickedness of their wives and your own wickedness and the wickedness of your wives which they have committed in the land of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem now it is interesting at this point where Jeremiah joins the wives in his indictment for they were guilty of these same abominations and in fact as we read on the account it would seem that the women were perhaps rather forward and leading in these abominations corrupted womanhood is usually the final straw that breaks the back of a nation women have a

capacity because of that fine delicate temperament of greater heights of spiritual experience and of deeper depths of moral depravity than men when a woman goes bad it's usually horrible like the little girl with the curl when she's bad she's horrible men are coarser in their nature and man's spectrum is rather narrow in a coarse median whereas a woman capable by her fine beautiful temperament of higher highs she's also capable of lower lows the spectrum of the woman moves in a much broader spectrum than does man so that when the woman falls she so often goes to the bottom and when that takes place it's all over it is interesting that women so often in the churches take leading roles of spirituality in the prayer groups in service groups and all and that's because of this beautiful fine

temperament that when tuned to the spirit is so beautiful and so glorious so inspiring, so beautiful to behold a woman walking with the Lord in that beautiful, fine, keen temperament that is so sensitive and attuned to the things of God and the things of the Spirit so often because I am in this coarser, denser nature I'll be in a situation and you know, just sort of plodding through and we'll get home and my wife said did you notice what was happening there tonight? what?

I didn't notice anything oh, well when this happened, you know and she can pick up on the fine spiritual tuning great spiritual insights oh, well this took place and as I look back I say well yeah, I can remember you know, it didn't mean anything didn't say anything to me but with this keen spiritual sensitivity she has a capacity of picking up on spiritual attunement much better than I do because I'm just this rugged push through, you know and plod along but women attuned to the Spirit what high capacities they have what keen spiritual insights and how beautiful it is to see a woman walking in the Spirit because of the highs that she is capable of and that spiritual sensitivity, it's fantastic but on the other end of the spectrum it's tragic now, Jeremiah is speaking how that the wives

had joined in and he joins them in this indictment the wickedness of their wives and of your wives and they are not humbled he's talking about their wives verse 10 even unto this day neither have they feared nor

walked in my law nor in my statutes that I set before you and your fathers therefore thus saith Jehovah of hosts the God of Israel behold I will set my face against you for evil and I'm going to cut off all of Judah and I will take the remnant of Judah that have set their faces to go to the land of Egypt to dwell there and they shall all be consumed and will fall in the land of Egypt they shall even be consumed by the sword and by the famine and they shall die from the least even to the greatest by the sword and by the famine and they shall be in excretion and an astonishment, a

curse and a reproach for I will punish them that dwell in the land of Egypt as I have punished Jerusalem by the sword and by the famine and by the pestilence so that none of the remnant of Judah which have gone to the land of Egypt to dwell there shall escape or remain that they should return to the land of Judah to which they have a desire to return to dwell there for none shall return but such as shall escape only a very small group that escapes then all of the men which knew that their wives were burning incense to the other gods and all of the women that stood by a great multitude even all the people that were dwelling in the land of Egypt they answered Jeremiah saying as for the word which you have spoken to us in the name of Jehovah we are not going to listen to you but we will

certainly do whatever thing that goes forth out of our own mouth to burn incense unto the Queen of Heaven to Semiramis and who is known as the Queen of Heaven Mother of God and to pour out the drink offerings unto her this is that Babylonian religious system that Israel was caught up in the worship of Tammuz and Semiramis these Babylonian deities the mother-child concept worshiping Semiramis as the Mother of Heaven or the Queen of Heaven, the Mother of God and this is incidentally where the worship of Mary stems from nowhere in the scripture are we told to worship Mary but it stems from this worship of Semiramis the Queen of Heaven and you can trace it back I don't have to do your homework for you you can get the book The Two Babylons by Hislop and he traces so thoroughly the pagan

Babylonian practices that have been brought into the church the very things that God indicted Israel for are now going on in many churches in the name of the Lord we'll wait till we get to Revelation to deal with that more fully now listen to what they're saying we will certainly do what we please to burn the incense to the Queen of Heaven and to pour out the drink offerings to her as we have done we and our fathers and our kings are princes in the cities of Judah the streets of Jerusalem for then we have plenty of food and we were well and we did not see evil but when we quit burning incense to the Queen of Heaven and to pour out the drink offerings unto her we have wanted all things and we have been consumed by the sword and by the famine when we burned incense to the Queen of Heaven

poured out drink offerings to her did we make her cakes to worship her and pour out drink offerings unto her without our men in other words didn't our husbands know what we were doing didn't we have the consent of our husbands as we were doing it they knew what we were doing the women are answering Jeremiah now and it is interesting how that they so totally twisted the facts they were attributing the demise and the destruction to their ceasing to burn incense to the Queen of Heaven how man can so totally twist the truth and blame God for the tragedies that come upon his life and accuse God for the things that have gone wrong and say man you know things went well I was doing great till I started serving God then he wiped me out and here they were blaming their destruction upon the fact

that they had quit burning the incense to the Queen of Heaven as long as we were you know faithful to her she was blessing us we had plenty of food things were great until we ceased burning incense to her and now all of this calamity has come upon us and after all our husbands knew what we were doing then Jeremiah said unto all the people and to the men and to the women that had given him this answer the

incense that you have burned in the cities of Judah in your streets of Jerusalem you and your fathers, your kings, your princes the people of the land did not the Lord remember them did it not come into his mind so that the Lord could no longer bear because of the evil of your doings and because of the abominations which you have committed therefore is your land a desolation Jeremiah sets

the record straight look it's because you were burning this that God has brought his judgment upon you therefore is your land a desolation an astonishment, a curse and without inhabitant as it is this day because you have burned incense because you have sinned against the Lord and you have not obeyed the voice of the Lord nor walked in his law nor in his statutes nor in his testimonies therefore has this evil happened to you as it is this day keep the record straight it's your forsaking God and your turning after these other gods that caused this judgment of God to fall moreover Jeremiah said unto all the people and to all the women hear the word of the Lord all of Judah and all that are in the land of Egypt thus saith the Lord of hosts the God of Israel saying you and your wives have

both spoken with your mouths and fulfilled with your hands saying we will surely perform our vows that we have vowed to burn incense to the Queen of Heaven and to pour out the drink offerings unto her and you will surely accomplish your vows and surely you'll perform these vows you've made your vows to the Queen of Heaven and you'll be sure to keep them therefore hear the word of Jehovah all Judah that dwell in the land of Egypt behold I have sworn by my great name oh look out when God swears by his name because he can swear by no higher saith Jehovah that my name shall no more be named in the mouth of any man of Judah in the land of Egypt saying the Jehovah God lives behold I am going to watch over them for evil not for good and all of the men of Judah that are in the land of Egypt shall

be consumed by the sword and by the famine until there is an end of them and yet a small number that escape the sword shall return out of the land of Egypt God always has his faithful remnant you notice that in the midst of a world of apostasy and sin there are always the faithful remnant of God remember Elijah said Lord God says Elijah what are you doing down here in this cave Sinai Desert oh I've been jealous for you and they've killed all of your prophets and I only I am left of all of Israel God says that's not true Elijah I have seven thousand who have not bowed their knee to bow God knew them there was the faithful remnant a lot of times we think we're the only ones but God has his faithful remnant always God pronounces this desolation that is coming and yet a small number his

faithful remnant that will escape and will return out of the land of Egypt to the land of Judah and all the remnant of Judah that are gone into the land of Egypt to sojourn there shall know whose words will stand mine or theirs you'll find out who's telling the truth now of course time is always that great factor you know false prophets so often profit for a while you know for a time they get along great and they can gather a following but time is always against them in time it'll show up Jimmy Jones did great for a while gathered quite a following popular move a lot of people joining in off the wall he could get by with it for a while but ultimately it catches up with you and there are flashes that you know come on the scene they draw a lot of attention to themselves they come with some

off the wall kind of a doctrine everybody is going they've got the ear of the crowd you know they're popular they're have their day but time is against them in time it shows up so that's the Lord said okay time will be a witness the time will come when you'll find out who's telling the truth me or you and this will be the sign I will punish you in this place that you may know that my words shall surely stand against you for evil thus saith Jehovah behold I will give Nebuchadnezzar the king of Egypt into the hand of his enemies and into the hand of them that seek his life as I gave Zedekiah the king of Judah into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar

the king of Babylon his enemy who sought his life now we have the advantage of history and hindsight and we can see that it was God's word that stood

Nebuchadnezzar came down and conquered Egypt God's word stood it always will never set yourself against God's word you'll lose every time now as we move into chapter 45 we are moving into the final part of Jeremiah's prophecies this is known as the sixth part of the prophecies in which we have miscellaneous prophecies that are come from the different periods of Jeremiah's life but they are directed for the most part against the nations that are round about Israel and God brings these nations around Israel, Egypt the Gentile powers Philistia, Tyre, Babylon and so forth he brings them into a prophetic view as God declares the judgments that will come upon these various nations but chapter 45 is a message to Baruch who was Jeremiah's friend and scribe Jeremiah dictated to Baruch who was a

scribe and who wrote the words of Jeremiah in a book so this is the word that Jeremiah the prophet spoke to Baruch the son of Nereia when he had written these words in a book at the mouth of Jeremiah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah the king saying now remember Jehoiakim took this scroll and he cut it with his pen knife and tossed it in the fire now at the time that Jeremiah gave to him these words and Baruch wrote them God also gave a special word to Baruch thus saith Jehovah the God of Israel unto thee Baruch wouldn't that be something to have God give you a personal message heavy duty you know and yet and yet I have had God give to me personal messages right out of his word when right out of the word of God the word just seemed to speak to you and you knew it was God

speaking to you right out of the book and just a personal application it just fit so perfectly and was so appropriate for the moment thus saith Jehovah the God of Israel unto thee Baruch you did say woe is me now for the Lord has added grief to my sorrow I fainted in my sighing and I find no rest actually Jehoiakim when he cut up the scroll was seeking Baruch he was going to give it to him for reading that scroll and Baruch was in hiding and he heard that Jehoiakim was after him and all and he says woe is me for the Lord has added grief to my sorrow I fainted in my sighing and I find no rest that's what Baruch was saying but thus shalt thou say unto him the Lord saith this behold that which I have built will I break down and that which I have planted I will pluck up even this whole land I

built this nation I'm going to break it down I've planted I'm going to pluck it up and seekest thou great things for thyself don't seek them the whole thing is going to go down Baruch I'm going to pluck the place up I'm going to break it down so it is foolish at this point to seek great things for yourself seek them not for behold I will bring evil upon all flesh saith the Lord but thy life will I give unto thee for a prey in all places wherever you are in other words I'll spare your life wherever you go but I'm going to bring destruction therefore the message of the Lord to Baruch basically was don't seek great things for yourself the whole system is going down the two so why seek great things for yourself Jesus said what should it profit a man if he would gain the whole world and lose

his own soul what if you could gain the whole world what joy do you think you would have being the richest man in hell what should it profit a man if he would gain the whole world and lose his own soul don't seek great things for yourself it's all coming down Baruch don't worry about it don't seek a great name don't seek greatness for yourself just seek God God will protect you wherever you go He'll be with you He'll give you your life but don't seek after great things for yourself Jeremiah had one of the most difficult ministries that any servant of God has ever been called to perform for from the beginning his ministry was destined for failure God told Jeremiah in the beginning I'm going to send you to these people but they're not going to listen to you and so it happened Jeremiah came

and spoke the word of the Lord faithfully to them but they didn't listen and because they will not listen thus I'm going to bring upon them all of the evil that I have declared and Jeremiah had to stand by helplessly knowing what was happening seeing the decay seeing the downhill plunge seeing the people headed towards destruction calling out crying out warning them but unable to do anything to turn them or to stop them from their own disastrous path to oblivion he had to watch and oversee the death of the nation that God might be faithful and righteous in His judgment so that no one could say well God didn't warn us or God didn't tell us or oh if God had only told us things would be different God is always faithful He always has His servants there to warn and to speak the truth I feel

that there are tremendous parallels that can be drawn between the nation of Israel at this time of their decline and fall and the United States in that Israel was known as the people of God in their beginning they were founded upon God they experienced the blessings of God and God made them a strong and powerful nation and you can see the parallels in the beginning our founding fathers were looking to God for guidance in the establishing of these United States and they established the constitution guaranteeing freedoms of worshipping God one nation under God acknowledged the fact that we were a nation under God and we were known as a nation under God and God blessed and prospered our nation but Israel when they became prosperous got their eyes off of God and began to worship and serve

other gods the gods of their own hands the gods of materialism even as we in the United States today are burning our incense to the gods of materialism and having forsaken the true and the living God they became forsaken by God and they were weakened and they ultimately failed Jeremiah had to watch the fall seeing what was going on, warning them but with no avail he had to see the tragic consequence of a nation who had turned their backs on God I am deeply concerned of the horrible moral conditions that exist in the United States today I am deeply concerned about the prevalence of pornography the exploitation of sex, of the openness of homosexuals and lesbians and of the latest advocating of incest encouraging parents to have sexual experiences with their own small children we're about as

low as we can go when these people can even get a voice in a national publication like Time Magazine this week where they espouse their views it can't go on now God has his faithful remnant and God will be faithful to his remnant they shall escape but the judgment of God is going to fall heavy and hard you can be sure of that God's word gives vivid details of his judgment that is coming very soon.

Jesus spoke in great detail of that judgment and turning to his followers he said pray always that you'll be accounted worthy to escape all of these things that are going to come to pass upon the earth and to be standing before the son of man. Pray that you'll be that faithful remnant more than pray commit your life to God serve the Lord put him first beware Jesus said speaking of these last days lest at any time your own heart be overcharged with surfeiting the dining pleasures drinking drunkenness or the cares of this life that that day come upon you by surprise for it will come as a surprise upon all who are dwelling upon the earth be careful it doesn't take you by surprise live after the spirit walk after the spirit be led by the spirit turn from a life of the flesh and the seeking of the satisfying or gratifying of your flesh to live a life after the spirit seek the Lord while he may be found call upon him while he is near and seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness even as in Israel womanhood became degraded I notice how they are attempting to degrade womanhood today starting with pretty little teenage girls and making them sex symbols how tragic we hold them up as examples to the women God help us for when women become degraded that's always the final straw you to there the Lord serve him make a new commitment of your life to God God I'm going to live after the spirit I'm going to follow after you I'll forsake Egypt I'll forsake the flesh and I'll live wholly after thee O God the time has come for you to make that kind of a commitment and to lead your

family in it that they might escape these things that are shortly coming to pass as God's judgment is certain to fall upon this godless generation time will show whose word is going to stand that of the agnostic or that of God that of the liberal press that of the mocker or that of the true and the living God but the thing is when God's word was proved true it was then too late God warned through Noah there's going to be a flood water is going to fall from heaven who ever heard of rain Noah went in God shut the door it began to rain oh we believe you now wow too late there are many believers too late God's word is going to stand it's important that we stand at God's word

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