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*God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.*

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Various information and topics that help the reader of the Bible understand the apostles and the Lord Jesus Christ's teachings.

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## Jeremiah 21.

(2010).

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*Teach it, don't demand it.*

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## Jeremiah 21.

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The following is a brief overview of the main topics.  
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### **Pashhur and Zephaniah are sent to Jeremiah.**

Jeremiah 21:1-2 ----- <sup>1</sup>This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, when King Zedekiah sent to him Pashhur the son of Malchiah and Zephaniah the priest, the son of Maaseiah, saying, <sup>2</sup>"Inquire of the LORD for us, for Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon is making war against us. Perhaps the LORD will deal with us according to all his wonderful deeds and will make him withdraw from us."

#### **Jeremiah;** (means, Jehovah exalts).

He was one of the greatest Hebrew prophets he was born into a priestly family in a town 2½ miles from Jerusalem. Jeremiah was called to prophesy after Assyria had invaded the city of Nineveh and taken the Ten Tribes of Israel in the land of Samaria captive. Jeremiah's ministry was through the reign of king Josiah of Judah and continued almost 40 years through the reigns of five successive Judean kings.

He prophesied during the revival of the Babylonian empire, under the vigorous leadership of Nebuchadnezzar who sought to subdue the whole Fertile Crescent to himself. Near the end of Jeremiah's ministry Babylon laid a siege of a 1½ years against Jerusalem and took its inhabitants captive. Zedekiah was blinded and carried in chains to Babylon. The captors treated Jeremiah with kindness, and allowed him to remain in Judah with some of the common people who had been left, but was later forced to flee to Egypt where he died at a very old age.

#### **Zedekiah;** (means, Jehovah is righteous).

He was the son of Josiah he reigned 11 years and was the last king of Judah. Because of the wickedness of Judah, God finally brought on the predicted Babylonian captivity. King Nebuchadnezzar came to Jerusalem, took Jehoiachin Judah's king, captive to Babylon and made Mattaniah, whose name he changed to Zedekiah, king in his place.

Nebuchadnezzar having taken away the men of influence from Judah, felt the remaining Jews would be easily subdued, but foolishly Zedekiah, rebelled against the king of Babylon, and as a result, he was taken by Nebuchadnezzar and bound. Zedekiah's sons were killed before his eyes and his own eyes put out. He was then taken to Babylon where he died.

**Malchiah;** helped arrest Jeremiah, he was the father of Pashur and messenger of King Zedekiah to Jeremiah (Jer 38:1).

**Zephaniah;** means, 'Hidden of Jehovah' he fearlessly denounced the evils of his time and was the last prophet before Judah's 70 year captivity to Babylon.

**Maaseiah;** was a priest whose son Zephaniah was one of the two men whom Zedekiah, king of Judah, sent to Jeremiah to ask him to inquire of the Lord for him (Jer 21:1).

**Nebuchadnezzar;** (King of Babylon) was the great king of the Babylonian Empire who carried away Judah in the 70-year Babylonian captivity.

### **Zedekiah King of Judah asks Jeremiah to Seek the LORD (v1-2).**

Zedekiah sent Pashhur and Zephaniah (both priests) to Jeremiah to ask the LORD if Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon is planning war against Judah. King Zedekiah is hoping the LORD will deal with Judah according to God's goodness and make Nebuchadnezzar withdraw from them.

## The LORD'S answer to Zedekiah.

Jeremiah 21:3-6 ----- <sup>3</sup>Then Jeremiah said to them: <sup>4</sup>"Thus you shall say to Zedekiah, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Behold, I will turn back the weapons of war that are in your hands and with which you are fighting against the king of Babylon and against the Chaldeans who are besieging you outside the walls. And I will bring them together into the midst of this city. <sup>5</sup>I myself will fight against you with outstretched hand and strong arm, in anger and in fury and in great wrath. <sup>6</sup>And I will strike down the inhabitants of this city, both man and beast. They shall die of a great pestilence.

**Chaldeans;** is the country of which Babylon was the capital, and which conquered Judah and carried its inhabitants into the 70 year captivity (called Iraq today).

God told Jeremiah to go and tell Zedekiah king of Judah that God Himself will fight against Judah, Zedekiah's armies will not only flee in fear from the armies of Babylon, but Babylon will besiege the city of Jerusalem and later enter it and kill its inhabitants.

**Pause for a Moment;** imagine the emotions Jeremiah would have felt as he was going to tell Judah's King God is actually going to fight against him, especially when he knew Zedekiah was hoping the LORD would favour him and the people of Judah.

### **Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon will Conquerer Judah.**

Jeremiah 21:7 ----- <sup>7</sup>Afterward, declares the LORD, I will give Zedekiah king of Judah and his servants and the people in this city who survive the pestilence, sword, and famine into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and into the hand of their enemies, into the hand of those who seek their lives. He shall strike them down with the edge of the sword. He shall not pity them or spare them or have compassion.'

**These foreboding words of Jeremiah were fulfilled;** when Babylon surrounded the walls of Jerusalem for approximately 1½ years so that no-one could go in or out to get food, the famine within the city became so great the cities inhabitants were eating their own children, eventually Babylon attacked and entered the city, and the people were taken into captivity to Babylon for 70 years.

### **Life and Death are in the Power of the people of Judah.**

Jeremiah 21:8 ----- <sup>8</sup>"And to this people you shall say: "Thus says the LORD: Behold, I set before you the way of life and the way of death. <sup>9</sup>He who stays in this city shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence, but he who goes out and surrenders to the Chaldeans who are besieging you shall live and shall have his life as a prize of war.

### **This is amazing, and a totally new way for God to deal with His people.**

The LORD is telling the inhabitants of Judah if they submit to a secular king and allow him to take them into captivity they will live, but if they choose to remain in the city of God (Jerusalem) they will die by the sword, famine and pestilence.

**Notice;** God has the power to give mortal and eternal life or take it, had Judah repented and turned to God and forsaken their evil ways instead of giving Babylon the victory God would have made Judah victorious and extended their mortal life.

**But;** in another sense the power was in Judah's hands, simply because it was their choice that determined whether God would fight for them or against them.

### **The Lesson for us Today.**

God has the power to grant eternal life, but in another sense the power is in the hands of every individual human, simply because it is their choice that determines whether God grants eternal life or eternal death. If a person chooses to accept God and His ways He promises to grant them eternal life and God cannot lie, but if they chose to reject Him and His ways their decision compels God to condemn them to eternal death.

**For further information on eternal death see the title: -**

- Death what Happens when we Die.
- In, Death (ON WEBSITE MENU).

**God has set His face against Jerusalem for Harm and not for Good.**

Jeremiah 21:10-14 --- <sup>10</sup>For I have set my face against this city for harm and not for good, declares the LORD: it shall be given into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall burn it with fire.' <sup>11</sup>"And to the house of the king of Judah say, 'Hear the word of the LORD, <sup>12</sup>O house of David! Thus says the LORD: " 'Execute justice in the morning, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor him who has been robbed, lest my wrath go forth like fire, and burn with none to quench it, because of your evil deeds." <sup>13</sup>"Behold, I am against you, O inhabitant of the valley, O rock of the plain, declares the LORD; you who say, 'Who shall come down against us, or who shall enter our habitations?' <sup>14</sup>I will punish you according to the fruit of your deeds, declares the LORD; I will kindle a fire in her forest, and it shall devour all that is around her."

**God is against Jerusalem for harm and not for good, because they: -**

- Pervert justice for their own gain.
- Oppress the poor.
- Rob from the less fortunate what is rightfully theirs (probably their land and houses).
- Are full of evil deeds.

**Notice;** the inhabitant of Jerusalem believed they were safe because they thought no-one could enter the fortified walls of Jerusalem. Though Jerusalem was a fortified city and very difficult to penetrate the only thing that could protect the people of Judah from harm was to repent, turn to God and forsake their idols and wicked ways

**The Lesson for us Today.**

A nation could be at the top of the world in power and military might or an individual maybe a multimillionaire and own a multitude of properties around the world, but none of these things will protect the nation or the individual from the judgment of God.

**"I have set my face against this city for harm and not for good"** (v10).

These foreboding words were fulfilled through Babylon.

The armies of Babylon invaded Jerusalem and took its inhabitants (the Two Tribes of Judah) into captivity later Babylon conquered Assyria who had previously taken Israel (the Ten Tribes in the land of Samaria) captive. Israel and Judah were under Babylonian rule for 70 years. They went into captivity to Babylon as two rebellious nations who had turned from God to idols and who were even sacrificing their own children to pagan gods.

While in captivity God moulded them like a master potter moulds a beautiful clay jar. They went into Babylon as two unfaithful nations that had turned away from the LORD to idols and other gods. Seventy years later, Cyrus (King of Persia) who the LORD called His Shepherd (Isaiah 44:28) gave permission to Israel to return to Jerusalem. Under Ezra and Nehemiah God brought Israel back to their beloved City Jerusalem as one nation faithful to only one God, the LORD their God, the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob (Israel never turned to pagan gods again).

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End.