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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.

Jeremiah 40.

(2010).

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Teach it, don't demand it.

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Jeremiah 40.

The following is a brief overview of the main topics.
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Nebuzaradan (Captain of the Guard) Releases Jeremiah from his Chains.

Jeremiah 40:1 ----- ¹The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD after Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard had let him go from Ramah, when he took him bound in chains along with all the captives of Jerusalem and Judah who were being exiled to Babylon.

Ramah; was approximately 5 miles North of Jerusalem.

The words, "Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard had let Jeremiah go." links back to the previous chapter (Jer 39:11-14).

Nebuzaradan; (Captain of the Guard) was the general of Nebuchadnezzar (king of Babylon) armies when the Babylonians conquered Jerusalem. Nebuzaradan was made provisional governor of Palestine for the Babylonians and given special charge and responsibility of Jeremiah. The defeated inhabitants of Jerusalem were in chains and being marched to Babylon when they got to Ramah Nebuzaradan found Jeremiah in chains amongst them. He set Jeremiah free and gave him the option to travel with him to Babylon or to remain in his own land. Jeremiah chose to remain with the poor Nebuchadnezzar had left in the cities and land of Judah.

Nebuzaradan (Captain of the Guard).

Jeremiah 40:2-3 ----- ²The captain of the guard (Nebuzaradan) took Jeremiah and said to him, "The LORD your God pronounced this disaster against this place. ³The LORD has brought it about, and has done as he said. Because you sinned against the LORD and did not obey his voice, this thing has come upon you.

Notice; the Babylonian guard had more faith than the people of Judah, he knew that what Jeremiah has spoken was of the LORD and that it was the God of Israel who had brought all this disaster on Jerusalem because of their sin.

Nebuzaradan Releases Jeremiah from his Chains.

Jeremiah 40:4 ----- ⁴Now, behold, I (Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard) release you (Jeremiah) today from the chains on your hands. If it seems good to you to come with me to Babylon, come, and I will look after you well, but if it seems wrong to you to come with me to Babylon, do not come. See, the whole land is before you; go wherever you think it good and right to go.

Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard is doing what Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had told him in the previous chapter. Nebuchadnezzar commanded Nebuzaradan to take care of Jeremiah, do him no harm and give him what he asks (Jer 39:11-14).

Nebuzaradan tells Jeremiah he can go wherever He Chooses.

Jeremiah 40:5 ----- ⁵If you (Jeremiah) remain, then return to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, son of Shaphan, whom the king of Babylon appointed governor of the cities of Judah, and dwell with him among the people. Or go wherever you think it right to go." So the captain of the guard gave him an allowance of food and a present, and let him go.

How beautiful is this: -

Not only does the enemy of Judah allow Jeremiah to go free, he gives him food and a present. Judah's enemies treat Jeremiah (the man of God) better than the officials of God's people had (they beat him and threw him a hole full of mud).

Ahikam and Gedaliah; Ahikam was the father of Gedaliah, he successfully pleaded before the officials and elders that Jeremiah should not be put to death for his warnings of impending doom. After the deportation to Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar made Gedaliah the Judean governor over the poor people left in the cities and land of Judah. However Gedaliah ruled for only two months. The anniversary of his treacherous murder is observed as one of the four Jewish feasts (Jer 26:24) (Zech 7:5) (Zech 8:19).

Jeremiah goes to Gedaliah.

Jeremiah 40:6-8 ----- ⁶Then Jeremiah went to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, at Mizpah, and lived with him among the people who were left in the land. ⁷When all the captains of the forces in the open country and their men heard that the king of Babylon had appointed Gedaliah the son of Ahikam governor in the land and had committed to him men, women, and children, those of the poorest of the land who had not been taken into exile to Babylon, ⁸they went to Gedaliah at Mizpah—Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, Johanan the son of Kareah, Seraiah the son of Tanhumeth, the sons of Ephai the Netophathite, Jezeaniah the son of the Maacathite, they and their men.

Among the people who were left in the land; (v6) refers to the extremely poor of Judah that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had allowed to remain in the cities and land of Judah.

Mizpah; was a town allotted to Benjamin it became Gedaliah's administrative centre.

Gedaliah tells those with him to serve the king of Babylon.

Jeremiah 40:9-10 ----- ⁹Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, son of Shaphan, swore to them and their men, saying, "Do not be afraid to serve the Chaldeans. Dwell in the land and serve the king of Babylon, and it shall be well with you. ¹⁰As for me, I will dwell at Mizpah, to represent you before the Chaldeans who will come to us. But as for you, gather wine and summer fruits and oil, and store them in your vessels, and dwell in your cities that you have taken."

Chaldeans; established the Babylonian dynasty (called Iraq today).

Gedaliah told the captains of forces (small groups), Ishmael, Johanan, Seraiah, the sons of Ephai, Jezaniah, and their men (v6-8) to serve the Babylonians and they will live in peace and he will represent them before the Babylonian king from Mizpah, but they can go and live in the cities that they have taken.

Many other Judeans Join Gedaliah at Mizpah.

Jeremiah 40:11 ----- ¹¹Likewise, when all the Judeans who were in Moab and among the Ammonites and in Edom and in other lands heard that the king of Babylon had left a remnant in Judah and had appointed Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, son of Shaphan, as governor over them, ¹²then all the Judeans returned from all the places to which they had been driven and came to the land of Judah, to Gedaliah at Mizpah. And they gathered wine and summer fruits in great abundance.

When others heard that the king of Babylon had left a remnant in Judah and had appointed Gedaliah, as governor over them all the Judeans who were in the land of Moab, the Ammonites, Edom and in other lands also came and joined Gedaliah at Mizpah.

Notice; Mizpah must have been a very fertile land because everyone who came to it gathered and abundance of summer fruits.

Balis King of the Ammonites appoints Ishmael to kill Gedaliah.

Jeremiah 40:13-14 ---- ¹³Now Johanan the son of Kareah and all the leaders of the forces in the open country came to Gedaliah at Mizpah ¹⁴and said to him, "Do you know that Balis the king of the Ammonites has sent Ishmael the son of Nethaniah to take your life?" But Gedaliah the son of Ahikam would not believe them.

How foolish was Gedaliah, not to take notice of so many witnesses, this was not just one man telling him, but an entire group of leaders, who had made a special journey to warn him that Baalis (king of the Ammonites) has sent Ishmael to kill him, and Gedaliah does not believe them.

Johanan tries to protect Gedaliah.

Jeremiah 40:15 ----- ¹⁵Then Johanan the son of Kareah spoke secretly to Gedaliah at Mizpah, "Please let me go and strike down Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and no one will know it. Why should he take your life, so that all the Judeans who are gathered about you would be scattered, and the remnant of Judah would perish?" ¹⁶But Gedaliah the son of Ahikam said to Johanan the son of Kareah, "You shall not do this thing, for you are speaking falsely of Ishmael."

Johanan wanting to keep the Judeans together tries to protect Gedaliah by seeking his permission to kill Ishmael before Ishmael kills Gedaliah, but Gedaliah still does not believe Baalis (king of the Ammonites) has sent Ishmael to kill him.

End.