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

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

Jeremiah 41.

(2010).

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Teach it, don't demand it.

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Jeremiah 41.

The following is a brief overview of the main topics.
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Ishmael of the Royal Family has a Meal with Gedaliah.

Jeremiah 41:1 ----- ¹In the seventh month, Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, son of Elishama, of the royal family, one of the chief officers of the king (of the Ammonites), came with ten men to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, at Mizpah. As they ate bread together there at Mizpah.

In the previous chapter; the king of Babylon had appointed Gedaliah to be the Judean governor at Mizpah over the remnant of Judeans that remained in their cities and on the land of Judah, multitudes of Jewish leaders and their people gathered to him, but Baalis (king of the Ammonites) has sent Ishmael to kill Gedaliah (Jer 40:6-8) (Jer 41:13-16). Ishmael of the royal family, one of the chief officers of the king of the Ammonites and ten of his men are now eating a meal with Gedaliah at Mizpah.

Ishmael Murders Gedaliah.

Jeremiah 41:2-3 ----- ²Ishmael the son of Nethaniah and the ten men with him rose up and struck down Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, son of Shaphan, with the sword, and killed him, whom the king of Babylon had appointed governor in the land. ³Ishmael also struck down all the Judeans who were with Gedaliah at Mizpah, and the Chaldean soldiers who happened to be there.

Not only did Ishmael and his ten men murder Gedaliah, but they also murdered all the Judeans who were with him and even the Babylonian soldiers. All this could have been avoided if Gedaliah had listened to the men who tried to warn him (Jer 40:13-15).

The Day after the Murder of Gedaliah Ishmael slaughters 70 more Men.

Jeremiah 41:4-7 ----- ⁴On the day after the murder of Gedaliah, before anyone knew of it, ⁵eighty men arrived from Shechem and Shiloh and Samaria, with their beards shaved and their clothes torn, and their bodies gashed, bringing grain offerings and incense to present at the temple of the LORD. ⁶And Ishmael the son of Nethaniah came out from Mizpah to meet them, weeping as he came. As he met them, he said to them, "Come in to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam." ⁷When they came into the city, Ishmael the son of Nethaniah and the men with him slaughtered them and cast them into a cistern.

What a cunning and evil man Ishmael was, eighty men weak and humbled are bringing offerings to the Temple of God, Ishmael has just treacherously murdered Gedaliah and all who were with him and now catches these eighty men off guard by weeping and pretending to be sorry over the death of Gedaliah and then when alongside them he and his men slaughters them all (except for ten) and throws their bodies into a huge pit in the ground.

Ishmael leaves ten of the Eighty Men Alive.

Jeremiah 41:8 ----- ⁸But there were ten men among them who said to Ishmael, "Do not put us to death, for we have stores of wheat, barley, oil, and honey hidden in the fields." So he refrained and did not put them to death with their companions.

Ishmael saves ten men in exchange for their hidden food.

The Cistern the Seventy Dead Bodies were thrown Into.

Jeremiah 41:9 ----- ⁹Now the cistern into which Ishmael had thrown all the bodies of the men whom he had struck down along with Gedaliah was the large cistern that King Asa had made for defense

against Baasha king of Israel; Ishmael the son of Nethaniah filled it with the slain.

Cistern; in this context is simple a very large hole in the ground.

Ishmael takes the People of Mizpah Captive.

Jeremiah 41:10 ----- ¹⁰Then Ishmael took captive all the rest of the people who were in Mizpah, the king's daughters and all the people who were left at Mizpah, whom Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard, had committed to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam. Ishmael the son of Nethaniah took them captive and set out to cross over to the Ammonites.

Ishmael and his men begins to take the remaining people of Mizpah to the land of the Ammonites.

Johanan Fights against Ishmael.

Jeremiah 41:11-12 ---- ¹¹But when Johanan the son of Kareah and all the leaders of the forces with him heard of all the evil that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah had done, ¹²they took all their men and went to fight against Ishmael the son of Nethaniah. They came upon him at the great pool that is in Gibeon.

Johanan; was a captain who with his men submitted to Gedaliah and who warned Gedaliah that Baalis king of the Ammonites had sent Ishmael to murder him, but Gedaliah did not believe him or the men with him (Jer 40:13-15).

Johanan frees the Judean Captives.

Jeremiah 41:13-15 ---- ¹³And when all the people who were with Ishmael saw Johanan the son of Kareah and all the leaders of the forces with him, they rejoiced. ¹⁴So all the people whom Ishmael had carried away captive from Mizpah turned around and came back, and went to Johanan the son of Kareah. ¹⁵But Ishmael the son of Nethaniah escaped from Johanan with eight men, and went to the Ammonites.

Ponder for a moment; imagine the tremendous excitement, the people of Judah are being led away captive to a cruel enemy who will oppress and make slaves of them, suddenly Johanan and all the forces with him arrive and Ishmael flees, mothers, children, sons and daughters would have be running with hearts full of joy toward the men who rode with Johanan.

Johanan Protects the People of Mizpah.

Jeremiah 41:16-18 --- ¹⁶Then Johanan the son of Kareah and all the leaders of the forces with him took from Mizpah all the rest of the people whom he had recovered from Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, after he had struck down Gedaliah the son of Ahikam—soldiers, women, children, and eunuchs, whom Johanan brought back from Gibeon. ¹⁷And they went and stayed at Geruth Chimham near Bethlehem, intending to go to Egypt ¹⁸because of the Chaldeans. For they were afraid of them, because Ishmael the son of Nethaniah had struck down Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, whom the king of Babylon had made governor over the land.

What a great leader Johanan was, not only did he try to warn Gediah of the plot against his life and gather forces together to free those taken captive by a cruel and treacherous murder he also takes the responsibility to protect those he has freed. Johanan and those with him now fear that the king Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon will send his armies against them because of the murder of Gedaliah (who Nebuchadnezzar had appointed) and the killing of the Babylonian soldiers. Remember they did not have global communications and mobile phones, king Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon would probably be hearing all sorts of rumours regarding the murder of Gedaliah and the killing of the Babylonian soldiers so Johanan plans to take those with him to Egypt.

End.