

“RUIN, REDEMPTION, AND RESTORATION”
Studies in the Book of Jeremiah
“Speaking Truth to Power”

Jeremiah 38:1-28

INTRODUCTION: The prophets who respond to God’s call carry His unwavering message to those in positions of power—reminding kings and leaders that their authority is not absolute, but subject to the justice and wisdom revealed by God’s Kingdom Agenda. Throughout history, even the mightiest rulers have been challenged and held accountable by voices committed to God’s Kingdom Truth, as Jeremiah’s story in this chapter illustrates that. **(Deuteronomy 18:18-22)**

I. Speaking God's Word Invites Opposition from the Enemy (V1-6)

- A. *In what ways does speaking God's Word invite opposition from the enemy in our daily lives?*
Consider the different forms this opposition might take—whether spiritual (such as doubts or temptations), social (like criticism or rejection), or personal (internal struggles or discouragement), or physical harm like Jeremiah or all the above. **How have you experienced or observed these kinds of resistance when standing for God’s truth? (John 18:23) (2 Timothy 4:2-5) (Matthew 10:37-39)**
- B. Jeremiah was placed into a cistern that contained only mud, rather than water, causing him to sink into the mud. **(V6) What is a cistern?** A cistern is a waterproof tank or underground reservoir designed for storing liquids, most commonly rainwater collected from rooftops.
- C. In **Jeremiah 2:13**, God accuses the Israelites of abandoning Him, the source of "**living water**," and turning to false idols, which are compared to "**broken cisterns**" that cannot hold water. This metaphor is significant because *"living water" represents spiritual fulfillment and the abundant life that comes from God*, while "broken cisterns" symbolize unreliable sources of satisfaction that ultimately fail to meet our deepest needs.

II. God Knows Your Plight and Will Care for You (V7-13)

- A. God can use anything or anyone to accomplish His kingdom agenda. God put it on Ebed-Melech the Ethiopian's heart to show compassion to Jeremiah. He was afraid he would die in that muddy cistern. Truly, God’s protective hand was around Jeremiah; he was his refuge. **(V7-10)**

- B. God moved the King's heart to authorize thirty men under a non-Israelite Ethiopian's authority to save Jeremiah from dying in that cistern.

Just like God moved the heart of Joseph's older brother Reuben to persuade the other brothers not to kill him, but to sell him into slavery. (Genesis 37:18-28)

- C. What "cisterns" do we find ourselves in? Are we willing to trust in God to rescue us? **(Psalm 23) *Is he our shepherd or scapegoat when times get tough?***

III. The Secret Talk, and God Sees All (V14-26)

- A. King Zedekiah sought advice from Jeremiah in private. After he has been speaking what thus says the Lord for about twenty to thirty plus years now. And you want to meet in secret, trying to get a different revelation from God. IT HAS NOT CHANGED! **(V15-23) *The Wrath of God is in action, and no one can stop the impending doom. (Hebrews 10:31)***
- B. King Zedekiah was still not listening; he wanted a different outcome. Jeremiah gave him an opposition concerning his own personal peril, but he would not take it, and great was his fall. As we will see in **Chapter 39**.

IV. You May Be In Jail, But You Are Protected (V27-28)

- A. When questioned by the officials, Jeremiah followed Zedekiah's instruction, telling them they had discussed whether ***Jeremiah should be sent back to the dungeon (a true part of their talk)***.
- B. This act highlights the theme of being "**wise as serpents**" (**Matthew 10:16-23**) – Jeremiah wasn't lying but ***strategically withholding information***.
- C. Why am I sharing this? There are some things that God wants us to share, and other things we keep to ourselves and pray about them. Either way, we should always consult God in what we should do. For he is our refuge and stronghold. **(Matthew 10:19-20)**

2 Timothy 4:1-8

I solemnly charge *you* in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: ² **preach the word; be ready in season *and* out of season**; reprove, rebuke, exhort, **with great patience and instruction**. ³ For the time will come when **they** will not **endure sound doctrine**; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will **accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires**, ⁴ and will **turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths**. ⁵ But **you**, **be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry**.

⁶ For I am already being **poured out as a drink offering**, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷ ***I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith***; ⁸ in the future there is laid up for me ***the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day***; and not ***only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing***.

**G.T.G**

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