



# House of New Beginnings

ShalomAZ Ministries

*In Pursuit of Israel's Redemption*

## **When God's Word Confronts Your Plans (Jer. 42-43)**

Rabbi Cosmo Panzetta

### **Devotion and Discussion Questions**

**Key Texts:** Jeremiah 42:1 – 43:13

#### **1. Seeking the LORD Requires Submission (Jer. 42:1-6)**

The remnant of Judah approached Jeremiah with a request that seemed humble and sincere: *"Pray to Adonai your God on our behalf... that we may know the way we should go."* Their desperation came from a place of fear and uncertainty after the devastation of Jerusalem. However, sincerity is more than words. They declared, *"We will obey the voice of Adonai our God, whether it be good or evil."*

This initial willingness to seek the Lord should inspire us, but it also reminds us to evaluate our intentions. Are we seeking God to confirm our plans, or are we genuinely open to following His? True submission requires a willingness to surrender, even when His guidance disrupts our expectations.

#### **2. Waiting Reveals What's In Your Heart (Jer. 42:7-12)**

Jeremiah waited ten days before God spoke—a period that exposed the remnant's fears and anxieties. Waiting is never easy, especially when we feel pressure to act. However, God's timing is purposeful. His promise to them was clear: *"Do not be afraid of the king of Babylon... for I am with you to save you."*

Trust in God grows through the patience required in waiting. This season of waiting asked them—and asks us—whether we trust in God's word or give in to the urgency of our fears.

#### **3. Disobedience Leads to Consequences (Jer. 42:13-22)**

Despite God's clear instruction to stay in the land, fear overwhelmed the remnant. They rationalized their disobedience, claiming they knew better than the Lord's guidance. God warned them: The very dangers they sought to escape—war, famine, and death—would follow them if they fled to Egypt.

Their failure to trust Him and follow His plan would bring destruction, not safety. Disobedience may seem logical in the moment, but it always leads to

consequences. God calls us to cling to Him and His word, trusting that His ways are higher than ours.

#### **4. You Can't Outrun God's Judgment (Jeremiah 43:1-13)**

Even after Jeremiah delivered God's unambiguous message, the remnant accused him of lying. In their pride, they rejected God's direction and went to Egypt, dragging Jeremiah and Baruch with them. They believed they could escape judgment by blending into Egypt, but God's word followed them there. He declared that Nebuchadnezzar would invade Egypt and bring destruction, even to Pharaoh's palace.

There is no hiding from God. Running from His will doesn't escape His authority—it only deepens the consequences of rebellion. The safest place to be is always in the center of God's will, no matter how difficult it seems.

#### **Conclusion:**

Are you running from God's direction in your life? Like the remnant of Judah, are you clinging to plans born out of fear or pride instead of trusting His word? God's message to them—and to us—is clear: "Do not be afraid, for I am with you to save you." Surrender your plans, your anxieties, and your resistance to the Lord today. Let Him lead you, restore you, and plant you in His promises.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. How can we approach God with a truly submissive heart when seeking His will?
2. What has waiting on God revealed about your trust in Him?
3. Why do fear and pride often lead us away from God's direction?
4. How do we discern when our plans conflict with God's plans for us?
5. What can we learn from the consequences faced by the remnant in Jeremiah 43?

#### **Closing Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, we come to You humbled by Your wisdom and grace. Forgive us for the times we've chosen our way over Yours. Teach us to trust You fully, even when Your plans challenge our understanding. Help us to wait on You, to listen to Your voice, and to obey with faith-filled hearts. May we walk in Your will, confident in Your presence and promises.

*B'Shem Yeshua*, In the mighty name of Yeshua, our Messiah, we pray. Amen.