

Jeremiah Chapter 34

7/22/2009 – Pastor Ronnie Wolfe

I. JEREMIAH'S WARNING OF CAPTIVITY (34:1-7)

- A. This is a message just for Zedekiah, not for all the people, 1-2
- B. This is the message:
 - 1. God will give the city of Jerusalem to king of Babylon
 - 2. Zedekiah shall not escape out of the king's hand, 3
 - 3. Zedekiah's eyes will behold the eyes of the king, 3
 - 4. The king will speak personally with Zedekiah, 3
 - 5. Zedekiah shall go to Babylon, 3
 - 6. Zedekiah will not die of the sword, 4
 - 7. Zedekiah will die in peace, 5
 - 8. Zedekiah will be honored with "burnings," 5
- C. The king of Babylon fought against Jerusalem and two other cities:
 - 1. Lachish and Azekah were two small towns in what is called The Shephelah, an area that divided the mountains from the plains in Judah.
 - 2. The king of Babylon destroyed these so that they would not call in Egypt against him.

II. FREEDOM FOR THE SLAVES (34:8-16)

- A. Zedekiah made a covenant to set Hebrew slaves at liberty, 8
- B. This was a command from God and should have been practiced all along, 9 (Exodus 21:1-2)
- C. The Hebrews obeyed the covenant, 10
- D. But then they brought the slaves back under bondage, 11
- E. As a result, the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah again, 12
- F. He reminded Jeremiah of the covenant made with Israel when they left Egypt, 13
 - 1. This is the system of laws that was given at Mt. Sinai
 - 2. These were to be kept by the Israelites faithfully
- G. Specifically in this case the law concerning the release of slaves in the seventh year (Exod. 21:1-2), 14
- H. The fathers did not hearken to God, 14
- I. But now because of Zedekiah, the slaves have been released for a while, doing that which was right in the eyes of God, 15
- J. Then, they turned back to make them slaves again, 16

III. THE FATE OF THE COVENANT-BREAKERS (34:17-22)

- A. Because of their unfaithfulness, God is giving them a "liberty." This liberty is one in which they will leave their homes and go into all nations, 17
- B. God explains the detail of making a covenant (see Gen. 15:9) 18-19
- C. God will give these covenant-breakers into the hands of their enemies, 20
- D. God will give Zedekiah into the hands of the enemy, 21
- E. God will command Babylon to come and burn the city of Jerusalem with fire and will make it desolate, 22