

# Jeremiah Chapter 37

August 19, 2009 – Pastor Ronnie Wolfe

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## I. ZEDEKIAH'S REQUEST (37:1-5)

### A. Zedekiah as King, 1

1. Zedekiah is now reigning in Judah in the place of Coniah (Coniah has three names: Jehoichin, Coniah, and Jeconiah).
2. Zedekiah is the last king of Judah.

### B. Zedekiah's Sin, 2

1. The king did not hearken to God's word from Jeremiah
2. The king's servants did not hearken to God's word from Jeremiah
3. Therefore, the people did not hearken to God's word from Jeremiah

### C. Zedekiah's Request, 3-4

1. Jeremiah sent servants to Jeremiah to pray for Judah
2. Of course, Zedekiah wanted Jeremiah to pray that God would keep Judah safe, even in the midst of their rebellion against God. Isn't this so much like people today?
3. Jeremiah at this time was not in prison, 4. Perhaps Zedekiah thought that keeping Jeremiah out of prison would help to persuade him to give a good prophecy about Judah.

### D. Zedekiah's Hope, 5

1. Zedekiah was hoping that Jeremiah's prayer would send the Chaldeans away and that they would not destroy Judah as Jeremiah had prophesied.
2. It seems in this verse that perhaps this had happened, because Egypt's army had come, and the Chaldeans had departed Jerusalem.
3. Zedekiah was relieved.

## II. JEREMIAH'S REPLY (37:6-10)

### A. Jeremiah's Word Is From The Lord, 6

1. It is the Lord's word and not man's word, nor is it man's desire or intention but God's.
2. God's word does not depend upon a "seeker-sensitive" response. It is based upon God's own will and purpose (Romans 8:28).

### B. Jeremiah's Message To Zedekiah, 7-9

1. Egypt's army was to go back to Egypt instead of remaining and helping Judah, 7
2. The Chaldeans will return, take the city and burn it, 8-10

## III. JEREMIAH'S REWARD (37:11-21)

### A. Jeremiah Is Followed And Arrested, 11-14

- ### B. Jeremiah Is Put In A Dungeon, which was more severe than a normal prison. It was the "inner-prison" with a deep cell or a cistern where the prisoner was underground, sometimes standing in mire or mud, 15-16

C. Jeremiah Is Asked About A Word From God, 17

1. The king takes Jeremiah out of prison to ask him (now that he has had a taste of prison) what the word of the Lord is now.
2. Jeremiah said it is the same as it always was: “thou shalt be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon.”

D. Jeremiah Begs For Freedom, 18-20

1. Jeremiah asks what his offense is that he is in prison.
2. Jeremiah pleads with the king not to send him back to prison lest he die, 20

E. Jeremiah Freed From Prison, 21

1. Zedekiah, realizing that prison would not change Jeremiah’s message, commanded that he be freed from the dungeon.
2. Jeremiah was put in the court of the prison, which was a privileged position in the prison.
3. Jeremiah was to get a piece of bread every day until all the bread in Judah was gone.

### **TEACHINGS FROM THIS CHAPTER**

1. That God’s word is the same no matter who is the king and no matter what the situation.
2. God’s will and purpose will be executed no matter what we do (Rom. 8:28; Dan. 4:35).
3. Our earthly reward for being faithful to God may not be much, but we must accept what we get; our real reward is in heaven (Matt. 5:12).