



“Confidence In Captivity” (Jeremiah 26-29)

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I. THE TEXT

26:1 On the background at this time, see II Kings 24:1ff

26:6 Shiloh was where God once dwelt among his people. Before Solomon built the first temple, the ark of the covenant rested in the tent of meeting at Shiloh. When God’s people broke the covenant as a result of their sin, the ark was captured and carried off by the Philistines, and Shiloh became a ruin.

26:20-23 There are two opinions among scholars about Uriah’s actions when he faced opposition. One side says his fate is mentioned here to show that Jeremiah is indeed facing mortal danger. The other suggests that this is meant as a contrast. Uriah’s cowardice ended up getting him killed, while Jeremiah’s courage actually saved his life. Those who take this view cite Matthew 10:39 Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

* Note: God had promised to rescue Jeremiah (Jer.1:19)

26:24 Shaphan was the scribe who first read the Book of the Law when it was discovered during the reign of Josiah (II Kings 22:8-13). He had at least three sons, all godly men. We will meet two more in Jer.36 & 39 (Gemariah & Gedaliah).

27:3 With Zedekiah as their leader, these leaders had come together to discuss an alliance between them to overthrow Nebuchadnezzar. We know from historical writings called The Babylonian Chronicles that king Neb at this time was facing problems involving a revolt among his own people, as well as launching a military campaign against the Syrians. So these nations saw it as an opportune moment.

27:4-12 Jeremiah assures them that if they rebel against Babylon they will be rebelling against God, and as a result suffer the consequences.

28:5-6 Scholars disagree on Jeremiah’s response here. Some say he was being sarcastic, while others suggest he sincerely prayed that Hananiah’s prophecy would come true.

29:10 These guys were no doubt smart enough to do the math here. They knew that most of them would be dead by the time deliverance came.

II. LESSONS

A. There Are Lots Of False Prophets Leading People Astray

* See II Tim.4:3-4

B. If We Rebel Against The Lord, We Will End Up In Captivity

C. Even In Captivity There Is Hope

* One only needs to read stories like Daniel, Hananiah, Azariah & Mischael in Babylon. God was with them, and God prospered them.

* Some of us are in captivity as a **direct** result of our disobedience & rebellion.

- In jail/prison (be like Joseph)
- Married out of God's will
- Single parent

* All of us are in captivity as a result of sin & its curse

- To this present world (Heb.11:9); There is **no place** in this world you can go and escape the curse.

- To this body of death (Rom.7:24, struggle with sin; struggle with mortality, II Cor.5:4-7; I Cor.15:42b-55).