

Jeremiah 37 : 4-21. Study Jeremiah, ch. 37—Memory Verse, 15.

**Golden Text**—Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.—Matthew 5 : 11.



4 Now Jeremi'ah came in and went out among the people : for they had not put him into prison.

5 Then Phar'ao'h's army was come forth out of E'gypt : and when the Chalde'ans that besieged Jeru'salem heard tidings of them, they departed from Jeru'salem.

6 Then came the word of the LORD unto the prophet Jeremi'ah, saying,

7 Thus saith the LORD, the God of Is'rael ; Thus shall ye say to the king of Ju'dah, that sent you unto me to enquire of me ; Behold, Phar'ao'h's army, which is come forth to help you, shall return to E'gypt into their own land.

8 And the Chalde'ans shall come again, and fight against this city, and take it, and burn it with fire.

9 Thus saith the LORD ; Deceive not yourselves, saying, The Chalde'ans shall surely depart from us : for they shall not depart.

10 For though ye had smitten the whole army of the Chalde'ans that fight against you, and there remained *but* wounded men among them, *yet* should they rise up every man in his tent, and burn this city with fire.

11 And it came to pass, that when the army of the Chalde'ans was broken up from Jeru'salem for fear of Phar'ao'h's army,

12 Then Jeremi'ah went forth out of Jeru'salem to go into the land of Ben'jamin, to separate himself thence in the midst of the people.

13 And when he was in the gate of Ben'jamin, a captain of the ward *was* there, whose name *was* Iri'jah, the son of Shelemi'ah, the son of Hanani'ah ; and he took Jeremi'ah the prophet, saying, Thou fallest away to the Chalde'ans.

14 Then said Jeremi'ah, *It is false ; I fall not away*

to the Chalde'ans. But he hearkened not to him ; so Iri'jah took Jeremi'ah, and brought him to the princes. 15 Wherefore the princes were wroth with Jeremi'ah, and smote him, and put him in prison in the house of Jon'athan the scribe : for they had made that the prison. 16 When Jeremi'ah was entered into the dungeon, and into the cabins, and Jeremi'ah had remained there many days ; 17 Then Zedeki'ah the king sent, and took him out : and the king asked him secretly in his house, and said, Is there *any* word from the LORD ? And Jeremi'ah said, There is : for, said he, thou shalt be delivered into the hand of the king of Bab'ylon. 18 Moreover Jeremi'ah said unto king Zedeki'ah, What have I offended against thee, or against thy servants, or against this people, that ye have put me in prison ? 19 Where *are* now your prophets which prophesied unto you, saying, The king of Bab'ylon shall not come against you, nor against this land ? 20 Therefore hear now, I pray thee, O my lord the king : let my supplication, I pray thee, be accepted before thee ; that thou cause me not to return to the house of Jon'athan the scribe, lest I die there. 21 Then Zedeki'ah the king commanded that they should commit Jeremi'ah into the court of the prison, and that they should give him daily a piece of bread out of the bakers' street, until all the bread in the city were spent. Thus Jeremi'ah remained in the court of the prison.

### THE LESSON RETOLD

At last King Jehoiakim died, and Jehoia-chin his son became king. Then Nebuchadnezzar, the heathen king of Babylon, came up to the city of Jerusalem, and carried away captive to his own land the new king and his family, and all the brave, strong men of the city. And he made Zedekiah, Jehoiakim's brother, king over those who were left ; but Zedekiah was Nebuchadnezzar's servant and had to obey him.

Now Zedekiah hated Nebuchadnezzar, and rebelled against him. Then Nebuchadnezzar sent an army to besiege Jerusalem. But another army came from Egypt to help Zedekiah, and when the generals of Nebuchadnezzar's army heard this, they went away with their soldiers from Jerusalem to fight

the Egyptians. Zedekiah and his people thought that the Babylonian army had gone away for good ; but the Lord sent a message through Jeremiah to Zedekiah, saying, " Do not deceive yourselves, saying, ' The Babylonians have left our land ' ; for they have not left. It is the Egyptians who shall leave, and the Babylonians shall return again some day and burn your city with fire."

While the Babylonians were away from the city, a great many people left the city, in which they had been shut up so long, and went out into the country. Jeremiah himself started to go to Anathoth, where he had been born and where he had some property. But as he was going out of the city gate, an officer on guard caught him and cried, " You