

## Jeremiah 37

**Read Jeremiah 37:1-10:** The people of the land were not listening to God. Prophets are only needed when the people have left God. God has a way to start up the conversation. We all have a trigger and conversation starting point. The harder the hearts, the harder the required softening circumstances. Faith usually comes in a series of forward and backwards steps. God develops people in steps of faith. God's first choice is to lead us with his word and in relationship. The second choice is via the hard circumstances of life. Some hate God and any authority figures. Others are indifferent.

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. -Do not be like the horse or like the mule, Which have no understanding, Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, Else they will not come near you. (Psalm 32:8-9)

The self-assured have to see their vulnerabilities. Our options widen as we get deeper into peril.

God rewarded the effort to contact the local prophet; even though they had no faith. Egypt attacked the Chaldeans; and created a short-term reprieve. The siege was put on hold. Normally our reliance on God only lasts until the threat subsides. The LORD had the Chaldeans burn Jerusalem to the ground. God even went so far to state that if the nation of the world defeated Babylon; that the lone Babylonian survivor would raise up and destroy Jerusalem.

**Read Jeremiah 37:11-15:** The difficult circumstances of life fall upon the good and the evil.

... for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. (Matthew 5:45b)

It does not really hurt as much when we suffer for righteousness. Unfortunately some Christians call everything spiritual warfare. It is often just the consequences of our bad decisions'. People use the Bible to beat up on people that they do not like. Jeremiah was

sought out when the people when they were feeling insecure. God was rejected; and his prophet was thrown in jail as soon as the siege eased.

**Read Jeremiah 37:16-21:** Jeremiah was thrown into prison for a long time. King Zedekiah came and asked for an update from God. Jeremiah could have lied to get out of prison. Instead he told Zedekiah that the king would be delivered to the king of Babylon. Jeremiah asked why he was in prison since his prophecies were fulfilled; yet the false prophets said Babylon would never come. Jeremiah was given daily bread and kept in the court of the prison until the bread ran out.