

# The King who Would not Listen

Jeremiah 38:13-28

And they drew Jeremiah up with ropes and brought him up out of the pit. And Jeremiah dwelt in the court of the guardhouse.

Zedekiah the king sent and took Jeremiah the prophet to him, into the third entrance in the house of YAHWEH.

And the king said to Jeremiah, I will ask you a thing; do not hide a thing from me. Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, If I declare it to you, surely will you not cause me to die? And if I counsel you, you will not listen to me.

Zedekiah the king swore secretly to Jeremiah, saying, As YAHWEH lives, who made us this soul, I will not cause you to die, nor will I give you into the hand of these men who seek your life.

Jeremiah said to Zedekiah, So says YAHWEH, the Elohim of Hosts, the Elohim of Israel: If surely you will go out to the rulers of the king of Babylon, then your soul shall live, and this city shall not be burned with fire. And you and your house shall live. But if you will not go out to the rulers of the king of Babylon, even this city shall be given into the hands of the Chaldeans, and they will burn it with fire. And you shall not escape out of their hand.

Zedekiah the king said to Jeremiah, I am afraid of the Jews who have fallen to the Chaldeans, lest they give me into their hand and they abuse me. Jeremiah said, They will not give. Please obey the voice of YAHWEH which I am speaking to you, and it will be well with you and your soul will live. But if you refuse to go out, this is the Word YAHWEH has made me see:

Even, behold, all the women who are left in the house of the king of Judah shall be brought out to the rulers of the king of Babylon. And they will say, The men who look after your welfare have seduced you and have prevailed against you; your feet have sunk in the mire, and they turned back.

And they shall bring out all your wives and your sons to the Chaldeans. And you shall not escape out of their hand, but shall be seized by the hand of the king of Babylon. And this city shall be burned with fire.

Zedekiah said to Jeremiah, Let not a man know of these words, and you shall not die.

But if the rulers hear that I have talked with you, and they come to you and say to you, Now tell us what you said to the king; do not hide it from us and we will not put you to death; also, What did the king say to you? Then you shall say to them, I was causing my plea to fall before the king, that he should not return me to the house of Jonathan, to die there.

And all the rulers came to Jeremiah and asked him. And he told them according to all these words that the king had ordered. And they were silent with him, for the matter was not heard.

Jeremiah dwelt in the court of the guardhouse until the day Jerusalem was captured. And he was there when Jerusalem was captured.

