

Jeremiah 32:1-5

The setting of this chapter is during the siege of Jerusalem by Babylon in the time period of 588 - 587 B.C. It is probably in 587 B.C. that this portion occurs. This is because Nebuchadnezzar pulled the initial siege when he heard of the Egyptian forces advancing - "Then Pharaoh's army was come forth out of Egypt: and when the Chaldeans that besieged Jerusalem heard tidings of them, they departed from Jerusalem," Jeremiah 37:5. Jeremiah has his faith tested as he is in prison because of his preaching. Why is it tested? In the previous chapter God told him the people were coming back to the land from Babylonian captivity (and more specifically from world-wide captivity). Does he believe this? Even in the face of persecution will he proclaim what God has said?

- 1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the tenth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar.**
- 2 For then the king of Babylon's army besieged Jerusalem: and Jeremiah the prophet was shut up in the court of the prison, which was in the king of Judah's house.**
- 3 For Zedekiah king of Judah had shut him up, saying, Wherefore dost thou prophesy, and say, Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall take it;**
- 4 And Zedekiah king of Judah shall not escape out of the hand of the Chaldeans, but shall surely be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon, and shall speak with him mouth to mouth, and his eyes shall behold his eyes;**
- 5 And he shall lead Zedekiah to Babylon, and there shall he be until I visit him, saith the LORD: though ye fight with the Chaldeans, ye shall not prosper.**

The secular world doesn't like the convictions and, especially, Bible believers sharing their convictions. This is the case with King Zedekiah when he had Jeremiah put into prison because he objected to his message. Dr. Charles Feinberg summarizes the situation well:

"The siege of Jerusalem was at an advanced stage. The outlook was dark, the situation desperate. Verse 2 tells of Jeremiah's imprisonment; verses 3-5 give the reason for this. Chapter 37 shows us that Jeremiah had not yet been imprisoned during the siege of Jerusalem by the Babylonians and the raising of that siege by the approach of the Egyptian army (37:4-12). During the temporary raising of the Babylonian siege, when he tried to leave the city to go to the land of Benjamin, Jeremiah was taken and thrown into a dungeon on the pretense that he was defecting to the Babylonians (37:11,16). He remained there a good while until Zedekiah ordered him to appear before him to be questioned about the outcome of the war. When he told Zedekiah that he would be captured by Nebuchadnezzar (37:17), Jeremiah then lamented about the difficulty of his own imprisonment (37:20) and begged not to be put back into the dungeon. So Zedekiah ordered him (37:21) to be moved to the 'courtyard of the guard' (vs. 2), where he stayed until the city fell (38:13, 28; 39:14)."

Jeremiah was faithful in sharing the word of God even with the opposition of the political ruler(s). This may be one of the most trying times in the ministry of Jeremiah. Would his faith stand in the face of persecution and opposition from the ruling authorities of his day? Or, would he fail?

What about us? Is our faith strong enough to withstand our governmental leaders when they unjustly persecute us, imprison us, or worse? What is biblical faith?

- 1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**
- 2 For by it the elders obtained a good report.**
- 6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**

There are 2 parts to faith in verse one.

- a) Basis for faith

"Substance" - υποστασις - hoop-os'-tas-is

a setting or placing under 1a) thing put under, substructure, foundation 2) that which has foundation, is firm 2a) that which has actual existence 2a1) a substance, real being 2b) the substantial quality, nature, of a person or thing 2c) the steadfastness of mind, firmness, courage, resolution 2c1) confidence, firm trust, assurance

substance could be translated the ground, basis, foundation, the Greek word used here is also used for "title-deed"; a title-deed is yours, it states that it belongs to you

What then, is that title deed or foundation of faith?

Romans 10:17 says "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God"

"things hoped for" - are things we are assured of; these are not maybe's

b) The evidence of faith

"evidence" - the evidence in your life, the conviction in your life; acting out your faith in your life; if your faith is real, there will be a resulting change in your life, even if you haven't seen the end result (no matter what the circumstances)

"things not seen" - promises God has given us: heavenly home, rewards for believers at the judgement seat of Christ (if we believe God will reward us, we will live in light of that promise)

These 2 parts to faith, basing it on scripture (God's Word), and living in light of it, are the basis for understanding the rest of the chapter.

2 For by it the elders obtained a good report.

"it" = faith = evidencing their conviction that God's Word would come to pass

Examples showing this truth:

Matthew 15:21-28 Jesus commended this woman for her great faith.

21 Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon.

22 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.

23 But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.

24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

25 Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.

26 But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs.

27 And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.

28 Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

Two obstacles this woman had to overcome:

- disciples rejection in vs. 23
- Jesus rejection in vs. 24, 26

2 clues why she was commended for her great faith

- vs. 22 - "thou Son of David" is a messianic term. She knew He was the Messiah. How? The only way she could have known this was through the Word of God, through the O.T. prophecies. Somehow she knew the O.T. teachings.
- vs. 25 - she worshiped Jesus.

Elijah - James 5:16,17

16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

17 Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months

Elijah's prayer was based on Deuteronomy 11:13-17

13 And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul,

14 That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil.

15 And I will send grass in thy fields for thy cattle, that thou mayest eat and be full.

- 16 Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them;
- 17 And then the LORD'S wrath be kindled against you, and he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the LORD giveth you.

Matthew 17:17-20

- 17 Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me.
- 18 And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour.
- 19 Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out?
- 20 And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

Jesus called his disciples "faithless" because they could not heal the man's son; Jesus said they were unable to heal the boy because of their unbelief. Matthew 10:1 records that Jesus had given them the power to heal this type of sickness.

"And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease."

They really didn't believe what Jesus told them (they didn't believe the word of God).

6 But without faith *it is impossible to please him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him*.

- a) Must have faith (live based on God's Word)
- b) Must believe God is!

This **is not** believing there is a "sugar daddy in the sky;" nor, a general statement that there is a God; nor, a belief in a supreme being of a religion or your imagination.

This **is** believing what the Bible says about God: He is just, holy, righteous, faithful, true, omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, the only God, who has a Son Who is the only Savior, etc.

- c) Must believe that God will reward you
- d) Must diligently seek him

FAITH IS BASED ON WHAT THE WORD OF GOD SAYS AND EVIDENCED BY THE WAY YOU RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

We live in a time that is not unlike the time of Jeremiah. The progressives of the United States, led by the Biden administration, with the complicity of the social media corporations, the mainstream media, the education system, plus others, is not only suppressing freedom of speech and other liberties, but actively persecuting people who break the "progressive" understanding of "truth." For example, the arrest and prosecution of over 500 people who were involved in the Jan. 6 "insurrection" is a blatant miscarriage of justice and the denying of their constitutional rights. On social media people are banned for sharing misinformation. Ben Shapiro in his article *Lying About 'Misinformation' to Justify Tyranny* on July 21, 2021 writes (in part):

"So, what's driving the Biden administration's finger pointing? Its broader agenda to utilize the massive market dominance of the social media platforms to squeeze alternative media sources out of existence. Before the rise of social media, most Americans who used the internet for news bookmarked a variety of pages and then visited them individually. Over time, as social media grew and as people began to access stories they liked through an algorithmically controlled newsfeed, Americans used social media for news. This centralized the mechanism for information dissemination.

Now, the left sees an opportunity: If all the news is accessed in one place, by restricting access in that place, the news monopoly once held by legacy media can be reestablished. All that will be required is labeling everyone they don't like 'misinformation.'

Kara Swisher of The New York Times, who has spent the past several years attempting to pressure Facebook into exactly such censorship, says as much openly. According to Swisher, Biden wasn't wrong to say Facebook was killing people. Actually, writes Swisher, the problem is that Biden restricted his analysis to the coronavirus: "Attempting to stop falsehoods by claiming to offer good information is like using a single sandbag to hold back an impossibly fetid ocean. It's like that when it comes to a range of once-anodyne, now divisive issues, from election integrity to critical race theory to whatever."

'Whatever.' Literally any topic on which Swisher disagrees is now dangerous misinformation that must be curbed. This week, NPR went so far as to pressure Facebook to suppress traffic to my website, Daily Wire, on precisely this basis. NPR admitted that we don't print falsehoods, that we don't spread conspiracy theories and that we are honest and open about our conservative perspective. So, why should we be suppressed? Because, according to NPR, we cover "specific stories that bolster the conservative agenda." And, quoting an expert, NPR reports, "If you've stripped enough context away, any piece of truth can become a piece of misinformation."

There it is: even truth can be misinformation. And misinformation kills.

The authoritarianism of the left is in full swing. Americans must spot it and fight it before it destroys our ability to see anything other than that which the left wants us to see."

The time is coming, and here to some degree, when Christians in the U.S.A. will be persecuted (and prosecuted) for standing, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, publicly sharing the biblical truths we hold.

So, how did Jeremiah do when confronted with this situation. How will you do when confronted with the same type of situation as Jeremiah? The rest of the chapter answers how Jeremiah responded. Your life, in the days ahead, will tell us how you respond to this type of situation.