

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

NOTES FOR THIS WEEK: 5/17-18/2021

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: *Jeremiah Chapters 42-43*

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS112, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340

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+16699006833,,85309150746# US (San Jose)

+12532158782,,85309150746# US (Tacoma)

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Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 For Audio & notes from previous studies - www.ptwente.com

OPENING PRAYER – Introduction *Jeremiah Chapters 42-43*

- We may, in error, ask God for guidance and direction, hoping to hear that He will confirm what we've already decided to do. We need to be careful when asking God for His will and promising to keep it. Then, if His answer is not what we want, we ignore His will and do what we have had in our heart along!
- Are we willing to be obedient no matter what He says, surrendering all to Him?

I SURRENDER ALL! - VanDeVenter; Weeden - Maranatha! Praise Band (4:11)

1. All to Jesus I surrender; all to Him I freely give; I will ever love and trust Him, in His presence daily live.

Refrain - I surrender all, I surrender all, all to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

2. All to Jesus I surrender; humbly at His feet I bow, worldly pleasures all forsaken; take me, Jesus, take me now. (Refrain)

3. All to Jesus I surrender; make me, Savior, wholly Thine; Let me feel the Holy Spirit, Truly know that Thou art mine. (Refrain)

4. All to Jesus I surrender; Lord, I give myself to Thee; fill me with Thy love and power; let Thy blessing fall on me. (Refrain)

5. All to Jesus I surrender; now I feel the sacred flame. O the joy of full salvation! Glory, glory, to His name! (Refrain)

THIS WEEK'S STUDY:

Chap. 42 – The Flight to Egypt Forbidden - (vs. 1-22); Chap. 43 – Jeremiah Taken to Egypt – (vs. 1-13);

INTRODUCTION:

Last Week:

Jer 41:16 Then Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the captains of the forces that were with him, took from Mizpah all the rest of the people whom he had recovered from Ishmael the son of Nethaniah after he had murdered Gedaliah the son of Ahikam—the mighty men of war and the women and the children and the eunuchs, whom he had brought back from Gibeon.

Jer 41:17 And they departed and dwelt in the habitation of Chimham, which is near Bethlehem, as they went on their way to Egypt,

Jer 41:18 because of the Chaldeans; for they were afraid of them, because Ishmael the son of Nethaniah had murdered Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, whom the king of Babylon had made governor in the land.

Jeremiah, chapter 42: The warnings of the prophets of God, have not been heeded. The nation of Judah did not turn with their whole heart from their idolatry, sexual promiscuity and from the worship of the false gods. They did not return to the law of God. As the result, the words of the prophets have come to pass, the Babylonian army has overrun the city of Jerusalem. The walls of the city have been broken down. The temple, the palaces have been broken down, the city has been set on fire. The inhabitants have fled or have been taken captive to Babylon. It is a sad, sad picture of the desolation. The king of Judah has been taken captive to Babylon. His children have been slain before his eyes and his eyes have been put out. He is a captive in Babylon.

- **The Babylonian king has put a governor, named Gedaliah, over Judah.** They set up the operations in the city of Mizpeh, because Jerusalem is wasted and desolate. The people gather there to **Gedaliah**, in Mizpeh. He encourages them to just enjoy the fruit of the land, obey the Babylonians, submit to them, and all will be well. But there were evil men who came and conspired against **Gedaliah**. **Ishmael** assassinated him, and began to take the people as captives to Ammon in a conspiracy with Baalis, king of the Ammonites. However, **Johanan**, one of the captains of the host of Judah, came with his men and delivered the captives out of the hand of Ishmael, who had assassinated Gedaliah.

- Now they have gathered to Chimham, a place near Bethlehem, planning to flee to Egypt. They are fearful that when word gets back to Nebuchadnezzar of the assassination, that he will send his troops once more, and this time it will be utter destruction, so, they plan to flee to Egypt for their lives.

Warning Against Going to Egypt

Jer 42:1 Now all the captains of the forces, Johanan the son of Kareah, Jezeiah the son of Hoshai, and all the people, from the least to the greatest, came near

Jer 42:2 and said to Jeremiah the prophet, "Please, let our petition be acceptable to you, and pray for us to the LORD your God, for all this remnant (since we are left but a few of many, as you can see),

Jer 42:3 that the LORD your God may show us the way in which we should walk and the thing we should do."

- Sounding sincere, they desire that Jeremiah, by prayer, ask direction God what they should do in the present critical juncture. They express themselves wonderfully well, with a seemingly great respect to the prophet and of God's interest in heaven and with a desire of divine direction. The people recognized that Jeremiah had predicted the very things that had happened. They were searching right now, just as to what they should do, even though they had already sort of made up their minds that they were going to flee to Egypt. In every difficult and doubtful situation, our eyes must be looking up to God for direction.
- **They were fearful.** Decisions made out of fear are usually poor ones, such as here, being in fear of man, they show their fear of a possible Nebuchadnezzar reprisal, much more than fearing God, which always will lead to disaster!

Jer 42:4 Then Jeremiah the prophet said to them, "I have heard. Indeed, I will pray to the LORD your God according to your words, and it shall be, that whatever the LORD answers you, I will declare it to you. I will keep nothing back from you."

- **Jeremiah agrees to that request.** "I will seek the Lord, and I will pray. I will see if the Lord has a word for you in this situation. I promise I'll tell you everything, not holding back anything." I will tell you exactly what the LORD says.

Jer 42:5 So they said to Jeremiah, "Let the LORD be a true and faithful witness between us, if we do not do according to everything which the LORD your God sends us by you.

- **They made a vow.** "The Lord be with us with this vow, a true and faithful witness. We'll do everything God tells us to do. We will be obedient to the voice of the Lord. Whatever God says, we will do it." We will see that this really is one of those prayers, where what is being said is, "LORD bless our plan!" We want You to be co-operative with whatever we've already decided! Do we ever pray those prayers?

Jer 42:6 Whether it is pleasing or displeasing, we will obey the voice of the LORD our God to whom we send you, that it may be well with us when we obey the voice of the LORD our

God." (Exo 24:7) Then he (Moses) took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient."

- **They now acknowledge, "Our God"!** They promise that whatever God says, we will do." It doesn't matter, whether it's hard or whatever. We'll do it." As you read this you'll realize, maybe they have finally learned their lesson! They've learned the importance of obedience to God." The Bible says that, "The way of the transgressor is hard." They had transgressed the laws of God, and now they were experiencing the devastation, the total devastation of their city, the land, all because of their disobedience. They brought it on themselves. Then you say, "All right, they've learned their lesson.
- **We can always start over again!"** That's the glorious thing about God. He gives you opportunity after opportunity to start over again. Mess it up, God will just let you start over again. Start afresh, start anew. The way to start is that commitment. "Lord I won't go my own way, I won't do my own thing. Lord I will obey whatever you say." As I read this I see great hope and all for the future.
- **We do not truly desire to know the mind of God if we do not fully resolve** to comply with it when we do know it!

- It is upon a very good consideration that they promise this, a reasonable and powerful one, *that it may be well with us*, which intimates a conviction that they could not expect it should be well with them upon any other terms.

Jer 42:7 And it happened after ten days that the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah.

- Jeremiah did not speak of himself, for he could not speak when he was asked, but must wait for instructions. So, Jeremiah prayed, seeking the Lord for *ten days*. Then, the Lord spoke to Jeremiah, the message for the people.

Jer 42:8 Then he called Johanan the son of Kareah, all the captains of the forces which were with him, and all the people from the least even to the greatest,

Jer 42:9 and said to them, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, to whom you sent me to present your petition before Him:

- Now Jeremiah is going to tell the remnant, *from the least even to the greatest*, exactly what God says. they are to do.— Notice the word of God is for all!

Jer 42:10 'If you will still remain in this land, then I will build you and not pull you down, and I will plant you and not pluck you up. For I relent concerning the disaster that I have brought upon you. (plant/not pluck up) - Jer 12:14,17; 18:7; 22:24; 24:6; 31:28; 42:10; 45:4)

- This is God's word unto you. The word *relent*, also translated *repent*, is an attempt to explain the actions of God in our human language. We are told in the scriptures that, "God is not a man, that He should lie, nor the Son of Man that He should repent. Has He not spoken, and shall He not make it good?" With God, it is only an indication of a turning from a previous activity. The previous activity was His judgement upon Judah. That fierce judgement that He brought. Now God is saying, "I'm turning." The judgement is complete, as far as God is concerned. Here He gives this remnant another chance from going on the wrong track!

Jer 42:11 Do not be afraid of the king of Babylon, of whom you are afraid; do not be afraid of him,' says the LORD, 'for I am with you, to save you and deliver you from his hand. Isa 41:10 Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

- ***Do not be afraid of the king of Babylon, for that fear will bring a snare: Do not be afraid of him, for I am with you;*** The answer to fear is always the presence and consciousness of God! God is always with us, but we're not always conscious of it. That consciousness of the presence of God is what always dispels fear. David said, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me." The presence of God dispelling the fear. God gives His cure for fear and that is the consciousness of the fact that He is with them. "***Don't be afraid for I am with you to save you and I will deliver you out of his hand.***"
- **What a glorious promise that God gave to these people!** How simple are the instructions! "***Whether it is pleasing or displeasing, we will obey the voice of the LORD our God***" What God told them was very simple! He just said, "***If you will still remain in this land, then I will build you and not pull you down, and I will plant you and not pluck you up.*** Don't go down to Egypt, just stay here." God then promised what He would do for them if they would stay in the land. He would build them up. He would plant them again.

Jer 42:12 And I will show you mercy, that he may have mercy on you and cause you to return to your own land.'

- God has promised that He will be merciful to them if they will just return to their own land. Now, that's the word of the Lord, that God gave to Jeremiah for the people. They had said, "Whatever God says, we'll do it. We will do it! God bear witness, we'll do it! But God went on to warn them.

Jer 42:13 'But if you say, 'We will not dwell in this land,' disobeying the voice of the LORD your God,

- Now they've already said they would obey, but He said, "***If you say***"!
- As they seek the favor of God and their own happiness, they must by no means think of going into Egypt, not to that land from which God had delivered their fathers and which he had so often warned them not to make alliance with nor to put confidence in!

Jer 42:14 saying, 'No, but we will go to the land of Egypt where we shall see no war, nor hear the sound of the trumpet, nor be hungry for bread, and there we will dwell'—

- **It is foolish to quit our place, especially to quit the Promised Land**, if we meet with trouble there. But, it is even greater foolishness, to think by changing our place, we can escape the judgments of God, and that evil which pursues sinners in every way of disobedience!
- **We must be careful when we ask God for His will, when seeking clarity between possible choices, that we don't take the position that Judah took here.** Promising that we will do whatever the LORD tells us. Then when His answer comes, and is not the choice we want, that we ignore the will of the LORD, and go back and do what we wanted to do in the first place. That is a definite indication of our wrongful lack of sincerity in approaching the LORD in the first place!

Jer 42:15 *Then hear now the word of the LORD, O remnant of Judah! Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: 'If you wholly set your faces to enter Egypt, and go to dwell there, Jer 42:16 then it shall be that the sword which you feared shall overtake you there in the land of Egypt; the famine of which you were afraid shall follow close after you there in Egypt; and there you shall die.*

- **It is as though God knew that when they promised to obey the voice of God, that they weren't going to obey**, and probably the people were talking about, "You know if we can just get down to Egypt, we'll be safe. We'll be beyond the reach of Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian army and there we can have plenty of bread, and there we can live safely. We won't hear the sound of the trumpets calling people to war and all, and we can just dwell safely." But God is saying that's a false precept. If you go down there you won't dwell safely. "It will come to pass that the sword which you fear, will follow you there and overtake you in the land of Egypt."

Jer 42:17 *So shall it be with all the men who set their faces to go to Egypt to dwell there. They shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence. And none of them shall remain or escape from the disaster that I will bring upon them.'*

- **You will all perish in Egypt. You won't escape.** The very things you are trying to escape from, will befall you there. Note the adequate warning from God!
- **About nine hundred years earlier, God had brought their fathers out of Egypt.** For the Egyptians had oppressed them. The Egyptians had made slaves of them, and they were chaffing under the cruel taskmasters of Egypt, who were forcing them in slave labor to actually produce more than they could humanly, possibly produce. It represented bondage. They cried unto God by reason of their bondage in Egypt, and God delivered them and brought them out of the land of Egypt and gave them the land that He promised unto Abraham. It was a glorious day of God's deliverance!
- **But now they're going back! What a tragedy! Back to that old life of bondage.** Back to the life of the flesh! Egypt in biblical typology is always a type of the flesh life. Thus, going back to the bondage of the life of the flesh. After having been delivered and being set free. It's a tragedy when a nation, when a people who have been made strong by the Lord, leave the Lord and go back to the base things, as they are doing!

Jer 42:18 *'For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: 'As My anger and My fury have been poured out on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so will My fury be poured out on you when you enter Egypt. And you shall be an oath, an astonishment (object of horror) , a curse, and a reproach; and you shall see this place no more.'*

- **God knows they're going to go to Egypt!** Experience has taught them nothing! They still will not obey God. They will not hear the message from Jeremiah. God has told them not to go down into Egypt. So where will they go? They go to Egypt!
- **They've made all these promises, but God knew they were empty promises.** God talks about the things that are going to happen when they enter Egypt. ***You will be an astonishment, a curse, and a reproach; and you shall see this place no more!*** "You're going to be looked down upon when you get there. You're going to be as dirt, you're going to be a reproach, and a curse."

Jer 42:19 *'The LORD has said concerning you, O remnant of Judah, 'Do not go to Egypt!' Know certainly that I have admonished you this day.*

- **These people are just to know that God warned them!**

Jer 42:20 *For you were hypocrites in your hearts when you sent me to the LORD your God, saying, 'Pray for us to the LORD our God, and according to all that the LORD your God says, so*

declare to us and we will do it.' (Isa 29:13) Therefore the Lord said: "Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths And honor Me with their lips, But have removed their hearts far from Me,

- **He said, "You were hypocrites in your heart, in your heart you weren't sincere.** In your heart you had already made up your mind what you were going to do. You were already determined to go to **Egypt**, and thus when you said, you'll do whatever God said for us to do. He said, In your heart you were not sincere when you made that promise and that vow before the Lord!"
- **Many times, we have made up our minds what we are going to do, before we ever seek the Lord.** Our seeking of the Lord isn't always a genuine desire to know and to do exactly what God would have us to do. What we're hoping, is that God will approve of what we have already planned to do. You know, it always helps if God is on your side. "Hopefully, God will go along with our plans. That'll be a plus, if He doesn't, we're going to do it anyhow, but wouldn't it be nice if the Lord would approve of what we're going to do."
- **Evidently, that's what they were hoping that the word of the Lord would say,** "Go to Egypt, and I'll be with you, and I'll preserve you, and you'll escape you know, and you don't have to fear." But what the message came back different. The message just came back, "Stay here. Trust in Me. You don't have to be afraid, just trust in Me. I'll take care of you, I'll provide for you. I'll do you good. I'll build you up. I will plant you again in the land, and it will be good. It will be well with you. But if you go to Egypt, there's nothing but disaster that awaits you!" What would you do in that case? Well, hopefully you would say, "Well all right! Let's hang around. Let's just see God work." The idea is just abide in Christ and, "If you'll abide then I will take care of you. I will provide for you".
- **That is what the Lord says to us, "Just abide in Christ."** There is the place of safety, there's where the Lord will bless you, and there's where the Lord will prosper you, just abide in Christ. Though the enemy may come against you, you don't have to fear because Christ will be your defense. Just abiding in Christ is such a glorious place! There's where we experience the mercies of God. There's where we experience the grace and the blessings, and the goodness of God, as we abide in Jesus Christ. For Jesus is our protection, and it's a great place. People look at life of the flesh, which looks enticing, and alluring to them. They are drawn after the flesh so many times. Their heart is there in the world and they're drawn back to the things of the world, rather than abiding in Christ.

Jer 42:21 And I have this day declared it to you, but you have not obeyed the voice of the LORD your God, or anything which He has sent you by me.

Jer 42:22 Now therefore, know certainly that you shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence in the place where you desire to go to dwell."

- **I've told you, but you haven't obeyed. Just know for sure, if you're going to go down there, you're going to die down there!** You're not going to find the protection that you're looking for. You're not going to find the satisfaction and the life that you want."
- **In reality the life of the flesh can never provide what you're looking for!** You see, the problem is that we have fantasies, but reality can never live up to the fantasy. Therefore, it's always disappointing. The life of the flesh always leaves you disappointed and empty; and, searching for more. The Prophet said, "You're going to **die** there, you're not going to find what you want. Just know that."

Jeremiah Taken to Egypt

Jer 43:1 Now it happened, when Jeremiah had stopped speaking to all the people all the words of the LORD their God, for which the LORD their God had sent him to them, all these words,

Jer 43:2 that Azariah the son of Hoshaiah, Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the proud men spoke, saying to Jeremiah, "You speak falsely! The LORD our God has not sent you to say, 'Do not go to Egypt to dwell there.' (Pro 6:16,17a) These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: [17] A proud look, A lying tongue! (Pro 16:18) Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.

- **"That's not true. You're not speaking the truth. God didn't say that to you."** There are so many people who want to serve God on their terms. They want to follow God on their terms. "As long as God tells me the things I want to do are all right, I'll serve God. But He better not cross me, or I'm not going to serve Him anymore." They have such a peculiar concept of what it is to submit your life to God. To really surrender yourself to God. They're all mixed up! "I'll serve the Lord as long as

He'll allow me to do this, as long as I can do that. Here I am Lord, I am Your servant." Well yes, "As long as You go along with me." But that's not what it's all about.

- **Here they are, they've asked to hear from God, God has spoken, and now they're saying,** "That's not true. God didn't say that." The problem is that he is not saying what they want him to say. They had hoped he would tell them to go to Egypt. Instead, God tells them not to go into Egypt.

Jer 43:3 But Baruch the son of Neriah has set you against us, to deliver us into the hand of the Chaldeans, that they may put us to death or carry us away captive to Babylon."

- **They are accusing the prophet of lying with a false motivation.** "Your real desire is to see us destroyed." Not so! But yet, they're disobeying so they have to have some excuse.

Jer 43:4 So Johanan the son of Kareah, all the captains of the forces, and all the people would not obey the voice of the LORD, to remain in the land of Judah.

Jer 43:5 But Johanan the son of Kareah and all the captains of the forces took all the remnant of Judah who had returned to dwell in the land of Judah, from all nations where they had been driven—

Jer 43:6 men, women, children, the king's daughters, and every person whom Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard had left with Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, and Jeremiah the prophet and Baruch the son of Neriah.

- **The hardened, disobedient leaders accused him of deceit and forced Jeremiah and the remnant to go to Egypt,** despite the fact that all his prophecies about Babylon had come to pass. In so doing, they went out of God's protection into His judgment, as do all who are disobedient to His word!

Jer 43:7 So they went to the land of Egypt, for they did not obey the voice of the LORD. And they went as far as Tahpanhes.

- **Though they had made the vow, "God be our witness, we will obey", yet they did not obey!** Here we are. The tragedy, back to Egypt. Returning back to the old life after nine hundred years. Back to the place of bondage!

Jer 43:8 Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah in Tahpanhes, saying,

- **Then the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah in Tahpanhes, saying, God still spoke to them!** Now this, to me, is glorious. The people now, it is hopeless! It's total utter failure! They had their warning, they saw the word of God come to pass, they saw Jerusalem destroyed, they realized that Jeremiah was a true prophet of God, and they'd had their opportunity now, once more.
- **God gave them one final opportunity to do what's right.** "Dwell in the land, and it'll be well with you." Now they refuse even now, to obey. They've been stubborn and rebellious and disobedient to God. That brought on their calamity but now even seeing the calamity, they won't turn, they just remain in this stance of rebellion against the word of the Lord, and they've come to Egypt.
- **If they had had the spirit of Israelites,** they would have chosen rather to dwell in the wilderness of Judah than in the most pompous populous cities of Egypt

Jer 43:9 "Take large stones in your hand, and hide them in the sight of the men of Judah, in the clay in the brick courtyard which is at the entrance to Pharaoh's house in Tahpanhes;

Jer 43:10 and say to them, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "Behold, I will send and bring Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant, and will set his throne above these stones that I have hidden. And he will spread his royal pavilion over them.

- **God's word to the people.** Take large stones. Stones, placed in the mortar of the brick pavement in the courtyard entrance of the Pharaoh's house, signaled the place where the conquering king of Babylon would bring devastation on Egypt and establish his throne. This was fulfilled in an invasion in 568/67 B.C. **"You've come down here,** you think that you're going to be safe here!" Jeremiah was told by the Lord to take these great stones, hide them under this pavement. It was to be a sign to the people, he was to say, "When Nebuchadnezzar comes, he's going to place his throne right here on these stones, here on this pavement! **"Over these stones that I have hidden; he will spread his royal pavilion over them."**
- **There is an interesting archeological note.** A little over a hundred years ago, an archeologist by the name of Flinders Petrie, in doing excavation at Tahpanhes, discovered the front porch of the palace of the king, of the Pharaoh of Egypt. They began to dig under the pavement stones that were in front of

the palace, Under the pavement stones there at Tahpanhes they found the huge rocks that Jeremiah had placed there as a sign for the people!

PHARAOH'S HOUSE IN TAHPANHES" (Jer.

43:9).*In the year 1886 W.M. Flinders Petrie was exploring at Tell Defenneh, in Egypt; he was told that the name of one of the mounds was Kasr Bint el Jehudi, which means "the palace of the Jew's daughter". This name recalled to his mind the passage in Jeremiah 43:6, 7, and at once connected Defenneh with "Tahpanhes", where in vv. 8-11 Jeremiah received this order :*

"Take great stones in thine hand, and hide them in the clay in the brickkiln, which is at the entry of Pharaoh's house in Tahpanhes, in the sight of the men of Judah; and say unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will send and take

Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, My servant, and will set his throne upon these stones that I have hid; and he shall spread his royal pavilion over them", Jer. 43:8-10.

In the notes on 2Sam. 12:31, Jer 43:9, and Nah. 3:14, we have shown that the Heb. malben cannot mean a "brickkiln" as rendered in the A.V. and in R.V. That this is so fully proved by Jer. 43:9, as the prophecy could not be fulfilled by Nebuchadrezzar's spreading his pavilion over the stones hidden in a "brickkiln", to say nothing of a brickkiln being situated "at the entry of Pharaoh's house". Neither would a brickkiln require to be fortified. But it was left to Professor Flinders Petrie to discover the solution of the difficulty on clearing around the fort:

"The entrance was in the side of a block of buildings projecting from the fort; and in front of it, on the opposite side of the roadway, similarly projecting from the fort, was a large platform of brickwork suitable for out-door business, ... just what is now called a mastaba ... Jer. 43:9 is the exact description of the mastaba which I found." See the illustration, which we give by permission.

- **God's word was fulfilled! Nebuchadnezzar came down and conquered Egypt.** The people who disobeyed God, were destroyed through their disobedience. God's word is sure! God's word is steadfast! Yet people question the word of God. People challenge the word of God. Some are so foolish as to even disobey the word of God, taking their chances. But the old Greek proverb says, "The dice of the gods are loaded." By which they are saying that you cannot go against God and win! You're going to experience the tragic consequences anytime you set your heart and your mind to disobey the commands of the Lord!

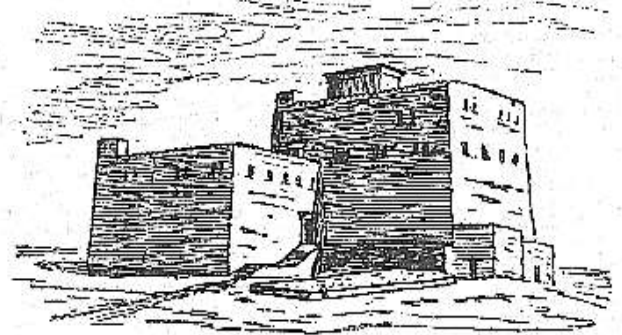
Jer 43:11 When he comes, he shall strike the land of Egypt and deliver to death those appointed for death, and to captivity those appointed for captivity, and to the sword those appointed for the sword.

Jer 43:12 I will kindle a fire in the houses of the gods of Egypt, and he shall burn them and carry them away captive. And he shall array himself with the land of Egypt, as a shepherd puts on his garment, and he shall go out from there in peace, (in great victory!)

- **Just like a shepherd takes his cloak and throws it over his shoulder, and walks off,** so Nebuchadnezzar's going to take the land of Egypt. God is just going to deliver it into Nebuchadnezzar's hands, and he's just going to carry them away, with the spoil of the land of Egypt, like a shepherd takes his cloak and throws it over his shoulder, walking off.

Jer 43:13 He shall also break the sacred pillars of Beth Shemesh that are in the land of Egypt; and the houses of the gods of the Egyptians he shall burn with fire."

- **There is a Beth Shemesh in Israel,** so to distinguish them, they said the **Beth Shemesh**, which means the house of the sun. The sun god **Rab** was the chief God of the Egyptians. He'll break the images of **Beth Shemesh** or **Rab** the sun god, Egypt is not going to be a place of refuge, you've come here but Nebuchadnezzar is going to come and destroy this place.
- **The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul.** God has not prohibited one good thing! In fact, God has required that you do that which is good, and that which is right. God has only prohibited those things that are destructive to you, and to your relationships. Those things that destroy, God said,



Restoration of the Fort among the ruins of Defenneh (now Daphnet), in Egypt, showing the large platform before the entry of Pharaoh's palace at Tahpanhes.

“You shall not do those things that are good and beneficial, wholesome, and right, God says, “These are the things you should do.” “He has shown you O man what is good.” What the Lord requires of you is that you do justly. That you love mercy and that you walk humbly with your God.

- **It’s sort of like what God said to the people. “It’s not hard! Just abide here in the land!** If you just abide here, I’ll be with you. I’ll bless you. I’ll take care of you. You don’t have to fear. I’ll watch over you! I’ll plant you, and I’ll do all these things for you, if you just will abide. If you disobey, these are the calamities!”
- **We say, “Oh those stupid people! When are they going to learn?”** I’m sure the angels are saying that about a lot of us! “When are you going to learn to obey the Lord, and walk after His commands, which are for your good.” How we need to see ourselves and our need to learn from their experiences!

Application:

- **Do not be afraid of man, for that fear will bring a snare, but fear God!** *Do not be afraid of him, for I am with you;* The answer to fear is always the presence and consciousness of God!
- **Do not make decisions when fearful** without much prayer and wait for God’s clear answer!
- **Be careful when asking God for His will, that we promise to keep it.** Then, if His answer is not what we want, we ignore His will and do what we have had in our heart along!
- **May God give us, not only ears to hear, but a heart that will respond to the things of God, to the ways of God, that we might be the people of God.**
- **May we go forth as a light shining in darkness, a witness for Jesus Christ, through the strength and the power of the Holy Spirit.**
- **May the light of His love shine forth in our lives, bringing hope to this dying world!**

Closing Prayer:

Lost Episodes Devotional Daily - <https://drkenyncureton.selz.com/item/556a49aab79872054c569bad>

May 17 On May 17, 1775, the same day the Continental Congress declared a National Day of Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer, Reverend John Witherspoon delivered a sermon at the College of New Jersey (Princeton) entitled “The Dominion of Providence over the Passions of Men” based on Psalm 76:10, in which he declared: “The doctrine of Divine Providence is very full and complete in the sacred oracles... The truth is plainly asserted and nobly expressed by the Psalmist in the text: Surely the wrath of man shall praise Thee, and the remainder of wrath Thou shalt restrain... [Psalm 76:10] You are all my witnesses, that this is the first time of my introducing any political subject into the pulpit. At this season, however, it is not only lawful, but necessary; and I will embrace the opportunity of declaring my opinion, without any hesitation, that the cause in which America is now in arms, is the cause of justice, of liberty, and of human, nature... “What follows from this? That he is the best friend to American liberty, who is most sincere and active in promoting true and undefiled religion [Jam. 1:27], and who sets himself with the greatest firmness to bear down profanity and immorality of every kind. Whoever is an avowed enemy of God, I scruple not to call him an enemy of his country. “It is in the man of piety and inward principle, that we may expect to find the uncorrupted patriot, the useful citizen, and the invincible soldier. God grant that in America true religion and civil liberty may be inseparable and that the unjust attempts to destroy the one, may in the issue tend to the support and establishment of both.”* John Witherspoon would later become a signer of the Declaration of Independence, but his sermon on God’s Providence on the Fast Day proclaimed by Congress is a lost episode in American history.

Read and Reflect: Read Psalm 76:1-12 and consider the context of the psalmist’s assertion that even the enemies actions are a part of God’s plan, which provided Dr. Witherspoon with the foundation of his argument.

Prayer: Father, we pray that we would be sincere and active in promoting “sincere and undefiled religion,” oppose “profanity and immorality of every kind,” and cultivate inward “piety “and “principle.” May we become “uncorrupted patriots, useful citizens, and invincible soldiers” in Jesus’ Name, Amen.

May 18 On Monday, May 18, 1789, President George Washington replied to the U.S. Senate: “I now feel myself inexpressibly happy in a belief that Heaven, which has done so much for our infant nation, will not

withdraw its Providential influence before our political felicity shall have been completed, and in a conviction that the Senate will at times cooperate in every measure which may tend to promote the welfare of this confederated Republic. Lost Episodes | 18 4 “Thus supported by a firm trust in the Great Arbiter of the Universe, aided by the collected wisdom of the Union, and imploring the divine benediction on our joint exertions in the service of our country, I readily engage with you in the arduous but pleasing task of attempting to make a nation happy.”* President Washington’s confidence that God would complete what He started from our nation’s birth and infancy is a lost episode in American history.

Read and Reflect: Read Philippians 1:6 and compare Paul’s hopeful word of encouragement that God will complete the good work He has begun in us with that of George Washington address to the Senate with regard to the Providential work God began in America that he believed would be completed.

Prayer: Great Arbiter of the Universe, we stand in awe of all your Providential influence in the birth and maturity of our nation. With a firm trust in you, we humbly ask that you give our leaders the wisdom to once more look to you as Washington and the first Federal Congress did in their day, in Jesus’ Name, Amen.