

# Is There Any Word from The Lord?

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

**Jeremiah 37:16-17,** "When Jeremiah was entered into the dungeon, and into the cabins, and Jeremiah had remained there many days; Then Zedekiah 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 Jeremiah said, There is: for, said he, thou shalt be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon."

It was a troubled time for Israel when Jeremiah was both prophet and prisoner during the reign of King Zedekiah. The Babylonians had come to lay siege to Jerusalem and to conquer the nation because of their sins. There was famine and all the other problems that happen during a time of war. God had brought the armies of King Nebuchadrezzar against Israel to punish them for their evil ways. Jeremiah delivered God's message to the people but they didn't like what they heard so they hated Jeremiah.

King Zedekiah was like others who asked for God's word and then refused to believe it because it wasn't what they wanted to be told. Jeremiah had to tell them to submit to the Babylonian king to live and to keep the city from being destroyed. That was the last thing that they wanted to hear and so Jeremiah

was imprisoned and even put in a dungeon for a long time. There was very little food for the people and so the prophet was hungry like everyone else.

When King Zedekiah asked to hear what God had to say for him and Israel, we can only wonder what he hoped to be told. Think of it, the nation had turned away from God and refused to even consider changing their ways. In spite of this, of both the sin and the attitude, they hoped to have the Lord save them and bless them. Isn't that like so many people in our day and time? People still want to live according to their desires and let the flesh rule and guide them, but want to be told that they are pleasing to God and will go to heaven.

Zedekiah was told to surrender to King Nebuchadrezzar with his people and they would live and keep the city from being burnt with fire. He refused to give in to the Babylonians and become a prisoner, saying that he was afraid that he would be given to the Jews who had joined the Babylonians. He, Zedekiah, was more afraid of the Jews who joined the Babylonians than he was of God. Yes, there was a word, or message from God, but it did Zedekiah and the Jews no good because it was not mixed with faith by those who heard it.

There is so much in this account and the situation that we are in today. We are told to give up our

sinful lives and to submit to God and obey his word. Evidently it is not what the majority of people want to hear for there are few, it seems, that will even hear it. Like Zedekiah, people want to have their own way in life, but want to think that they will go to heaven. No matter how wicked some people have lived there are some who will say that they are in heaven. I suppose it makes them feel better to think of someone being in heaven, but without repenting and obeying the Lord, I don't see how it can be.

King Zedekiah wanted to know what God would say and he heard it. He had a choice to make and he made it, but it was the wrong one. He refused to obey and for the choice he made he was captured and before he was blinded by his captors he had to watch his sons die in front of him. It is a shame that he caused them to die instead of going into captivity. Like Zedekiah, people today sometimes cause their children to die spiritually due to their sins. They have no time, or interest, in the Lord and refuse to submit to the gospel invitation.

We are like Zedekiah in that we can know what God wants us to do. Then when we hear what the scriptures say we have to decide if we will obey, or not. For those that come to the Lord there is life and blessings and for those who refuse there is death and sorrow.

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Genesis Intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

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