

#31 - Proclaiming Release (Jeremiah 34)

I. The Situation (34:1-7)

- This chapter takes place in the days of _____, when the Babylonians are fighting against Jerusalem and Judah. (1)
- Jeremiah's message is that God is giving the city over to the Babylonians to _____ it down, and that Zedekiah will be _____ and taken to Babylon, although he will die in _____. (2-5, see 2 Kings 15:6-7)
- At this time, only _____ cities remain among the cities of Judah. (6-7)

II. The Covenant (34:8-16)

- Zedekiah had made a covenant with the people to _____ all their Hebrew slaves, and the people obeyed. (8-9)
 - The Law required (see Deuteronomy 15:12-18) that slaves be released every _____ year, but there's no evidence that they ever kept this.
 - This appears to be a _____ effort at obedience as God is bringing the punishment upon them.
- But, the people _____ their covenant and took back their slaves. (11)
 - Why did they do this? (see verse 21)
- God's response: I _____ your forefathers from bondage and commanded them to release their slaves every seven years, but they _____. (12-14)
- Now these people have briefly obeyed God's instruction, but have broken that covenant and _____ the name of God. (15-16)

III. The Consequence (34:17-22)

- Because they have not truly released their brethren, God is going to _____ them—from His protection to be destroyed by sword and famine. (17)
- All those who “_____ the covenant” in God’s house will be “_____ down” by the Babylonians and their bodies left for the birds. (18-20, see Genesis 15)
- The Babylonians (temporarily) left the city—but _____ will bring them back to capture it and burn it to the ground. (21-22)