

#36 - Further Self-Destruction (Jeremiah 40-41)

I. Jeremiah's Decision (40:1-6)

- This is a more detailed account of what happened to Jeremiah when the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem and took the people captive. (see 39:11-14)
- Initially, he's _____ from his imprisonment, _____ with the captives. (1)
- But, the captain of the bodyguard comes to him, reiterating Jeremiah's message as to why the Jews are experiencing this calamity. (2-3) Which is:
 - Because of this (?), he offers Jeremiah _____ and a _____ to go—protected—to Babylon or stay in the land and dwell where he chooses. (4)
 - Jeremiah hesitates, but the captain sends him back—with a gift—to _____, whom the king of Babylon set up as _____. (5-6)

II. Gedaliah's Declaration (40:7-12)

- The broader situation: Jewish _____ and their men (who had hidden or fled for asylum) hear of Gedaliah's appointment, _____ to the land. (7-8)
- Gedaliah speaks a _____ message to them—don't fear Babylonian retaliation, serve them and it will go _____ with you. (9, see 27:11-12; 38:20)
- He will govern at Mizpah, _____ the remaining Jews to the Babylonians; they should gather food and live in the cities that are left to them. (10)
- Jews who had fled to the surrounding countries hear of this _____ and return to live under Gedaliah—and bring in an _____ harvest. (11-12)

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III. Gedaliah's Demise (40:13 - 41:3)

- One of these commanders, Johanan, warns Gedaliah that another, Ishmael, was sent by the King of Ammon to _____ him. He _____ believe it. (13-14)
- When Johanan—concerned that this act will lead to the _____ of the Jews—offers to “eliminate the threat,” Gedaliah _____ him. (15-16)
- Sure enough, Ishmael and his men use a feast as opportunity to _____ Gedaliah and kill all the men with him—Jewish and Babylonian. (1-3)

IV. Ishmael's Deception (41:4-10)

- The next day, eighty men are passing through Mizpah—mourning and on their way to offer sacrifices in _____. (4-5)
- Ishmael feigns sadness, invites them to see Gedaliah, _____ them, throws their bodies in a _____—except ten who have stores of food. (6-9)
- Ishmael takes _____ the rest of the people in Mizpah and makes for _____—whose king sent him to do the treachery in the first place. (10)

V. Johanan's Deliverance (41:11-18)

- When Johanan and his men hear of what happened, they set out to fight Ishmael and _____ the people he took captive. (11-12)
- When the people see Johanan approaching, they _____ and go to him. But Ishmael and a few of his men _____ to Ammon. (13-15)
- The remnant of Jews under Johanan make their way to _____—fleeing out of fear what the king of Babylon will do after Gedaliah's murder. (16-18)