



DOWN A WELL

NBBC Voltz (22 Aug 2021)

Jeremiah 38



Exile Is Coming!

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LAST WEEK'S STORY

- For 40 years, Jeremiah warned the people of the disaster that is coming down on them. He had hoped they would listen and repent, so that God would forgive them.
- But what did King Jehoiakim do? (pick the correct answer)
 - a) He listened to Jeremiah's words and instructed the people to do the same.
 - b) He burned the scroll which had Jeremiah's warnings written on it, and sent people to arrest Jeremiah.

Bible Reading (Jeremiah 38:1-13)

1 Some of the officers heard what Jeremiah was prophesying. They were Shephatiah son of Mattan, Gedaliah son of Pashhur, Jehucal son of Shelemiah and Pashhur son of Malkijah. Jeremiah was telling all the people this message:

2 "This is what the Lord says: 'Everyone who stays in Jerusalem will die in war. Or he will die of hunger or terrible diseases. But everyone who surrenders to the Babylonian army will live. They will escape with their lives and live.'

3 And this is what the Lord says: 'This city of Jerusalem will surely be handed over to the army of the king of Babylon. He will capture this city!'"

4 Then the officers said to the king, "Jeremiah must be put to death! He is making the soldiers who are still in the city become discouraged. He is discouraging everyone by the things he is saying. He does not want good to happen to us. He wants to ruin the people of Jerusalem."

5 King Zedekiah said to them, "Jeremiah is in your control. I cannot do anything to stop you!"

6 So the officers took Jeremiah and put him into the well of Malkijah, the king's son. That well was in the courtyard of the guards. The officers used ropes to lower Jeremiah into the well. It did not have any water in it, only mud. And Jeremiah sank down into the mud.

Bible Reading (Jeremiah 38)

7 But Ebed-Melech heard that the officers had put Jeremiah into the well. Ebed-Melech was a Cushite, and he was a eunuch in the palace. King Zedekiah was sitting at the Benjamin Gate.

8 So Ebed-Melech left the palace and went to the king. Ebed-Melech said,

9 "My master and king, the rulers have acted in an evil way. They have treated Jeremiah the prophet badly! They have thrown him into a well! They have left him there to die! When there is no more bread in the city, he will starve."

10 Then King Zedekiah commanded Ebed-Melech the Cushite: "Ebed-Melech, take 30 men from the palace with you. Go and lift Jeremiah the prophet out of the well before he dies."

11 So Ebed-Melech took the men with him. And he went to a room under the storeroom in the palace. He took some old rags and worn-out clothes from that room. Then he let those rags down with some ropes to Jeremiah in the well.

12 Ebed-Melech the Cushite said to Jeremiah, "Put these old rags and worn-out clothes under your arms. They will be pads for the ropes." So Jeremiah did as Ebed-Melech said.

13 The men pulled Jeremiah up with the ropes and lifted him out of the well. And Jeremiah stayed under guard in the courtyard.

Story

Jeremiah told the people of Judah to surrender to the invading Babylonians so they could live in exile and wait for **God to bring them back**. Otherwise, they would all die.

Some of the officials asked **King Zedekiah** to kill **Jeremiah** because his message was weakening their fight.

King Zedekiah let these officials do what they wanted. So they put **Jeremiah** down a well which had mud at the bottom, leaving him to die there.

When a servant of **King Zedekiah** called **Ebed-Melech** heard of this evil deed, **he** told the king.

King Zedekiah then instructed **Ebed-Melech** to take 30 men and rescue **Jeremiah** from the well, which he did as gently as he could.

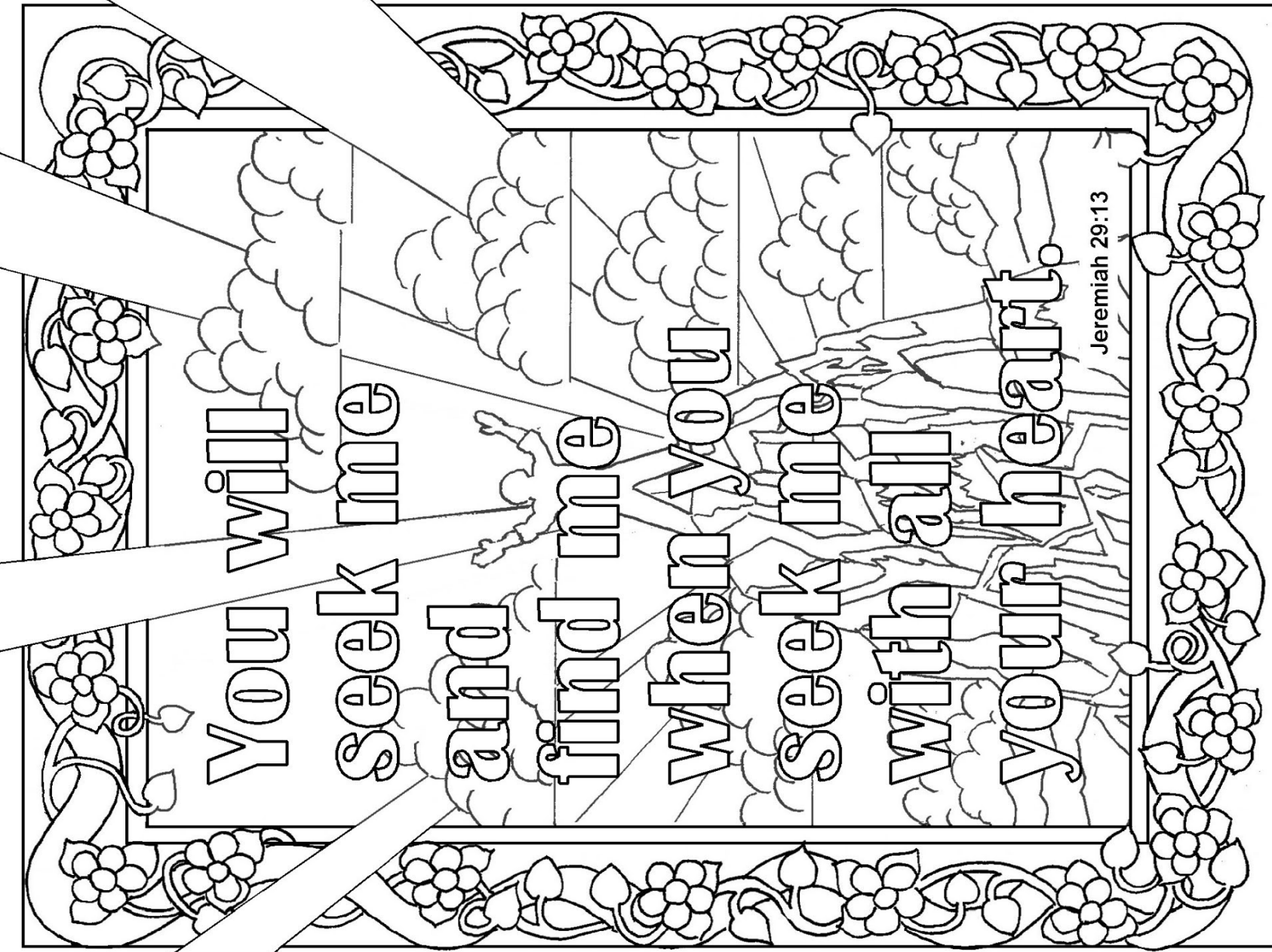
The Babylonians capture and destroy Jerusalem, but **God** protected **Jeremiah** and **Ebed-Melech** (Jeremiah 39).

Questions

- 1. What did Jeremiah say that made the king's officials hate him?**
- 2. How was Jeremiah treated by these officials?**
- 3. How was Jeremiah rescued?**
- 4. Was King Zedekiah a good king?**

Questions (answers)

- 1. What did Jeremiah say that made the king's officials hate him?**
Jeremiah told the people to surrender and live, and not to fight and die.
- 2. How was Jeremiah treated by these officials?**
Jeremiah was put down into a well to die in the mud at the bottom.
- 3. How was Jeremiah rescued?**
Ebed-Melech and 30 men pulled him out.
- 4. Was King Zedekiah a good king?**
He was a weak king who did not lead his people well.



You will
seek me
and
find me
when you
seek me
with all
your heart.

Jeremiah 29:13