

SCRIPTURE READING: Jeremiah 24:1-10.

REVIEW OF THE TEXT:

1. Nebuchadnezzar. King of Babylon.
2. The captives of Judah.
 - A. Jeconiah. King of Judah. Son of Jehoiakim. Also known as Jehoiachin.
 - B. Officials of Judah.
 - C. Craftsmen and smiths from Jerusalem.
 - D. 2 Kings 24:8-17.
3. Those who remained in the land.
 - A. Zedekiah. King of Judah. Nebuchadnezzar's handpicked successor to Jeconiah (Jehoiachin).
 - B. The remnant of Jerusalem who remained in the land.
 - C. The ones who dwelled in the land of Egypt.
4. In March 597 BC Nebuchadnezzar had carried the captives of Judah into Babylonian captivity.
5. Afterwards, the LORD showed Jeremiah two baskets of figs set before the temple of God.
6. One basket had very good, like first-ripe, figs, i.e. the very best figs. Isaiah 28:4. The other basket had very bad, rotten, uneatable, figs.
7. The LORD then asked Jeremiah, "What do you see?"
8. Jeremiah answered.
9. God made two comparisons.
 - A. Like good figs, He said He was going to regard as good the captives of Judah. God was going to set His eyes on them for good. He was going to bring them back to Judah and build them up, not overthrow them; plant them, not pluck them up. He was going to give them a heart to know Him, for He is the LORD. They were going to be His people and He was going to be their God for they were going to return to Him with their whole heart.
 - B. Like bad figs, He said He was going to abandon Zedekiah, king of Judah, his officials, the remnant of Jerusalem who remain in Judah, and the Jews who dwelled in the land of Egypt. He was going to make them a terror and an evil for all the kingdoms of the earth, as a reproach and a proverb, a taunt and a curse in all the places He will scatter them. He was going to send the sword, famine, and pestilence upon them until they were destroyed from the land He gave them and their forefathers. 2 Kings 24:18-25:7; 2 Chronicles 36:11-21.



APPLICATIONS:

1. **Evidence for faith.**
 - A. Slide One.
 - B. Jeremiah 52:31-34 then Slide Two.
 - C. Jeremiah 38:1-4 then Slide Three.
2. **What's best isn't always what's easiest.** Both the captives of Judah and those who remained in the land needed spiritual renewal. By the way we usually measure things, we'd say those who remained in the land were far more blessed than the captives of Judah. But, it didn't work out that way. The difficulties of captivity brought about a change in the captives that those who remained in the land did not make. Do we need captivity? In theory, no. In practice, yes. Thus, we should be thankful when it comes and be trained by it. Hebrews 12:3-12; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18.
3. **The reality of false teachers.** Jeremiah 28:1-17; 2 Peter 2:1-2.
4. **The heart that knows God.** Those who return to God with their whole heart. Jeremiah 24:7. Are we a good or bad fig? Give your best to the Master. He won't accept any less. Revelation 2:4; 3:15-16, 19.
5. **Sin is very, very bad news.** Jeremiah 24:8-10.

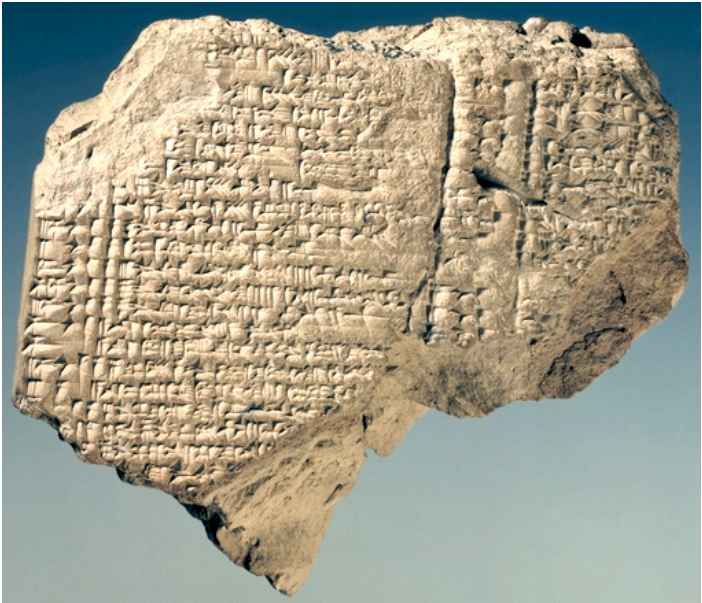


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