

Jeremiah 24:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD shewed me, and, behold, two baskets of figs were set before the temple of the LORD, after that Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon had carried away captive Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah, and the princes of Judah, with the carpenters and smiths, from Jerusalem, and had brought them to Babylon.

Analysis

The LORD shewed me, and, behold, two baskets of figs were set before the temple of the LORD—this vision came after Nebuchadnezzar had deported King Jeconiah (also called Jehoiachin) and Judah's leadership in 597 BC. The Hebrew *ra'ah* (רָאָה, to see/show) indicates divine revelation, not ordinary sight. Figs (*te'enim*, תְּעֵנִים) were a covenant blessing symbol (Deuteronomy 8:8), making their condition in this vision particularly significant.

After that Nebuchadrezzar... had carried away captive Jeconiah—the historical marker identifies this vision's precise context: the first deportation (2 Kings 24:10-16). The exiles included **the princes of Judah, with the carpenters and smiths**—Babylon's strategic removal of leadership and skilled workers left Jerusalem weakened. This deportation preceded Jerusalem's final destruction by eleven years, creating two distinct groups: those already in exile and those remaining in Jerusalem. The vision of two fig baskets represents these two communities and reveals God's unexpected verdict on which group represented hope for the future.

Historical Context

This vision occurred around 597 BC, shortly after Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem and deported King Jehoiachin after only three months of reign. The Babylonians took approximately 10,000 captives, including the royal family, nobles, warriors, craftsmen, and smiths (2 Kings 24:14-16). Zedekiah, Jehoiachin's uncle, was installed as a puppet king over the depleted population remaining in Jerusalem. Those left in Jerusalem considered themselves the righteous remnant, blessed to remain in the land while the exiles suffered divine punishment. Ezekiel encountered this arrogant attitude among Jerusalem's residents (Ezekiel 11:15). Jeremiah's vision radically reversed this assumption, declaring the exiles to be God's "good figs" destined for restoration, while those in Jerusalem were "bad figs" facing destruction.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God's identification of the exiles as "good figs" challenge human assumptions about who represents God's faithful remnant?
2. What does the setting "before the temple" reveal about where God reveals His purposes, even when the temple itself would soon be destroyed?
3. In what ways might experiencing judgment and exile actually position people for greater blessing than those who avoid immediate consequences?

Interlinear Text

שָׁנִי	וְהִנֵּה	יְהִי	הַרְאָנִי	וְהִנֵּה	יְהִי	הַרְאָנִי	תָּאַנְתֵּן	יְמִם	דָּדְזָא	יְמִים
shewed	The LORD	H2009	me and behold two	H8147	baskets	H1736	of figs	H8384		
H7200	H3068									
פָּגַל	זֹת	אַפְּגָן	יְהִי	הַיָּכְלָה	לִפְנֵי	יְהִי	מָזְעֵד	יְמִם		
were set	before	the temple	The LORD	H3068	after	had carried away captive				
H3259	H6440	H1964			H310	H1540				
יְהִוֵּקְיָם	בְּנֵי	יְהִוֵּקְיָם	מֶלֶךְ	מֶלֶךְ	בְּבָלָה	אֶת	בְּבָלָה	בְּנֵי	יְהִוֵּקְיָם	רַבְבָּאָצָץ
that Nebuchadrezzar	king	of Babylon	H853	Jeconiah	the son	of Jehoiakim				
H5019	H4428	H894		H3204	H1121	H3079				
בָּמְבָרָשׁ	וְאֶת	יְהִוֵּקְיָם	שָׁרֵךְ	וְאֶת	יְהִוֵּקְיָם	מֶלֶךְ	וְאֶת	יְהִוֵּקְיָם	בָּמְבָרָשׁ	
king	of Judah	H853	and the princes	H8269	of Judah	H3063	with the carpenters			
H4428	H3063				H854	H2796				
בְּבָלָה	וְאֶת	מִירְוְשָׁלָם	יְבָאָם	מִפְּסָגָר	בְּבָלָה					
and smiths	from Jerusalem	H3389	and had brought	H935	of Babylon	H894				
H854	H4525									

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 29:2 (Kingdom): (After that Jeconiah the king, and the queen, and the eunuchs, the princes of Judah and Jerusalem, and the carpenters, and the smiths, were departed from Jerusalem;)

2 Chronicles 36:10 (Kingdom): And when the year was expired, king Nebuchadnezzar sent, and brought him to Babylon, with the goodly vessels of the house of the LORD, and made Zedekiah his brother king over Judah and Jerusalem.