

# Jeremiah 24:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And as the evil figs, which cannot be eaten, they are so evil; surely thus saith the LORD, So will I give Zedekiah the king of Judah, and his princes, and the residue of Jerusalem, that remain in this land, and them that dwell in the land of Egypt:

## Analysis

**And as the evil figs, which cannot be eaten, they are so evil** (הַתְּאֵנִים הַרְעוֹת אֲשֶׁר לֹא-תֵאכְלֶנָּה מֵרַע, hatt'enim hara'ot asher lo-te'akhelna mero'a)—the evil figs represent **Zedekiah the king of Judah, and his princes, and the residue of Jerusalem...and them that dwell in the land of Egypt**. The comparison to inedible figs, spoiled beyond use (רָע, ro'a, 'badness/evil'), indicates total corruption. Unlike the good figs (exiles in Babylon, vv. 5-7) who would be restored, these remaining in the land would face comprehensive judgment.

The agricultural metaphor distinguishes between those who submitted to Babylon (preserving their future) and those who resisted (spoiling themselves). Counterintuitively, those taken into exile were 'good figs' while those remaining appeared blessed but were actually cursed. This challenges assumptions that visible prosperity indicates divine favor. Sometimes God's discipline (exile) proves more merciful than apparent freedom (remaining in Jerusalem).

## Historical Context

After Nebuchadnezzar's 597 BC deportation of Jehoiachin and the elites, Zedekiah ruled as Babylonian puppet with remaining nobles and population. Many fled to Egypt seeking refuge. Jeremiah's fig vision (594 BC) predicted that those who

stayed or fled to Egypt would fare worse than the exiles—fulfilled when Jerusalem fell (586 BC) and Egyptian refugees were later attacked.

## **Related Passages**

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## **Study Questions**

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1. How might apparent freedom or prosperity actually indicate being under divine judgment?
2. When has God's discipline proven more merciful than comfortable circumstances?
3. What 'evil figs' in your life appear good but are actually spiritually spoiled?

## Interlinear Text

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מֵרַע	תֹּאכֹל לֹנֶה	לֹא אֲשָׁר	הָרַע זֶה	וְכִתְּאִיִּם
they are so evil	which cannot be eaten		And as the evil	figs
H7455	H398	H3808	H7451	H8384
זְדַקְיָהוּ	אֶת	אֶתֵּן	יְיָ הָ	אָמַר
Zedekiah		So will I give	the LORD	surely thus saith
H6667	H853	H5414	H3068	H559
יְרוּשָׁלַיִם	שְׂאֵר יֵת	וְאֵת	שָׂרָיו	וְאֵת יְהוּדָה
of Jerusalem	and the residue		and his princes	of Judah
H3389	H7611	H853	H8269	H3063
מִצְרַיִם:	בְּאֶרֶץ	וְהַיֹּשֵׁב יֵם	הֵן אֵת	בְּאֶרֶץ
of Egypt	in the land	and them that dwell		in the land
H4714	H776	H3427	H2063	H776
				that remain
				H7604

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 24:2** (Parallel theme): One basket had very good figs, even like the figs that are first ripe: and the other basket had very naughty figs, which could not be eaten, they were so bad.