

# Jeremiah 37:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Zedekiah the king commanded that they should commit Jeremiah into the court of the prison, and that they should give him daily a piece of bread out of the bakers' street, until all the bread in the city were spent. Thus Jeremiah remained in the court of the prison.

## Analysis

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King Zedekiah commits Jeremiah to 'the court of the prison' and orders daily bread while available. Despite his fear of officials (38:5), Zedekiah protects Jeremiah from execution. This ambivalence characterizes Zedekiah - drawn to God's prophet but lacking courage to obey. God providentially preserves His servant even through an irresolute king.

## Historical Context

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This imprisonment in the court of the prison (a less harsh confinement) lasted until Jerusalem's fall (38:28). God sustained Jeremiah throughout.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does God sometimes use unlikely people to accomplish His protective purposes?
2. What does Zedekiah's ambivalence teach about the dangers of spiritual indecision?

## Interlinear Text

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|--------------|---------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| וַיֹּצֵא ה   | הַמֶּלֶךְ     | צִדְקִיָּהוּ              | וַיִּפְקֶד דּוֹ         | אֶת           | יִרְמְיָהוּ |
| commanded    | the king      | Then Zedekiah             | that they should commit | H853          | Jeremiah    |
| H6680        | H4428         | H6667                     | H6485                   |               | H3414       |
| בְּחֹצֵר     | הַמִּטְכָּה:  | וְנָתַן                   | לֹא                     | כֶּכֶר        | הֶלֶךְ      |
| in the court | of the prison | and that they should give | H0                      | a piece       | of bread    |
| H2691        | H4307         | H5414                     |                         | H3603         | H3899       |
| לְיוֹם       | מִחַ וַיֵּץ   | הָאֲפִי יִם               | עַד                     | תִּם          | כָּל        |
| him daily    | ' street      | out of the bakers         | H5704                   | were spent    | H3605       |
| H3117        | H2351         | H644                      |                         | H8552         |             |
| הָעִיר       | וַיֵּשֶׁב     | יִרְמְיָהוּ               | בְּחֹצֵר                | הַמִּטְכָּה:  |             |
| in the city  | remained      | Jeremiah                  | in the court            | of the prison |             |
| H5892        | H3427         | H3414                     | H2691                   | H4307         |             |

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 38:13** (Parallel theme): So they drew up Jeremiah with cords, and took him up out of the dungeon: and Jeremiah remained in the court of the prison.

**Jeremiah 38:28** (Parallel theme): So Jeremiah abode in the court of the prison until the day that Jerusalem was taken: and he was there when Jerusalem was taken.

**Jeremiah 32:2** (Kingdom): For then the king of Babylon's army besieged Jerusalem: and Jeremiah the prophet was shut up in the court of the prison, which was in the king of Judah's house.

**Jeremiah 38:9** (Kingdom): My lord the king, these men have done evil in all that they have done to Jeremiah the prophet, whom they have cast into the dungeon; and he is like to die for hunger in the place where he is: for there is no more bread in the city.

**Jeremiah 52:6** (Parallel theme): And in the fourth month, in the ninth day of the month, the famine was sore in the city, so that there was no bread for the people of the land.

**Isaiah 33:16** (Parallel theme): He shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure.

**2 Kings 25:3** (Parallel theme): And on the ninth day of the fourth month the famine prevailed in the city, and there was no bread for the people of the land.

**Job 5:20** (Parallel theme): In famine he shall redeem thee from death: and in war from the power of the sword.