

Jeremiah 39:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So Nebuzar-adan the captain of the guard sent, and Nebushasban, Rab-saris, and Nergal-sharezer, Rab-mag, and all the king of Babylon's princes;

Analysis

So Nebuzar-adan the captain of the guard sent, and Nebushasban, Rab-saris, and Nergal-sharezer, Rab-mag—The repetition of these high officials (cf. v. 3) emphasizes the extraordinary honor shown to Jeremiah. Multiple princes collaborated in his release, demonstrating that this was no minor administrative matter but a coordinated royal command. **All the king of Babylon's princes** (לְכָל רַבֵּי מֶלֶךְ-בָּבֶל, kol-rabbei melekh-bavel)—The collective leadership involved in freeing one prophet underscores God's providential orchestration.

These same officials who sat in judgment at the middle gate (v. 3) now execute mercy toward God's messenger. The verb 'sent' (שָׁלַח, shalach) often denotes official delegation—this was formal, authorized action. While Jerusalem's nobility faced execution (v. 6), its faithful prophet received honor from the conquerors themselves.

Historical Context

The involvement of multiple high-ranking officials suggests careful execution of Nebuchadnezzar's orders, likely intended to send a political message to the remaining Jewish population that cooperation with Babylonian authority would be rewarded. The coordination also ensured there would be no 'accidents' or misunderstandings resulting in harm to Jeremiah, whom the king had specifically commanded to protect.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does the collective effort to protect Jeremiah demonstrate God's ability to orchestrate multiple human wills toward His purposes?
2. What does the honor shown to Jeremiah by pagans reveal about true spiritual authority?
3. How does this multi-official rescue foreshadow God's mobilization of Persian officials to restore Jerusalem (Ezra/Nehemiah)?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁלַח	נְבוּזַרְאֲדָן	רָבִי	טַבָּחֵי יָם	וְנְבוּשַׁשְׁבָּן	רָב	סָרִיס
sent	So Nebuzaradan	princes	of the guard	and Nebushasban	H0	Rabsaris
H7971	H5018	H7227	H2876	H5021		H7249
וְנִגְלָה לְ	שַׁרְגַּל־שָׁרֵזֶר	רָב	רָבִי	וְכָל לְ	רָבִי	מֶלֶךְ
H0	and Nergalsharezer	H0	Rabmag	H3605	princes	and all the king
	H5371		H7248		H7227	H4428
בְּבָבֶל:						
of Babylon's						
H894						

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 39:3 (Kingdom): And all the princes of the king of Babylon came in, and sat in the middle gate, even Nergal-sharezer, Samgar-nebo, Sarsechim, Rab-saris, Nergal-sharezer, Rab-mag, with all the residue of the princes of the king of Babylon.

