

Jeremiah 39:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Even they sent, and took Jeremiah out of the court of the prison, and committed him unto Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan, that he should carry him home: so he dwelt among the people.

Analysis

Even they sent, and took Jeremiah out of the court of the prison (מֵחֶצֶר הַמִּתְּרָה, mechatzar hamattarah)—The 'court of the guard/prison' where Zedekiah had confined him (37:21, 38:6-13) becomes his place of liberation. Imprisoned by his own people for prophesying truth, freed by pagans who conquered because of that truth—profound irony. The verb laqach (לָקַח, 'took') suggests decisive removal from confinement.

And committed him unto Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan, that he should carry him home (הַבִּיאָתָה, habbaytah)—Gedaliah (appointed Babylonian governor, 40:5) came from a family friendly to Jeremiah—Ahikam had protected him from execution (26:24), and Shaphan had read the law scroll to Josiah (2 Kings 22:8-10). God provided covenant-community care even amid judgment. **So he dwelt among the people** (בְּתוֹךְ הַעֲמָדָה, betokh ha'am)—Jeremiah remained with the remnant rather than enjoying Babylonian luxury, embodying the shepherd-prophet who stays with the afflicted flock.

Historical Context

Gedaliah's appointment as governor represented Babylonian policy of using local administrators from cooperative noble families. His grandfather Shaphan had been

Josiah's secretary during the great reformation (2 Kings 22-23). The family's reformist credentials and Jeremiah-friendly stance made Gedaliah politically suitable. Jeremiah's choice to remain with the impoverished remnant rather than accept probable honors in Babylon demonstrates his genuine prophetic calling.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does Jeremiah's release from prison by conquerors illustrate that vindication comes from God, not human systems?
2. What does Jeremiah's choice to dwell among the suffering remnant teach about faithful ministry in crisis?
3. How does Gedaliah's family's multi-generational faithfulness demonstrate the importance of godly legacy?

Interlinear Text

Even they sent	and took	H853	Jeremiah	out of the court	of the prison
H7971	H3947	H3414	H2691	H4307	
and committed	him unto Gedaliah	H853	the son	of Ahikam	the son
H5414	H1436	H1121	H296	H1121	
of Shaphan	that he should carry	H413	him home	so he dwelt	among the people
H8227	H3318	H1004	H3427	H8432	H5971

Additional Cross-References

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 26:24 (Parallel theme): Nevertheless the hand of Ahikam the son of Shaphan was with Jeremiah, that they should not give him into the hand of the people to put him to death.

2 Kings 22:12 (Parallel theme): And the king commanded Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Achbor the son of Michaiah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asahiah a servant of the king's, saying,

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