

# Jeremiah 40:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And now, behold, I loose thee this day from the chains which were upon thine hand. If it seem good unto thee to come with me into Babylon, come; and I will look well unto thee: but if it seem ill unto thee to come with me into Babylon, forbear: behold, all the land is before thee: whither it seemeth good and convenient for thee to go, thither go.

## Analysis

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Nebuzaradan offers Jeremiah freedom to go to Babylon with honor or remain in Judah, leaving the choice to him. This fulfills God's earlier promise to preserve Jeremiah (15:20-21, 39:11-12). God's word proves faithful even through pagan channels. The prophet who counseled submission to Babylon now receives favor from Babylon's commanders - an ironic vindication.

## Historical Context

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Jeremiah chose to remain with the remnant in Judah, continuing his ministry to the broken people rather than accepting reward in Babylon.

## Related Passages

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

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

1. How does God sometimes fulfill His promises through unexpected means?
2. What does Jeremiah's choice to stay with the remnant teach about servant leadership?

## Interlinear Text

בָּזְקִים מִן פָּתַחַת יְמִינְךָ הַיּוֹם וְעַתָּה הַיּוֹם  
from the chains of this day loose now behold I

רָאשֶׁךָ עַל אֲשֶׁר יָדֶךָ בְּעֵינֶךָ יְמִינְךָ אִם תִּשְׁמַר  
which were upon thine hand If it seem good

לְבָזָא אַתָּה בְּבָזָא לְבָזָא אַתָּה  
come with me into Babylon come and I will look well

אַתָּה לְבָזָא בְּעֵינֶךָ יְמִינְךָ אִם עַל יְמִינְךָ  
come unto thee but if it seem ill

לְפָנֶיךָ בְּאָרֶץ כָּל רָאָה תִּרְאֶה  
is before all the land behold forbear with me into Babylon

רָאָה בְּאָרֶץ כָּל תִּרְאֶה תִּרְאֶה  
and convenient is before all the land behold if it seem good

לְפָנֶיךָ שֶׁמֶה לְלִכְתָּה בְּעֵינֶךָ יְמִינְךָ  
is before convenient if it seem good

## Additional Cross-References

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**Genesis 20:15** (Parallel theme): And Abimelech said, Behold, my land is before thee: dwell where it pleaseth thee.

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