

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

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

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

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 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

הָאֲזָקִים	מִן	הֵי יוֹם	פָּתַחְתִּי יָדַי	הִנֵּה הָ	וְעַתָּה הֵ
H246	H4480	H3117	H6605	H2009	H6258
from the chains		thee this day	And now behold I loose		
בְּעֵינַי יָדָי	טוֹב	אִם	יָדְךָ	עַל	אֲשֶׁר רַ
H5869	H2896	H518	H3027	H5921	H834
If it seem good			which were upon thine hand		
עֵינַי	אֶת	וְאֲשֶׁר יִם	לָבוֹא	בְּכָל ל	אֶתִּי י
H5869	H853	H7760	H935	H894	H854
		and I will look well	come	with me into Babylon	come
אֶתִּי י	לָבוֹא	בְּעֵינַי יָדָי	כֵּן ע	וְאִם	עַל יָדָי
H854	H935	H5869	H7489	H518	H5921
come		unto thee but if it seem ill			
לִפְנֵי יָדָי	הָאָרֶץ כָּל	רְאֵה	חִדָּ ל	בְּכָל ל	
H6440	H776	H3605	H2308	H894	
is before	all the land	behold	forbear	with me into Babylon	
הֵיטֵב רַ	וְאֵל	טוֹב	וְאֵל		
H3477	H413	H2896	H413		
and convenient	thee whither it seemeth	If it seem good	thee whither it seemeth		
לָךְ: שֶׁ מָה	לֵל כֶּת	בְּעֵינַי יָדָי			
H1980	H8033	H5869			

Additional Cross-References

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

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