

# Jeremiah 40:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then went Jeremiah unto Gedaliah the son of Ahikam to Mizpah; and dwelt with him among the people that were left in the land.

## Analysis

Jeremiah's decision to dwell with Gedaliah at Mizpah rather than go to Babylon demonstrates loyalty to the remnant in Judah. The verb 'dwelt' (yashab in Hebrew) suggests permanent residence, not temporary stay—Jeremiah committed to remaining with the people rather than seeking comfort in Babylon where he would have received honor. This choice reflected his calling: though vindicated by events and offered Babylonian patronage, Jeremiah remained a prophet to Judah's remnant, not a court prophet to foreign powers. The phrase 'among the people' emphasizes identification with the lowly survivors rather than elevation above them. This pastoral decision demonstrates that true prophetic ministry prioritizes people's spiritual needs over personal advancement or vindication. Jeremiah's choice also validated Gedaliah's governorship—the prophet's presence lent divine legitimacy to Babylon's appointed governor and encouraged cooperation with the new order rather than futile resistance. Throughout his ministry, Jeremiah consistently chose faithful presence with struggling believers over comfortable alternatives, modeling the incarnational principle Jesus later embodied perfectly: dwelling among people to bring them God's word regardless of personal cost.

## Historical Context

Mizpah (Tell en-Nasbeh), located about 8 miles north of Jerusalem, became Judah's administrative center after Jerusalem's destruction, likely because it survived the Babylonian assault relatively intact. Gedaliah, son of Ahikam (who had previously

protected Jeremiah—Jeremiah 26:24) and grandson of Shaphan (Josiah's secretary who discovered the Book of the Law—2 Kings 22:8), came from a family known for reform and support of Jeremiah's ministry. His appointment as governor represented Babylon's attempt to establish stable pro-Babylonian leadership. Archaeological excavations at Mizpah have uncovered administrative buildings and storage facilities from this period, confirming its role as a governmental center. Jeremiah's choice to remain in Judah rather than accept Babylonian hospitality was strategically significant: his presence provided continuity of prophetic witness and helped survivors process their trauma through proper theological understanding. The prophet who had counseled submission to Babylon now remained to shepherd those who had survived by heeding that counsel.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does Jeremiah's choice to remain with the struggling remnant rather than enjoy honor in Babylon model pastoral ministry priorities?
2. What does this teach about faithfulness to calling even when alternative, more comfortable options become available?
3. In what ways did Jeremiah's presence with the remnant serve their spiritual needs beyond merely delivering prophetic messages?

## Interlinear Text

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המִצְפָּה	תָּהּ	אַחִיקָם	מִ	בָּנָי	גֵּדְלִי	הָ	אֶל	יְרָמִיָּהוּ	וְיַעֲבֹר	א
Then went	Jeremiah	H413	unto Gedaliah	the son	of Ahikam					
H935	H3414		H1436	H1121	H296					H4708

  

בָּאָרֶץ	:	הַנִּשְׁאָרִים	בָּעַם	בָּתְּוֹךְ	אַתָּה	וְיַשְׁבָּה	וְיַעֲבֹר	אֶל	בָּאָרֶץ	
and dwelt		with him among	the people	that were left						
H3427	H854	H8432	H5971	H7604						H776

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 39:14** (Parallel theme): 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.

**Judges 20:1** (Parallel theme): Then all the children of Israel went out, and the congregation was gathered together as one man, from Dan even to Beer-sheba, with the land of Gilead, unto the LORD in Mizpeh.

**Judges 21:1** (Parallel theme): Now the men of Israel had sworn in Mizpeh, saying, There shall not any of us give his daughter unto Benjamin to wife.