

Jeremiah 51:59

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The word which Jeremiah the prophet commanded Seraiah the son of Neriah, the son of Maaseiah, when he went with Zedekiah the king of Judah into Babylon in the fourth year of his reign. And this Seraiah was a quiet prince.

Analysis

The word which Jeremiah the prophet commanded Seraiah the son of Neriah הַזָּכָר אֲשֶׁר-צָה יְרַמְּיָהוּ פָּנָבְיא אֶת-שְׁבָרִיה בֶּן-נְרִיָּה (haddavar asher-tsivvah Yirmeyahu hannavi et-Serayah ben-Neriyah)—Jeremiah commissions Seraiah, brother of Baruch (Jeremiah's scribe, 32:12). This was a prophetic symbolic act.

When he went with Zedekiah the king of Judah into Babylon in the fourth year of his reign בְּלֶכְתּו אֶת-צָדְקָהוּ מֶלֶךְ-יְהוּדָה בְּבָלָה בְשִׁנְתְּתָתְבָעֵית לְמֶלֶכְוּ (b'lekhto et-Tzidqiyyahu melekh-Y'hudah Bavelah bish'nat harevi'it l'malkho)—594/593 BC: Zedekiah traveled to Babylon, likely to reaffirm vassalage and quell Nebuchadnezzar's suspicions.

And this Seraiah was a quiet prince וְשָׁבֵיה שֵׁר מְנוּמָה (uS'rayah sar m'nuchah)—Either 'prince of rest' (a title, perhaps quartermaster) or 'a quiet/peaceable official.' Seraiah's character enabled him to carry this subversive prophetic message into Babylon itself without arousing suspicion. God uses diverse personalities for diverse missions.

Historical Context

Zedekiah's trip to Babylon (594 BC) was a loyalty visit during his early reign, before his later rebellion that triggered Jerusalem's destruction (586 BC).

Seraiah's participation shows Jeremiah's prophetic network extended even to royal delegations. This daring symbolic act occurred in Babylon's zenith—audacious faith.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Why would God have Jeremiah send a prophecy of Babylon's doom into Babylon itself during Babylon's peak power?
2. What does Seraiah's character (quiet, peaceable) teach about the diverse ways God uses His servants?
3. How does this symbolic act demonstrate faith—performing an apparently futile gesture trusting God to vindicate it?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁבֵ֣י הָרָ֣ן אֲשֶׁר	בָּקָרְבָּן	צָרָה	יְרֵמִיָּהוּ	הָאָתָּה	הַנּוֹבֵ֣ה יְהוָה	וְשָׁבֵ֣י הָרָ֣ן אֲשֶׁר	בָּקָרָבְנָה	צָרָה	יְרֵמִיָּהוּ	הָאָתָה	הַנּוֹבֵה יְהוָה
The word	H834	commanded	which Jeremiah	the prophet	H853	And this Seraiah					
H1697		H6680	H3414	H5030		H8304					
בָּן	נְרֵיָה	בָּן	מְחַסֵּה	בְּלִכְתָּה	אֶת	צָדְקִיָּהוּ	מֶלֶךְ	בְּלִכְתָּה	אֶת	צָדְקִיָּהוּ	מֶלֶךְ
the son	of Neriah	the son	of Maaseiah	H1980	H854	with Zedekiah	the king				
H1121	H5374	H1121	H4271			H6667	H4428				
לְמַלְכֵה	בְּשָׁנָה	בְּרַבָּעִית	בְּשָׁנָה	לְמַלְכֵה	וְשָׁבֵה	וְשָׁבֵה	וְשָׁבֵה	וְשָׁבֵה	וְשָׁבֵה	וְשָׁבֵה	וְשָׁבֵה
of Judah	into Babylon	year	in the fourth	of his reign	And this Seraiah						
H3063	H894	H8141	H7243	H4427	H8304						
רַשְׁתָּה:	שָׁבֵה										
prince	was a quiet										
H8269	H4496										

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 32:12 (Parallel theme): And I gave the evidence of the purchase unto Baruch the son of Neriah, the son of Maaseiah, in the sight of Hanameel mine uncle's son, and in the presence of the witnesses that subscribed the book of the purchase, before all the Jews that sat in the court of the prison.

Jeremiah 36:4 (Word): Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah: and Baruch wrote from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the LORD, which he had spoken unto him, upon a roll of a book.

Jeremiah 28:1 (Kingdom): And it came to pass the same year, in the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the fourth year, and in the fifth month, that Hananiah the son of Azur the prophet, which was of Gibeon, spake unto me in the house of the LORD, in the presence of the priests and of all the people, saying,

Jeremiah 45:1 (Kingdom): The word that Jeremiah the prophet spake unto Baruch the son of Neriah, when he had written these words in a book at the mouth of Jeremiah, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, saying,

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