



**Scriptures and Doctrine :: Where was Jeremiah?**

**Where was Jeremiah? - posted by dolfan (), on: 2014/7/7 20:35**

In Jeremiah 41-43 is the account of the appointment and murder of Gedaliah as governor of Judah from Mizpah after the Babylonian takeover. In ch. 43, a meeting occurs between one Johanan and Jeremiah. I have read it over a few times and consulted commentaries but I find no sure statement: where was Jeremiah when this meeting occurred? Mizpah? Bethlehem? Somewhere else?

Thoughts?

**Re: Where was Jeremiah? - posted by TMK (), on: 2014/7/7 20:47**

Not sure, but I want to know where Daniel was when Shadrach Meshach and Abednego got tossed into the fiery furnace.

**Re: Where was Jeremiah? - posted by havok20x, on: 2014/7/8 1:20**

Brother,

It seems to me after reading the account in 2 Kings and in Jeremiah that the prophet went to Gedaliah and then travelled to Bethlehem as commanded by him in chapter 40--"But you, gather wine and summer fruit and oil, put them in your vessels, and dwell in your cities that you have taken."

Then Gedaliah was murdered and Johanan and His company travelled south from Mizpah through Bethlehem toward Egypt. While they were there they hoped to gain some kind of blessing from Jeremiah, which did not happen and they took him captive and went to Egypt.

I think that is what happened but anymore insight would be great.

**Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2014/7/8 6:32**

I must be blind because I don't see Bethlehem mentioned in any of those chapters or in the Kings account but I was sort of speed reading.

Dolfan- Is there some specific reason you think this is important or just curious?

**Re: - posted by havok20x, on: 2014/7/8 8:26**

Jeremiah 41:17--"And they departed and dwelt in the habitation of Chimham, which is near Bethlehem, as they went on their way to Egypt..."

**Re: - posted by dolfan (), on: 2014/7/8 9:05**

But in ch. 42, Johanan and those with him went to Jeremiah. Jeremiah is absent from mention after 40:6 until you get to ch. 42. The last mention of him was as a resident in the new Judean capital of Mizpah as a ward of Gedaliah. There is no record that he left Mizpah, although he certainly could have been (very doubtful) among those who Johanan took from Mizpah in ch. 41.

It is just a curiosity, mainly. I'm reading through the bible, and came to this last 13 chapters of a Jeremiah along with the end of 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles and I'm just curious. It is also curious to me due to the great false promise of Johanan to Jeremiah about obeying God regarding going or not going to Egypt. The word "witness" is used by Johanan in that promise. Mizpah means heap of witness from Gen. 31 and is also where Saul was anointed king by Samuel after Samuel warned them not to desire a king. Seems that Mizpah may be a place where people acquire a witness against themselves with big statements of self will. That isn't as salient if Jeremiah was not in Mizpah when Johanan comes to him in Jer. 42. But, I don't want to wrongly assume he was in Mizpah just because it makes a nice symbolism.

**Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2014/7/8 9:42**

It does seem like the flow from the end of ch 41 to beginning of ch 42 would indicate Jeremiah was in Bethlehem.

Dolfan it is obvious you are not simply burning through your reading in order to even come up with this question. Awesome!

**Re: - posted by dolfan (), on: 2014/7/8 10:15**

I think that flow reads that way, too. Yet, it also says the ones who went with Johanan to near Bethlehem were those who Johanan took from Ishmael's group. Jeremiah was opposed to Ishmael because Ishmael was opposed to Gedaliah. I don't think Jeremiah was with Ishmael voluntarily, and I don't read where Jeremiah was with him involuntarily. So, it makes me think Jeremiah was not with Ishmael and thus not swept up by Johanan and taken to this place near Bethlehem, if that makes sense.

**Re: - posted by havok20x, on: 2014/7/8 10:37**

I think what probably happened was Jeremiah chose to move to Bethlehem after Gedaliah commanded the remaining Jews to go possess their cities (Chapter 40). Being a levite, Jeremiah had no land of his own, so it is likely that he could have decided to go to Bethlehem, which would have been a providential choice, seeing how Johanan would wind up their later.

Ishmael was in Mizpah with Gedaliah and killed him (Chapter 41). Johanan had obviously left because Gedaliah was not listening to his pleas to rid himself of Ishmael. So when Ishmael killed Gedaliah, Johanan heard about it and found Ishmael near Gibeon. They recovered the captives, went to Mizpah and took the captives from there and headed south toward Egypt, which took them by Bethlehem, where Jeremiah was residing. That's a summary up until the end of chapter 41.

Then it says that Johanan and his company "came near" and spoke to Jeremiah. It is obvious that Jeremiah was not with them up until this point. Then comes the prophecy concerning not going to Egypt (Chapter 42). Afterwards, Johanan takes the remaining Jews from that area (including Jeremiah and Baruch) and heads toward Egypt (chapter 43)

**Re: - posted by dolfan (), on: 2014/7/8 11:05**

That cleans it up.

But, doesn't Jer. 40:6 say that Jeremiah went to Mizpah to Gedaliah and stayed with him among the people who were left in the land? I can't find any implication after 40:6 that would place Jeremiah anywhere else. Maybe he did go to Bethlehem after Gedaliah was murdered. There is nothing that I see in the text that would prevent that.

Two things seem odd. One is that Jeremiah remained in Mizpah. If Johanan came near to Jeremiah in Mizpah, it was a bit of a trek from near Bethlehem and would have taken them likely through decimated Jerusalem. No reason to avoid Jerusalem, really, but it was not the quickest trip to make.

The other oddity, though, that keeps Mizpah as a possibility is the detail of chapters 38-40:6 about Jeremiah's goings. Why would whoever wrote this part of Jeremiah (himself, Baruch or some other historian-type keeping record in Jeremiah's writings) get so suddenly fuzzy....or is it not fuzzy at all and we should merely assume that no recorded change of location means no actual change of location here? I don't know.

.... EDIT.....

I re read ch. 43.

I thought, Aha! He was in Bethlehem! Then, I checked myself and not sure again.

In ch. 43, Jeremiah refers to "this land".... Judah. Mizpah was part of Benjamin's allotment in the original division in Joshua. But, so was Jerusalem! Jerusalem was on the border of Benjamin and Judah, but clearly inside Benjamin. As Jerusalem grew, though, and when Solomon built the Temple, some scholars say that the sanctuary was on the Benjamin side

e of the line and the courts were on the Judah side of it. In any event, David picked Jerusalem as capital and Jerusalem became, de facto, part of Judah when the kingdoms split after Solomon died. Benjamin people remained loyal to David's house then, too, so that all of Benjamin's land ....including Mizpah..... were part of Judah. So, Jeremiah saying "this land" still does not clarify he was in Bethlehem as opposed to Mizpah....or even Jerusalem??

**Re: - posted by havok20x, on: 2014/7/8 11:24**

Brother,

had you not been asking so detailed of questions, I would not have even taken more than a 2nd look at these passages. ..lol.

According to the account (this is combining what it says in 2 Kings and Jeremiah) In the 4th month the city was penetrated. The captives were carried off in the 5th month and Jeremiah was released to Gedaliah in Mizpah. The events of 41-43 occur 2 months later (the 7th month). Jeremiah was told to go wherever he wished, which it seems to me was near Bethlehem.

It also appears to me that Jeremiah did not stay in Mizpah, but went to Bethlehem for one reason or another. And I think the account gets "fuzzy" because neither Jeremiah nor Baruch were there during Ishmael's rebellion nor were they there for Johanan's gathering of the people at Gibeon and Mizpah. He was present starting near Bethlehem, when they came near to him.

**Re: - posted by dolfan (), on: 2014/7/8 11:41**

That may be so.

It is very interesting to me. I suppose why this jumps out at me is very much in line with the themes discussed here so much. Here is Jeremiah, the old prophet of doom in the eyes of so many and even himself because his message was consistently one of doom. But, here, the man actually gets to give good news, albeit with a grain of salt so to speak. And, sure enough, they put poor Jeremiah back into another difficulty by rejecting even his promises of peace and prosperity. He just could not come out ahead.

He came out obedient, though. He truly did not count this world as his home. Tradition says he was cut in two in Egypt by his own people, which certainly fits how they treated him as described in Jeremiah the book.

How is the church in America today so much like the self willed, pompous, fraudulent boast of Johanan in Jeremiah 42 and 43? We say we are His, we say we will obey, yet we too will balk at the word of God to us and spread ourselves before the non-existent "Queen of heaven" to pursue the natural, carnal, fleshly lusts.

**Re: - posted by havok20x, on: 2014/7/8 12:06**

Yes, brother. And what is sad is that too often the fact that they speak spiritual sounding words or that they pretend to be humble is enough for them to believe that they can check their spiritual checkbox for the day. And we are all like that apart from the radical transformation of Jesus Christ. Without a heart of flesh in place of our old heart of stone, we all would, at best, only appear to be spiritual. Everything apart from Jesus Christ is honoring with lips with hearts far from the Lord.

I am very glad we had this discussion. I would never have picked this passage to meditate on, but I am glad the Lord had you asking these questions, because now I will remember this story for a long, long time.

Thanks, brother!

**Re: i love Jeremiah , on: 2014/7/8 12:54**

(I gotta mow pasture, so I must be quick)

Jeremiah wept, which meant he felt DEEPLY, and though he prophesied frequently of the gathering doom, he also saw and prophesied of the coming Messiah, in what's termed the "Book of Consolation (Chptrs 30-33)

another neat thing is this; the way the collection is arranged in the Bible, is not chronological. I have to fly, otherwise I'd get the order, it's in the NIV study Bible...look it up. it's fun.

"Jeremiah fun?".....yeh, Praise God, very much so.

Jeremiah is a first rate role model for any follower of Messiah, he didn't care what any cracked clay religionist of his day thought about his prophesy, or his walk with God entailed.....he used blistering burning language to denounce the pretenders and the religionists of that day...even today, you could speak Jeremiah 23 to the sons of darkness out there, and what would be different?

of course the geographical points referenced, but little else.

Jeremiah was SO REAL....authentic. Faithful to God, Yahweh, maybe lonely, brokenhearted, but he had God....AND one of God's real unsung champions, the faithful scribe, Baruch. I pray I get to meet them both someday...that's the kind of stuff I think about when I ponder Heaven.

ps...try not to get hung up in the "chronological thing"...it's not a salvation issue, it's just kind of neat to ponder and explore...that's all.

**Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2014/7/8 17:02**

I enjoyed reading these responses - after reading the scripture quoted.

Another lesson it teaches me is that people today are not a whole lot different. Imagine living at that place in time, having to deal with those assassinations... how would we cope? Sounds like a scary time. Had this happened in our community, what would people be saying? The end must be near? Here in Mississippi they would.

But God was very aware what the people wanted and his will did not change to please the people. Too many today believe God operates this way today. So they pursue their own way and experience judgement/calamities.

Neil, I also love these OT prophets. Isaiah is my favorite. In reading them I sometimes get the sense I just might know them! I also sense the love of God flowing through them.

Interesting thread, by the way..

**My sister Ginny, on: 2014/7/8 18:13**

you wrote:

Quote:  
-----Neil, I also love these OT prophets. Isaiah is my favorite. In reading them I sometimes get the sense I just might know them! I also sense the love of God flowing through them.  
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oh yes amen!! I could sit with you all day long, cherry picking and pondering verses from these 15 men.

Isaiah IS known as "The Prince of Prophets", and I'm certain you know of the Four Suffering Servant Songs, that point to Messiah.....do you know I heard the other day, that absolutely disagree with? The "two Isaiah" theory...that there were TWO Isaiahs!!! (lol) I write "lol" because only out of a cemetery, I mean seminary could that come.

agreed, there is a kind of "two volume" thing happening...Isaiah 1-39 then Isaiah 40-66....but two SEPERATE men?.....a ch, doesn't ring true to my spirit.

and...King Hezekiah had Isaiah as Kingdom prophet, along with Micah I believe, and what made Hezekiah a great king, was the spirit, where Hezekiah would NOT be so arrogant in his rule, but seek Isaiah counsel, which was really God's counsel when the going got rough.....ie, when the Assyrians sent an envoy to the Wall of Jerusalem, bellowing threats IN HEBREW to shake the defenders....the Kings advisors went back to Hezekiah, who conferred with Isaiah, who then, after a time, spoke the Words of the LORD....DONE.....no doubts! if you got a battle, BRING THE LORD IN!!

I would have loved to live in Jerusalem then.....700 BC....to me, when I read of...say the days of Hezekiah as King and Isaiah as Prophet...its so real.....but isn't it something to think in a little over a hundred years, it all went to the devil.....586 BC, the First Temple destroyed.....terrible.

one more thing, did you know that in modern Judaism, at least for young peoples teaching, they hide the Prophets...true, we were "confined" to the Five books of Moses.....nothing of the Prophets....oh Elijah had a big standing, but not Isaiah or Jeremiah....interesting, huh.

Because if you read Isaiah's Four Suffering Servant Songs, or Jeremiah's New Covenant within the Book of Consolation, (Jer 31:31-34)...one MIGHT as a Jew, ask in their hearts, "what about this Jesus?"

Praise God...that question was answered in the blink of an eye. May 2002. much love in Jesus, my sister, neil