

**The Survivors Ask the Lord for Advice  
but Refuse to Follow It, continued**

**Jeremiah Predicts that Nebuchadnezzar  
Will Plunder Egypt and Its Gods**

**Jeremiah 43:1-13**

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### **Jeremiah Predicts that Nebuchadnezzar Will Plunder Egypt and Its Gods**

**Text:**

**Jeremiah 43:1-13,**

- 1. Jeremiah finished telling all the people all these things the LORD their God had sent him to tell them.**
- 2. Then Azariah son of Hoshaiah, Johanan son of Kareah, and other arrogant men said to Jeremiah, “You are telling a lie! The LORD our God did not send you to tell us, ‘You must not go to Egypt and settle there.’**
- 3. But Baruch son of Neriah is stirring you up against us. He wants to hand us over to the Babylonians so that they will kill us or carry us off into exile in Babylon.”**
- 4. So Johanan son of Kareah, all the army officers, and all the rest of the people did not obey the LORD’s command to stay in the land.**
- 5. Instead Johanan son of Kareah and all the army officers led off all the Judean remnant who had come back to live in the land of Judah from all the nations where they had been scattered.**
- 6. They also led off all the men, women, children, and royal princesses that Nebuzaradan, the captain of the royal guard, had left with Gedaliah, the son of Ahikam and grandson of**

**Shaphan. This included the prophet Jeremiah and Baruch son of Neriah.**

**7. They went on to Egypt because they refused to obey the LORD, and came to Tahpanhes.**

**8. At Tahpanhes the LORD spoke to Jeremiah.**

**9. “Take some large stones and bury them in the mortar of the clay pavement at the entrance of Pharaoh’s residence here in Tahpanhes. Do it while the people of Judah present there are watching.**

**10. Then tell them, ‘The LORD God of Israel who rules over all says, “I will bring my servant King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. I will set his throne over these stones which I have buried. He will pitch his royal tent over them.**

**11. He will come and attack Egypt. Those who are destined to die of disease will die of disease. Those who are destined to be carried off into exile will be carried off into exile. Those who are destined to die in war will die in war.**

**12. He will set fire to the temples of the gods of Egypt. He will burn their gods or carry them off as captives. He will pick Egypt clean like a shepherd picks the lice from his clothing. He will leave there unharmed.**

**13. He will demolish the sacred pillars in the temple of the sun in Egypt and will burn down the temples of the gods of Egypt.””” (NET)**

### **Introduction:**

I. Coffman quoted Feinberg as saying, “Think of it! Abraham’s descendants returned to Egypt long after their liberation from it. With great suffering they had been delivered from their bondage

in Egypt, only to return nearly nine hundred years later a defeated, hopeless remnant!”

II. Coffman outlined Jeremiah 43:1-13 as follows: . . .

- A. Judah’s leaders reject God’s word (verses 1-4),...
- B. Jeremiah and Baruch are taken to Egypt (verses 5-7),...
- C. Prophecy of conquest of Egypt (verses 8-11), and ...
- D. Prophecy against the gods of Egypt (verses 12-13).

### **Commentary:**

#### **The Survivors Ask the Lord for Advice but Refuse to Follow It, continued**

**Jeremiah 43:1, Jeremiah finished telling all the people all these things the Lord their God had sent him to tell them. (NET)**

I. Jeremiah finished telling all the people all these things the Lord their God had sent him to tell them.

A. Jeremiah faithfully reported all that God had told him just as he had promised he would do.

1. Jeremiah kept his word. Johanan and those associated with him did not do as they had solemnly promised.

2. Jeremiah's character and the characters of Johanan and those associated with him were exact opposites.

**Jeremiah 43:2, Then Azariah son of Hoshaiiah, Johanan son of Kareah, and other arrogant men said to Jeremiah, "You are telling a lie! The LORD our God did not send you to tell us, 'You must not go to Egypt and settle there.' (NET)**

I. Then Azariah son of Hoshaiiah, Johanan son of Kareah, and other arrogant men said to Jeremiah, . . .

A. Azariah was a son of Hoshaiiah and an opponent of Jeremiah. Hoshaiiah was the father of both Jeremiah and Azariah. (Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

1. Azariah may have been listed first here, Willis suggested, because he was influencing Johanan to leave Judea and go to Egypt.

B. Johanan was a son of Kareah and a captain of the Jews who joined forces with Gedeliah after the fall of Jerusalem. When Gedeliah was murdered, Johanan pursued the assassins. He rescued several people, whom the assassins had taken as captive, including Jeremiah. Against Jeremiah's protests, Johanan took all of them to Egypt. Kareah (Careah) was the father of Johanan and Jonathan. (Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

C. The "arrogant," proud, insolent men including Johanan, Azariah and others accused Jeremiah of lying in regard to reporting what God had said. They were themselves blatant liars in refusing to do what God told them after swearing to do whatever God told them to do. (See Hamilton and Coffman.)

**1. Jeremiah 42:5-6, They answered Jeremiah, “May the Lord be a true and faithful witness against us if we do not do just as the Lord sends you to tell us to do. 6 We will obey what the Lord our God to whom we are sending you tells us to do. It does not matter whether we like what he tells us or not. We will obey what he tells us to do so that things will go well for us.” (NET)**

2. These people were arrogant, haughty, self-centered and rebellious.

3. They had no respect for God or God’s prophets. (Coffman)

4. Not all the refugees were arrogant, but the proud domineering ones took control of the entire group.

II. “You are telling a lie! The Lord our God did not send you to tell us, ‘You must not go to Egypt and settle there.’

A. Here the leaders of this group of refugees publicly repudiated Jeremiah as God’s prophet. (See Hamilton.)

B. Jeremiah had charged his opponents on various occasions with lying. (See Willis.)

**1. Jeremiah 7:4, Stop putting your confidence in the false belief that says, “We are safe! The temple of the LORD is here! The temple of the LORD is here! The temple of the LORD is here!” (NET)**

**2. Jeremiah 8:8, How can you say, “We are wise! We have the law of the LORD”? The truth is, those who teach it have used their writings to make it say what it does not really mean. (NET)**

**3. Jeremiah 14:14, Then the LORD said to me, “Those prophets are prophesying lies while**

**claiming my authority! I did not send them. I did not commission them. I did not speak to them. They are prophesying to these people false visions, worthless predictions, and the delusions of their own mind. (NET)**

**4. Jeremiah 23:25-26, The LORD says, “I have heard what those prophets who are prophesying lies in my name are saying. They are saying, ‘I have had a dream! I have had a dream!’ Those prophets are just prophesying lies. They are prophesying the delusions of their own minds. (NET)**

C. The difference was that the false prophets were lying while Jeremiah was speaking the truth.

D. Clarke concluded the only way these arrogant people could “justify” themselves, excuse their conduct, was to flatly deny the truth of what Jeremiah had said.

**Jeremiah 43:3, But Baruch son of Neriah is stirring you up against us. He wants to hand us over to the Babylonians so that they will kill us or carry us off into exile in Babylon.” (NET)**

I. But Baruch son of Neriah is stirring you up\*against us.

A. \*NET Footnote: Or, is inciting you.

B. Baruch was the scribe or secretary of Jeremiah the prophet. A son of Neriah, Baruch was a member of a prominent Jewish family. In the fourth year of the reign of Jehoiakim, King of Judah (605 B.C.), Baruch wrote Jeremiah’s prophecies of destruction from the prophet’s dictation. Baruch read Jeremiah’s words publicly on a day of fasting, then read them to the officials of the King’s court. A clay seal inscribed, “Baruch son of Neriah the

scribe,” dating from Jeremiah’s time and clearly belonging to his secretary, was discovered in a burnt archive in Israel.” (Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

C. Smith wrote, “For some unexplained reason, they accused Baruch of having incited the prophet against them.”

1. Willis wrote that, “Like Zedekiah, these people are more willing to “hear” the words of lying prophets” than they are to hear Jeremiah.

a. **Jeremiah 37:19, where now is the prophets who prophesied to you that the king of Babylon would not attack you or this land? (NET)**

2. Baruch likely also proclaimed the basic principles taught by Jeremiah. (See Willis)

3. In any event, Coffman wrote, “The prophet who would not trim his message for the King himself would not have allowed himself to be manipulated by his secretary!”

4. For some reason Baruch received the refugee leaders’ special condemnation.

a. **Jeremiah 45:4-5, The LORD told Jeremiah, “Tell Baruch, ‘The LORD says, “I am about to tear down what I have built and to uproot what I have planted. I will do this throughout the whole earth. Are you looking for great things for yourself? Do not look for such things. For I, the LORD, affirm that I am about to bring disaster on all humanity. But I will**

**allow you to escape with your life wherever you go.””” (NET)**

II. He wants to hand us over to the Babylonians so that they will kill us or carry us off into exile in Babylon.

A. Babylonians were residents of the city of Babylon which was located along the Euphrates River about 300 miles northwest of the Persian Gulf and about 30 miles southwest of Baghdad in Iraq. Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar reached its peak of power. Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians in 586 B.C. The events of Jeremiah 43 took place in the years following Jerusalem’s fall. (Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

B. Johanan and his associates claimed Baruch wanted them to stay in Canaan so the Babylonians could kill them or exile them to Babylon. (See Smith)

1. There was no basis in fact for their opinion that if they stayed in Canaan they would die and that the only hope they had to live was to seek refuge in Egypt. (See Smith.)

C. Evidently Jeremiah did not dignify these ridiculous charges by a response.

**Jeremiah 43:4, So Johanan son of Kareah, all the army officers, and all the rest of the people did not obey the LORD’s command to stay in the land. (NET)**

I. So Johanan son of Kareah, all the army officers, and all the rest of the people did not obey the Lord’s command to stay in the land.

A. Johanan and all the rest of the people flatly refused to do what God commanded!

1. This they did after having solemnly sworn to do whatever God commanded no matter what whether they liked it or not.
2. They certainly should have learned from Zedekiah that disaster awaits those who disobey God. (See Willis.)

**Jeremiah 43:5, Instead Johanan son of Kareah and all the army officers led off all the Judean remnant who had come back to live in the land of Judah from all the nations where they had been scattered. (NET)**

I. Instead Johanan son of Kareah and all the army officers led off all the Judean remnant who had come back to live in the land of Judah from all the nations where they had been scattered.

A. Johanan did not give the people the choice of staying in Canaan or going to Egypt.

1. Those who did not want to go to Egypt such as Jeremiah and Baruch were forced to go to Egypt against their wills.
2. This resulted in Jerusalem's and the land's being left desolate as Jeremiah had prophesied in **Jeremiah 24:8-10, "I, the Lord, also solemnly assert: 'King Zedekiah of Judah, his officials, and the people who remain in Jerusalem or who have gone to live in Egypt are like those bad figs. I consider them to be just like those bad figs that are so bad they cannot be eaten. I will bring such disaster on them that all the kingdoms of the earth will be horrified. I will make them an object of reproach, a proverbial example of disaster. I will make them an object of ridicule, an example to be used in curses.**

**That is how they will be remembered wherever I banish them. I will bring war, starvation, and disease on them until they are completely destroyed from the land I gave them and their ancestors.”**  
(NET)

II. All the Judean remnant who had once taken refuge away from Jerusalem in order to escape the Babylonians but had returned to Jerusalem when they learned Gedaliah was governor were led off to Egypt.

**Jeremiah 43:6, They also led off all the men, women, children, and royal princesses that Nebuzaradan, the captain of the royal guard, had left with Gedaliah, the son of Ahikam and grandson of Shaphan. This included the prophet Jeremiah and Baruch son of Neriah. (NET)**

I. They also led off all the men, women, children, and royal princesses that Nebuzaradan, the captain of the royal guard, had left with Gedaliah, the son of Ahikam and grandson of Shaphan.

A. Nebuzaradan, the captain of Nebuchadnezzar's body-guard, played an important part in the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. When Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians, Nebuzaradan came to the city and took charge of destroying it. He commanded the troops who burned the temple, the palace, and all the houses of Jerusalem and tore down the walls of the city. He was also in charge of deporting the Israelites to Babylonia. Upon orders from Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuzaradan showed kindness to Jeremiah, gave him provisions and his freedom. (Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

B. Gedaliah was a person of high birth appointed governor of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar. He governed Judah from

Mizpah. Gedaliah, after ruling two or three months as governor, was assassinated by Ishmael. Gedaliah's father had protected Jeremiah and Gedaliah probably did the same. Gedaliah's father, Ahikam, was an officer in King Josiah's court and a member of the delegation sent by Josiah to the prophetess Huldah. Ahikam helped protect Jeremiah from the persecutions of King Jehoiakim. Gedaliah's grandfather, Shaphan, was a scribe during the reign of King Josiah who helped Josiah carry out his religious reforms. (Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary).

C. Clarke identified the "royal princesses" as King Zedekiah's daughters by his concubines and may have been left in Jerusalem because the Babylonians had been unaware of them or did not regard them as a threat either for inheritance or holding political office being both females and daughters of concubines.

**1. Jeremiah 41:10, Then Ishmael took captive all the people who were still left alive in Mizpah. This included the royal princesses and all the rest of the people in Mizpah that Nebuzaradan, the captain of the royal guard, had put under the authority of Gedaliah son of Ahikam. Ishmael son of Nethaniah took all these people captive and set out to cross over to the Ammonites. (NET)**

II. This included the prophet Jeremiah and Baruch son of Neriah.

A. Jeremiah and Baruch were forced to migrate to Egypt. Otherwise they would not have left their homeland.

B. It also included those who came back to Mizpah from places where they had fled and the men, women and children of the poor of the land. (See The Pulpit Commentary.)

**1. Jeremiah 40:7, Now some of the officers of the Judean army and their troops had been hiding in the countryside. They heard that the king of Babylon had appointed Gedaliah son of Ahikam to govern the country. They also heard that he had been put in charge over the men, women, and children from the poorer classes of the land who had not been carried off into exile in Babylon. (NET)**

**Jeremiah 43:7, They went on to Egypt because they refused to obey the LORD, and came to Tahpanhes.\* (NET)**

I. They went on to Egypt because they refused to obey the Lord, and came to Tahpanhes.\*

A. \*Net Footnote: An important fortress city on the northern border of Egypt in the northeastern Nile delta.

B. Tahpanhes was a city on the eastern frontier of lower Egypt in the area of the Nile Delta. Tahpanhes became a place of refuge for Jews who fled their homeland after the assassination of Gedaliah. (Nelson' New Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

**1. Jeremiah 2:16, Even the soldiers from Memphis and Tahpanhes have cracked your skulls, people of Israel. (NET)**

2. Coffman quoting Kitchen wrote that Tahpanhes was an important fortified city on the eastern delta of the Nile, where Pharaoh had a summer home and some

kind of administrative center. It was located some 27 miles SSW of Port Said.

**3. Ezekiel 30:18, In Tahpanhes the day will be dark when I break the yoke of Egypt there. Her confident pride will cease within her; a cloud will cover her, and her daughters will go into captivity. (NET)**

C. Smith wrote, “The group moved into Egypt as far as Tahpanhes (also known as Daphna by the Greeks, Clarke). This detail is mentioned perhaps to under-score that these men did not just flirt with disobedience. They plunged headlong into it!”

1. Clarke suggested these Judean refugees may have stopped at Tahpanhes where they could petition Pharaoh to go farther in Egypt.

### **Jeremiah Predicts that Nebuchadnezzar Will Plunder Egypt and Its Gods**

**Jeremiah 43:8, At Tahpanhes the LORD spoke to Jeremiah. (NET)**

I. At Tanpanhes the Lord spoke to Jeremiah.

A. After having arrived in Tanpanhes in Egypt, God again spoke to Jeremiah.

II. Jeremiah proclaimed God’s word everywhere he went.

A. We are to do likewise!

**Jeremiah 43:9, “Take some large stones and bury them in the mortar of the clay pavement at the entrance of Pharaoh’s residence here in Tahpanhes.” Do it while the people of Judah present there are watching. (NET)**

I. “Take some large stones and bury them in the mortar of the clay pavement at the entrance of Pharaoh’s residence here in Tahpanhes.”

A. This illustrates the fact that the remnant will not be safe in Egypt.

1. “Jeremiah lays the foundation on which the Babylonian monarch will place his throne.”  
(Hamilton)

a. **Nahum 3:14, Draw yourselves water for a siege! Strengthen your fortifications! Trample the mud and tread the clay! Make mud bricks to strengthen your walls! (NET)**

2. The Babylonian throne was to be located at the entrance of Pharaoh’s residence.

B. It was to be remembered that this event was prophesied by Jeremiah.

II. Do it while the people of Judah present there are watching.

A. Judeans would witness what Nebuchadnezzar would do when he attacked Egypt.

**Jeremiah 43:10, Then tell them, ‘The LORD God of Israel who rules overall says, “I will bring my servant King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. I will set his throne over these stones which I have buried. He will pitch his royal tent over them. (NET)**

I. Then tell them, ‘The LORD God of Israel who rules over all says, . . .

A. This is what the all-powerful Lord God who rules over all says.

1. Jeremiah was not expressing his opinions and he certainly was not lying.

2. Jeremiah conveyed to those of the Judean remnant exactly what God had said.

B. This was Jeremiah's last "action" parable, Smith noted. However, this is "the first in a series of prophecies delivered by Jeremiah to the Jews in Egypt," Willis wrote.

II. "I will bring my servant King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon.

A. Nebuchadnezzar would act as God's servant through whom his will would be done. (See Smith)

B. Jeremiah is repeating the prediction that the destruction which had already come to Jerusalem would come to the disobedient Jews in Egypt. (See Willis.)

C. Clarke gives the historical fulfillment of this prophecy as follows: Some of Pharaoh Apries' subjects rebelled against him. Pharaoh Apries sent one of his generals, Amasis, to quell the uprising. Those who had rebelled against Apries proclaimed Amasis King. Apries fled. In this state of turmoil Nebuchadnezzar attacked and won an easy victory. Nebuchadnezzar appointed Amasis his viceroy. Apries attacked Amasis, but was defeated and killed. In this way Nebuchadnezzar made an easy conquest of Egypt and the Jewish refugees again found themselves under Babylonian dominance.

III. I will set his throne over these stones which I have buried. He will pitch his royal tent over them.

A. Nebuchadnezzar would place his command post, royal tent, among the Judeans in Egypt at the entrance of Pharaoh's palace in Tahpanhes. (See Smith.)

**1. Jeremiah 1:15-16, For I will soon summon all the peoples of the kingdoms of the north," says the LORD. "They will come and their kings will set**

**up their thrones near the entrances of the gates of Jerusalem. They will attack all the walls surrounding it, and all the towns in Judah. In this way I will pass sentence on the people of Jerusalem and Judah because of all their wickedness. For they rejected me and offered sacrifices to other gods, worshiping what they made with their own hands.” (NET)**

**2. Jeremiah 49:35, The LORD who rules over all said “I will kill all the archers of Elam, who are the chief source of her military might. (NET)**

B. This is similar to what was done by the Babylonians when Jerusalem fell, Willis advised. (See Willis.)

**1. Jeremiah 39:3, Then Nergal-Sharezer of Samgar, Nebo-Sarsekim, who was a chief officer, Nergal-Sharezer, who was a high official, and all the other officers of the king of Babylon came and set up quarters in the Middle Gate. (NET)**

**2. Jeremiah 32:29, The Babylonian soldiers that are attacking this city will break into it and set it on fire. They will burn it down along with the houses where people have made me angry by offering sacrifices to the god Baal and by pouring out drink offerings to other gods on their rooftops. (NET)**

**Jeremiah 43:11, He will come and attack Egypt. Those who are destined to die of disease will die of disease. Those who are destined to be carried off into exile will be carried off**

**into exile. Those who are destined to die in war will die in war. (NET)**

I. He will come and attack Egypt.

A. Nebuchadnezzar will bring to the remnant in Egypt the very death, captivity and sword they had hoped to escape by leaving Judah. (See Hamilton.)

B. Jeremiah now issues a warning to those then seeking refuge in Egypt. (See Willis.)

1. Similar disasters to those which befell the citizens of Jerusalem at the hands of the Babylonians will befall the refugees in Egypt at the hands of the Babylonians. (See Willis.)

2. The security they were seeking could not be found in Egypt.

3. Jeremiah **urgently warned** the remnant of what would happen to them in Egypt, but they refused to listen. (See Willis.)

4. **Jeremiah 46:13, The LORD spoke to the prophet Jeremiah about Nebuchadnezzar coming to attack the land of Egypt. (NET)**

II. Those who are destined to die of disease will die of disease.

A. Disease will kill people in Egypt, a thing the Judeans had feared would take their lives were they to have remained in Judea.

B. Related references:

1. **Jeremiah 15:2-3, If they ask you, ‘Where should we go?’ tell them the LORD says this: “Those who are destined to die of disease will go to death by disease. Those who are destined to die in war will**

**go to death in war. Those who are destined to die of starvation will go to death by starvation. Those who are destined to go into exile will go into exile.” “I will punish them in four different ways: I will have war kill them. I will have dogs drag off their dead bodies. I will have birds and wild beasts devour and destroy their corpses. (NET)**

**2. Jeremiah 18:21, So let their children die of starvation. Let them be cut down by the sword. Let their wives lose their husbands and children. Let the older men die of disease and the younger men die by the sword in battle. (NET)**

C. Compare the following readings of this verse as presented by several versions: . . .

**1. Jeremiah 43:11, And when he cometh, he shall smite the land of Egypt, and deliver such as are for death to death; and such as are for captivity to captivity; and such as are for the sword to the sword. (KJV)**

**2. Jeremiah 43:11, When he comes, he shall strike the land of Egypt *and deliver to death those appointed* for death, and to captivity *those appointed* for captivity, and to the sword *those appointed* for the sword. (NKJV)**

**3. Jeremiah 43:11, He shall come and smite the land of Egypt, giving to the pestilence those who are doomed to the pestilence, to captivity those who are doomed to captivity, and to the sword those who are doomed to the sword. (RSV)**

**4. Jeremiah 43:11, He shall come and ravage the land of Egypt, giving those who are destined for pestilence, to pestilence, and those who are destined for captivity, to captivity, and those who are destined for the sword, to the sword. (NRSV)**

**5. Jeremiah 43:11, He will come and attack Egypt, bringing death to those destined for death, captivity to those destined for captivity, and the sword to those destined for the sword. (NIV)**

**6. Jeremiah 43:11, He will come and attack Egypt. Those who are destined to die of disease will die of disease. Those who are destined to be carried off into exile will be carried off into exile. Those who are destined to die in war will die in war. (NET)**

**7. Jeremiah 43:11, And he shall come, and shall smite the land of Egypt; such as are for death shall be given to death, and such as are for captivity to captivity, and such as are for the sword to the sword. (ASV)**

**8. Jeremiah 43:11, He will also come and strike the land of Egypt; those who are *meant* for death *will be given over* to death, and those for captivity to captivity, and those for the sword to the sword. (NASV)**

D. These expressions do not reflect some complicated doctrine of predestination and foreordination.

1. They simply mean that, when Nebuchadnezzar invades the land, some would die of disease/pestilence, some of sword and battle while some would be taken captive and exiled to Babylon.

2. These same things Jeremiah had said repeatedly regarding Jerusalem.

III. Those that are destined to be carried off into exile will be carried off into exile.

A. Others would be exiled to Babylon from Egypt.

IV. Those that are destined to die in war will die in war.

A. Still others would die as casualties of war.

**Jeremiah 43:12, He will set fire to the temples of the gods of Egypt. He will burn their gods or carry them off as captives. He will pick Egypt clean like a shepherd picks the lice from his clothing. He will leave there unharmed. (NET)**

I. He will set fire\* to the temples of the gods of Egypt.

A. \*NET Footnote: So LXX, Syriac, and Vulgate; MT reads, I will set fire.

B. Nebuchadnezzar would set fire to the temples of the gods of Egypt.

1. The gods of Egypt could not protect the Judeans.

2. Jehovah would have protected the remnant had they obeyed the Lord and remained in Judea.

3. The Pulpit Commentary reminds us of the well-known fact that Egypt was full of gorgeous and imposing temples.

II. He will burn their gods or carry them off as captives.

A. The Egyptian gods were able to offer no protection against the Babylonians for either the Egyptians or Judeans.

1. The Egyptians' gods were either destroyed or captured and taken to Babylon.

2. The term "gods" here is elsewhere translated obelisks or pillars which actually means "images."

3. Wooden idols could be burned. Metal gods, some of which were made of gold and were valuable, were taken for the expensive material of which they were made.

a. **Jeremiah 48:7, "Moab, you trust in the things you do and in your riches. So you too will be conquered. Your god Chemosh will go into exile along with his priests and his officials. (NET)**

b. **Isaiah 46:2, Together they bend low and kneel down; they are unable to rescue the images; they themselves head off into captivity. (NET)**

III. He will pick Egypt clean like a shepherd picks the lice from his clothing.

A. Smith wrote, “Nebuchadnezzar would ‘wrap himself with the land of Egypt as a shepherd wraps himself with his garment,’ i.e. he would completely dominate Egypt.”

B. Keil explained, “As easily as any shepherd in the open field wraps himself in his cloak.”

C. Coffman regarded the following rendering of this verse as preposterous: “As a shepherd picks his clothes clean of lice, so the king of Babylon will pick the land of Egypt clean.” “Such words are simply not in the text,” Coffman wrote.

D. Moffatt rendered this verse as follows: “He shall scour the land of Egypt as a shepherd picks vermin out of plaid.”

E. Nebuchadnezzar was highly successful in this military venture and removed from Egypt untold valuables, picked it clean as it were.

1. Nebuchadnezzar would return to Babylon a great victor and tremendously enriched with the valuables of Egypt.

#### IV. He will leave these unharmed.

A. Nebuchadnezzar would be totally successful in his military operations against Egypt and would leave unharmed as the unquestioned victor. (See Smith.)

**Jeremiah 43:13, He will demolish the sacred pillars in the temple of the sun in Egypt and will burn down the temples of the gods of Egypt.””” (NET)**

I. He will demolish the sacred pillars in the temple of the sun\* in Egypt and will burn down the temples of the gods of Egypt.”””

A. \*NET Footnote: Located in the city of Heliopolis, also known as On. (**Genesis 41:45, Pharaoh gave Joseph the name Zaphenath-Paneah. He also gave him Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, to be his wife. So Joseph took charge of all the land of Egypt.**) (NET)

1. Beth-shemesh may be another name for Heliopolis or On. (Smith and Coffman)
2. Hamilton adds that Heliopolis is was located about ten miles northeast of Cairo

B. Nebuchadnezzar made a brief invasion of Egypt in his thirty-seventh year (568-567 B.C.) when Amasis was Pharaoh. What had happened to Jerusalem would also reach them. (See Hamilton and Willis.)

1. Smith wrote, “Ancient sources testify that Nebuchadnezzar invaded Egypt twice, once in 582 B.C. and again in 568 B.C.”
2. Jerusalem fell in July of 586 B.C. The first Babylonian incursion into Egypt took place four years and the other eighteen years after the fall of Jerusalem.
3. Coffman wrote that a Babylonian historian confirms the conquest of Egypt by Nebuchadnezzar and the Jewish historian Josephus declared that, “Nebuchadnezzar fell upon Egypt to subdue it, and he slew the

king that then reigned and set up another. He also took those Jews that were there captives, and led them away to Babylon.”

4. The sun god and others were worshiped by the Egyptians. Nebuchadnezzar burned, destroyed or carried them to Babylon. (See Clarke.)

a. The “sacred pillars” were obelisks arranged in pairs at the entrance of their temples. (The Pulpit Commentary)

### **Conclusion:**

I. Learn from Johanan and his arrogant associates that a person can run from God, but he cannot hide!

A. Wonder if Jonah would agree with this statement.

# Questions

on

## Jeremiah 43:1-13

1. “Think of it! \_\_\_\_\_’s \_\_\_\_\_ returned to \_\_\_\_\_ after their \_\_\_\_\_ from it. With \_\_\_\_\_ they had been \_\_\_\_\_ from their \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, only to \_\_\_\_\_ nearly \_\_\_\_\_ later a \_\_\_\_\_!” (Feinberg via Coffman)

2. How did Coffman outline Jeremiah 43:1-13? \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. Contrast Jeremiah’s and Johanan’s characters. \_\_\_\_\_  
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4. Who was Azariah? \_\_\_\_\_  
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5. Who was Johanan? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. These \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, men including \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ accused \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in regard to \_\_\_\_\_ what \_\_\_\_\_ had said. They were themselves \_\_\_\_\_.

7. Here the \_\_\_\_\_ of this group of \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ as \_\_\_\_\_'s \_\_\_\_\_.

8. Had Jeremiah ever charged his opponents with lying? If so, when and under what circumstances? \_\_\_\_\_

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9. Why did these refugee leaders call Jeremiah a liar?

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10. What was the difference between the refugee leaders' calling Jeremiah a liar and Jeremiah's calling his opponents liars? \_\_\_\_\_

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11. What had Baruch done to cause the refugee leaders to oppose him? Why did these leaders oppose Baruch? \_\_\_\_\_

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12. Who was Baruch? \_\_\_\_\_

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13. Who were the Babylonians? \_\_\_\_\_

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14. \_\_\_\_\_ and all the rest of the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ to do what \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. This they did after having \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ to do whatever \_\_\_\_\_  
no matter \_\_\_\_\_ whether they \_\_\_\_\_ it or  
\_\_\_\_\_.

15. \_\_\_\_\_ did \_\_\_\_\_ give the \_\_\_\_\_ the  
\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_  
to \_\_\_\_\_. Those who did \_\_\_\_\_  
to \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ such as \_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_ were \_\_\_\_\_ to go to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ their wills. This resulted in \_\_\_\_\_'s and  
the \_\_\_\_\_'s being \_\_\_\_\_.

16. The refugees migrating to Egypt consisted of what groups  
of people? \_\_\_\_\_

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17. Who was Nebuzaradan? \_\_\_\_\_

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18. Who was Gedaliah? \_\_\_\_\_

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19. Locate Tahpanhes. Give as much information as possible about what happened there. \_\_\_\_\_

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20. What did the Lord tell Jeremiah at Tanpanhes?

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21. In response to what God said, what did Jeremiah do? What was the meaning, significance of this? When was it to be done? Why then? \_\_\_\_\_

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22. The Lord was the God of Israel. Exactly what does that mean? \_\_\_\_\_

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23. Who was Nebuchadnezzar? \_\_\_\_\_

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24. What did Jeremiah say the Babylonians would do in Egypt? When did he do these things? \_\_\_\_\_

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25. What would happen to the Jewish refugees in Egypt at the hand of the Babylonians? \_\_\_\_\_

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26. Define “destined” as used in verse 11. \_\_\_\_\_

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27. What did the Babylonians do to the Egyptian gods and temples? \_\_\_\_\_

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28. What does, **“He will pick Egypt clean like a shepherd picks the lice from his clothing,”** mean? \_\_\_\_\_

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29. \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ and his \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ that a \_\_\_\_\_ can \_\_\_\_\_  
from \_\_\_\_\_, but he \_\_\_\_\_.

30. Would Jonah agree with the principle stated in question 21  
above? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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