

Jeremiah 42:1-22 **Flight to Egypt Forbidden**

Request for guidance from Yahweh with promise to do all Yahweh says

1 Now all the captains of the forces, Johanan the son of Kareah, Jezaniah the son of Hoshaiiah, and all the people, from the least to the greatest, came near
2 and said to Jeremiah the prophet, "Please, let our petition be acceptable to you, and pray for us to Yahweh Eloheyka (the Lord your God), for all this remnant (since we are left but a few of many, as you can see),
3 that Yahweh Eloheyka (the Lord your God) may show us the way in which we should walk and the thing we should do."

4 Then Jeremiah the prophet said to them, "I have heard. Indeed, I will pray to Yahweh Eloheykem (the Lord your God) according to your words, and it shall be, that whatever Yahweh (the Lord) answers you, I will declare it to you. I will keep nothing back from you."

5 So they said to Jeremiah, "Let Yahweh (the Lord) be a true and faithful witness between us, if we do not do according to everything which Yahweh Eloheyka (the Lord your God) sends us by you.
6 Whether it is pleasing or displeasing, we will obey the voice of Yahweh Eloheyku (the Lord your God) to whom we send you, that it may be well with us when we obey the voice of Yahweh Eloheyku (the Lord your God)."

Jeremiah received Instructions from Yahweh – Stay in the land for a blessing

7 And it happened after ten days that the word of Yahweh (the Lord) came to Jeremiah.
8 Then he called Johanan the son of Kareah, all the captains of the forces which were with him, and all the people from the least even to the greatest,
9 and said to them, "Thus says Yahweh Elohey Yisrael (the Lord God of Israel), to whom you sent me to present your petition before Him:
10 'If you will still remain in this land, then I will build you and not pull you down, and I will plant you and not pluck you up. For I relent concerning the disaster that I have brought upon you.
11 Do not be afraid of the king of Babylon, of whom you are afraid; do not be afraid of him,' says Yahweh (the Lord), 'for I am with you, to save you and deliver you from his hand.
12 And I will show you mercy, that he may have mercy on you and cause you to return to your own land.'

Warning against going to Egypt

13 "But if you say, 'We will not dwell in this land,' disobeying the voice of Yahweh Eloheykem (the Lord your God),
14 saying, 'No, but we will go to the land of Egypt where we shall see no war, nor hear the sound of the trumpet, nor be hungry for bread, and there we will dwell' —
15 Then hear now the word of Yahweh (the Lord), O remnant of Judah! Thus says Yahweh Tsebaavot Elohey Yisrael (the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel): 'If you wholly set your faces to enter Egypt, and go to dwell there,
16 then it shall be that the sword which you feared shall overtake you there in the land of Egypt; the famine of which you were afraid shall follow close after you there in Egypt; and there you shall die.
17 So shall it be with all the men who set their faces to go to Egypt to dwell there. They shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence. And none of them shall remain or escape from the disaster that I will bring upon them.'

18 "For thus says Yahweh Tsebaavot Elohey Yisrael (the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel): 'As My anger and My fury have been poured out on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so will My fury be poured out on you when you enter Egypt. And you shall be an oath, an astonishment, a curse, and a reproach; and you shall see this place no more.'

19 "Yahweh (The Lord) has said concerning you, O remnant of Judah, 'Do not go to Egypt!' Know certainly that I have admonished you this day.

20 For you were hypocrites in your hearts when you sent me to Yahweh Eloheykem (the Lord your God), saying, 'Pray for us to Yahweh Eloheynu (the Lord our God), and according to all that Yahweh Eloheynu (the Lord your God) says, so declare to us and we will do it.'

21 And I have this day declared it to you, but you have not obeyed the voice of Yahweh Eloheykem (the Lord your God), or anything which He has sent you by me.

22 Now therefore, know certainly that you shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence in the place where you desire to go to dwell."

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Facts Revealed:

- ✧ Now all the captains of the forces, Johanan the son of Kareah, Jezaniah the son of Hoshaiiah, and all the people, from the least to the greatest, came near and said to Jeremiah the prophet, "Please, let our petition be acceptable to you, and pray for us to Yahweh Eloheyka (the Lord your God), for all this remnant (since we are left but a few of many, as you can see), that Yahweh Eloheyka (the Lord your God) may show us the way in which we should walk and the thing we should do." [\[Jeremiah 42:1-3\]](#)
- ✧ This is the hypocritical way of humanity from the beginning, to ask God what He wants of us with the promise of full obedience. [\[Exodus 19:8, 24:3, 7, Deuteronomy 5:27, Joshua 1:16\]](#)
- ✧ The promise is easy, the doing is difficult if God's command is other than we hope for.
- ✧ Then Jeremiah the prophet said to them, "I have heard. Indeed, I will pray to Yahweh Eloheykem (the Lord your God) according to your words, and it shall be, that whatever Yahweh (the Lord) answers you, I will declare it to you. I will keep nothing back from you." [\[Jeremiah 42:4\]](#)
- ✧ Jeremiah promised accurate report of Yahweh's Word.
- ✧ So they said to Jeremiah, "Let Yahweh (the Lord) be a true and faithful witness between us, if we do not do according to everything which Yahweh Eloheyka (the Lord your God) sends us by you.
Whether it is pleasing or displeasing, **we will obey the voice of Yahweh Eloheynu** (the Lord your God) to whom we send you, **that it may be well with us when we obey the voice of Yahweh Eloheynu** (the Lord your God)." [\[Jeremiah 42:5-6\]](#)
- ✧ To make their vow even more forceful they call on Yahweh to witness their faithfulness as they promise full compliance to His Word.
- ✧ They even expect a blessing for their faithful obedience.

Jeremiah received Instructions from Yahweh – Stay in the land for a blessing

- ✧ And it happened after ten days that the word of Yahweh (the Lord) came to Jeremiah. Then he called Johanan the son of Kareah, all the captains of the forces which were with him, and all the people from the least even to the greatest, and said to them, "Thus says Yahweh Elohey Yisrael (the Lord God of Israel), to whom you sent me to present your petition before Him:
'If you will still remain in this land, then I will build you and not pull you down, and I will

plant you and not pluck you up. For I relent concerning the disaster that I have brought upon you.

Do not be afraid of the king of Babylon, of whom you are afraid; do not be afraid of him,' says Yahweh (the Lord), 'for I am with you, to save you and deliver you from his hand.

And I will show you mercy, that he may have mercy on you and cause you to return to your own land.' [Jeremiah 42:7-12]

✧ The answer is to stay in the land and Yahweh will protect them and bless them for their faithful obedience.

✧ Yahweh will touch the heart of the king of Babylon and he also will show them favor.

Warning against going to Egypt

✧ "But if you say, 'We will not dwell in this land,' disobeying the voice of Yahweh Eloheykem (the Lord your God), saying, 'No, but we will go to the land of Egypt where we shall see no war, nor hear the sound of the trumpet, nor be hungry for bread, and there we will dwell' — Then hear now the word of Yahweh (the Lord), O remnant of Judah! Thus says Yahweh Tsebaavot Elohey Yisrael (the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel):

'If you wholly set your faces to enter Egypt, and go to dwell there, then it shall be that the sword which you feared shall overtake you there in the land of Egypt; the famine of which you were afraid shall follow close after you there in Egypt; and there you shall die.

So shall it be with all the men who set their faces to go to Egypt to dwell there. **They shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence. And none of them shall remain or escape from the disaster that I will bring upon them.'**

"For thus says Yahweh Tsebaavot Elohey Yisrael (the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel): 'As My anger and My fury have been poured out on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so will My fury be poured out on you when you enter Egypt. And you shall be an oath, an astonishment, a curse, and a reproach; and you shall see this place no more.'

"Yahweh (The Lord) has said concerning you, O remnant of Judah, **'Do not go to Egypt!'** Know certainly that I have admonished you this day.

For you were hypocrites in your hearts when you sent me to Yahweh Eloheykem (the Lord your God), saying, 'Pray for us to Yahweh Eloheynu (the Lord our God), and according to all that Yahweh Eloheynu (the Lord your God) says, so declare to us and we will do it.'

And I have this day declared it to you, but you have not obeyed the voice of Yahweh Eloheykem (the Lord your God), or anything which He has sent you by me.

Now therefore, know certainly that you shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence in the place where you desire to go to dwell." [Jeremiah 42:13-22]

✧ Yahweh clearly knows the thoughts and intents of the heart. [Genesis 6:5, 1 Chronicles 28:9, Hebrews 4:12]

✧ Yahweh revealed to Jeremiah the hypocrisy in the hearts of the people who asked him to pray to Yahweh with the promise to do whatever Yahweh instructs them to do.

✧ Yahweh knew their intent to go to Egypt and the fear of the Chaldeans that motivated them to make that choice, so He answered all their motives by assuring them He would protect them from the Chaldeans if they stay in the land of Israel, and would destroy them if they go to Egypt.

✧ Egypt will be given into the hand of the Babylonians just like Judah had been.

✧ If they go to Egypt they will be caught in its fall and die there.