**LIFE OF JEREMIAH—HANDOUT #26**

Jeremiah 37-38

**Macrostructure (34-38)**

34—reign of Zedekiah  
35—reign of Jehoiakim  
36—reign of Jehoiakim  
37/38—reign of Zedekiah

**Narrative comparison (34-38)**

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<td>Opens (1, 4)</td>
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<td>Opens (1)</td>
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<td>Benjamin Gate (13)</td>
<td>____________</td>
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**Character:**

| Antagonist (14) | ____________ | Protagonist (7) | ____________ |

**Plot sequence:**

| Siege (5) | ____________ | Siege (vv. 2-3) | ____________ |
| At Gate (13) | ____________ | At Gate (vv. 7-8) | ____________ |

**Linked interface:**

| Chapter 35 | Chapter 36 |

**King:**

Position of Jeremiah:

Round character:

Fate of Jeremiah:

Motif:

| Chapter 34 | Chapter 37 |

**Crisis:** (vv. 21-22) ____________  
**Paradigm:** bondage-release-bondage  
**Crisis:** (vv. 5, 7-8, 11) ____________  
**Paradigm:** siege-freedom-siege
Chapter 34

Story: slaves
Leitworter: (Hebrew, *ebed*)
Oppression: slaves
Reversal (relent/renege): free slaves/re-enslave
Vocabulary:
- Sword, famine, pestilence (34:17)
- Official(s) (Hebrew, *sarîm*) + “all people” (34:10, 19)
- Lament (34:5)
Prediction: Judah released to bondage (34:17)

Suggested Outline:

Nebuchadnezzar besieges Jerusalem in January 587 B.C.
Egypt, under Pharaoh Hophra, advances towards Judah (?Fall 587 B.C.)
Nebuchadnezzar lifts the siege of Jerusalem to meet Egypt
False prophets predict Babylon will not return (37:19)
Slaves released by Zedekiah in celebration of lifting of siege
Jeremiah goes to Gate to go to Benjamin—can move out of the city
Jeremiah arrested by Irijah for treason
Jeremiah put in pit Jonathan’s house
Egypt retreats from the advancing Babylonian army
Nebuchadnezzar returns to re-impose siege of Jerusalem
Jeremiah released by Zedekiah to court of the guard
Slaves re-enslaved as necessary slave labor during renewed siege
Jeremiah unmasks false prophets who predicted, “No return of Nebuchadnezzar.”
Jeremiah preaches surrender—either openly or from the court of the guard
Jeremiah re-arrested for treason
Jeremiah put in pit in Malchijah’s house
Ebed-Melech frees Jeremiah with Zedekiah’s permission
Judean deserters go over to Babylonians; they know the game is over
Jeremiah released to court of the guard
Jerusalem breached and destroyed June-August 586 B.C.

37:3—Jehucal = ______ (38:1)
Zephaniah (21:1-10; 29:24-32; 52:24)
Why “pray”?

v. 5—Pharaoh Hophra (589-570 B.C.), successor to Psammeticus II, mentioned 44:30; cf.
Ezek. 17:11-21, esp. v. 15 (Egypt as a useless ally, Jer. 2:18-19, 36; Lam. 4:17)
v. 13—Benjamin Gate. Where?
v. 15—“beat him” (lit., “beat him to kill him”) NB: “angry” = “enraged”
Where else?
v. 16—“cistern”
v. 18—cf. John 18:23
v. 19—who was one such false prophet?
   NB: 17:15; 23:21, 26-32

38:1—Pashhur, ben Malchijah, cf. 21:1
v. 6—“cistern”

v. 7—“in the gate” Who? Why?

v. 10—“30 men”
v. 14—“third entrance”
v. 16—irony?
v. 22—explain