

LIFE OF JEREMIAH—HANDOUT #29

Jeremiah 42-44

Structure

Act I: 40:1— Jeremiah

6— Jeremiah

Act II: 40:7 — Gedaliah appointed over the land

No Jeremiah

41:18— Gedaliah appointed over the land

Act III: 42-44

Scene 1: (42:1-2) *dramatis personae* + “said to Jeremiah” (→ v. 22)

Scene 2: (43:2) *dramatis personae* + “said to Jeremiah” (→ v. 7)

Hook Pattern: _____ (vv. 7, 8)

Scene 3: (43:8) Symbolic act + interpretation (→ v. 13)

Scene 4: (44) Dialogic exchange: Jeremiah and the People

44:2-10 “says Lord God of Hosts, God of Israel”

44:11-14 “says Lord God of Hosts, God of Israel”

44: 15-18 Men reply

44: 19 Women reply

44:20-23 “Jeremiah said to all the people”

44:24-30 “Jeremiah said to all the people”

Narrative Irony

Pre-586 B.C.

Go out to Nebuchadnezzar (out of the land) and live
Stay in the land and die

Post-586 B.C.

Go out of the land and die
Stay in the land and live

Narrative Echoes

Johanan & the people refuse the Word of God—will not listen—stubbornly rebel
Jeremiah accused of lying/deceit/treachery (43:2; 37:14)
People possessed/obsessed with idolatry
Self-deceived, as Gedaliah was (42:20; 40:16)
Zedekiah asked for prayer and refused/rejected the answer (21:2; 37:3)
Rejection of God's servants, the prophets (44:4) echoes 7:25, etc.
Practice abominations (44:4) as per 16:18; 32:34-35
Rejection of "I am with you" (42:11) (Emmanuel promise, 30:11)

42:2—?sincere or *fait accompli*

43:3—excuse?

v. 6—implications?

v. 7—Tahpanhes (TA-pun-knees)

v. 10—Nebuchadnezzar's invasion 568/67 B.C.
Pharaoh Amasis II (Ahmose II) (570-526 B.C.)

v. 13—Heliopolis ("city of the sun") = Beth Shemesh ("house of the sun") = Temple to Re (pronounced Raw), Sun god, near Memphis

44:7—infants ("sucklings," KJV), "babes", "nurslings"

v. 11—"cut off" = "woe" = become a "curse"

v. 17—Queen of heaven = = =

v. 25—"go ahead!"

v. 29—"punish you"

v. 30—Pharaoh Hophra/Apries (589-570 B.C.). Dies in battle with Amasis II 566 B.C.

Biblical-theological (Redemptive-historical) Paradigm:

Descent of the Protological Jeremiah into Egypt

Descent of the Eschatological Jeremiah into Egypt