

If You Don't Want To Know
... Don't Ask

Jeremiah 12, 40-43

I. A Fatal Background

Just when you thought it could not get any worse...

- Jer.40:1-6, pagans agreed with God
- Jer.40:7-16, Gedaliah, governor (2 K.25:22-25)

Clay Bulla

- Discovered 1935



- Inscription: "Belonging to Gedaliah who is over the house"

Just when you thought it could not get any worse...

- Jer.40:1-6, pagans agreed with God
- Jer.40:7-16, Gedaliah
- Jer.41:1-10, Ishmael's murders
- Jer.41:11-18, Jews retreat to Egypt

I. A Fatal Background

II. A Fickle Blindness

'There is none so blind...'

- Jer.41:14-18, minds made up...
- Good characteristics –

¹Warned Gedaliah about Ishmael, 40-41

²Rescued Ishmael's captives, 41

³Logical to protect their charges in Egypt, 42

'There is none so blind...'

- Jer.41:14-18, minds made up...
- Jer.42 – on second thought –good to have God's support
 - Exemplary attitude, 1-3
 - Exemplary ambition –

HEAR
God, 2-3

DO will of
God, 3

Do ALL
will, 5

- 2 Tim.2:26; Hb.13:21

Their great promises (ch.42)

- They WILL do HIS will
 - No matter how disagreeable, 6
 - Because it makes things better, 6

Their even greater self-deception

Some confuse . . .

1. Agreement & obedience, 42:3-6

- 1 Jn.5:14
- Ja.4:1-4
- Mt.26:39

Their even greater self-deception

Some confuse . . .

1. Agreement & obedience, 42:3-6

2. Reason & faith, 42:12

- Logic cannot explain . . .
 - ✓ Baptism
 - ✓ Lord's church
 - ✓ Lord's supper
 - ✓ Martyrdom, Hb.11

Their even greater self-deception

Some confuse . . .

1. Agreement & obedience, 42:3-6
2. Reason & faith, 42:12
3. Sincere ignorance & hypocrisy,
42:19-21

When a sincerely ignorant man learns the truth, he will stop being ignorant or he will stop being sincere.

- 1 Kings 22:8 . . . Acts 17:11

Their even greater self-deception

Some confuse . . .

1. Agreement & obedience, 42:3-6
2. Reason & faith, 42:12
3. Sincere ignorance & hypocrisy, 42:19-21
4. Desire & guidance, 43:1-4
 - “Our God wants us to be happy...”
 - True: Dt.24:5; 33:29

BUT: we must trust God to
choose the means to the end.

Their even greater self-deception

Some confuse . . .

1. Agreement & obedience, 42:3-6
2. Reason & faith, 42:12
3. Sincere ignorance & hypocrisy, 42:19-21
4. **Desire & guidance, 43:1-4**
 - “Our God wants us to be happy...”
 - Faulty application: **God is power to recruit, not Lord to obey.**
 - Hb.5:8-9; 1 Jn.2:3-6

Their even greater self-deception

Some confuse . . .

1. Agreement & obedience, 42:3-6
2. Reason & faith, 42:12
3. Sincere ignorance & hypocrisy, 42:19-21
4. Desire & guidance, 43:1-4
5. Talking & walking, 43:4
 - 1 Jn.3:18 (Lk.10)
 - Ja.1

I. A Fatal Background

II. A Fickle Blindness

III. A Fearful Bearing

1. Some just think they want
the word of God.

“I want the truth”

- Mt.15:9
- Mt.19:9
- Mk.16:16
- Jn.17:17

2. Some exalt their opinion above God's revelation

Strong leader may push people all
the way to Egypt

Weak leader may give in to
peoples' wishes (go to Egypt)

We may mislead ourselves

But evil men and impostors will
grow worse and worse, deceiving
and being deceived – 2 Tim.3:13

3. Some say right words,
but do wrong things

Inconsistent self-destruction:

a person may want to do better,
but lack resolve

a person may engage in self-
destructive behavior, but 'can
quit any time he wants to'

- King Saul
- Rich young ruler

Inconsistent self-destruction

1. "Lord teach me your will" – study?
2. "Let gospel reach many" – live it? teach it? invite...?
3. "Make me a better Christian" – focus more on here than hereafter?
4. "Make my children strong in faith" – consistently teach them?
5. "Let Your will be done" – get upset?
6. "Forgive me" – but excuse sins?

4. God always has last word

Jer.43:8-13

New Age Version paraphrase,
Maclaine – Ro.3:23

“For all have experienced momentary lapses and have come up a tad shy of the Divine Entity’s absolute idea, but hey, nobody’s perfect. So don’t worry. Be happy!”