

7/20/25

Sermon Title: God's Pronouncement of Judgment on the People of Judah Living in Egypt After Fleeing There

Preacher: Pastor Kim Soonbae

Scripture Passage: Jeremiah 44:1–30

(Jeremiah 44:1) This word came to Jeremiah concerning all the Jews living in Lower Egypt—in Migdol, Tahpanhes and Memphis—and in Upper Egypt:

(Jeremiah 44:2) “This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: You saw the great disaster I brought on Jerusalem and on all the towns of Judah. Today they lie deserted and in ruins

(Jeremiah 44:3) because of the evil they have done. They aroused my anger by burning incense to and worshiping other gods that neither they nor you nor your ancestors ever knew.

(Jeremiah 44:4) Again and again I sent my servants the prophets, who said, ‘Do not do this detestable thing that I hate!’

(Jeremiah 44:5) But they did not listen or pay attention; they did not turn from their wickedness or stop burning incense to other gods.

(Jeremiah 44:6) Therefore, my fierce anger was poured out; it raged against the towns of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem and made them the desolate ruins they are today.

(Jeremiah 44:7) “Now this is what the LORD God Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Why bring such great disaster on yourselves by cutting off from Judah the men and women, the children and infants, and so leave yourselves without a remnant?

(Jeremiah 44:8) Why arouse my anger with what your hands have made, burning incense to other gods in Egypt, where you have come to live? You will destroy yourselves and make yourselves a curse and an object of reproach among all the nations on earth.

(Jeremiah 44:9) Have you forgotten the wickedness committed by your ancestors and by the kings and queens of Judah and the wickedness committed by you and your wives in the land of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem?

(Jeremiah 44:10) To this day they have not humbled themselves or shown reverence, nor have they followed my law and the decrees I set before you and your ancestors.

(Jeremiah 44:11) “Therefore this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: I am determined to bring disaster on you and to destroy all Judah.

(Jeremiah 44:12) I will take away the remnant of Judah who were determined to go to Egypt to settle there. They will all perish in Egypt; they will fall by the sword or die from famine. From the least to the greatest, they will die by sword or famine. They will become a curse and an object of horror, a curse and an object of reproach.

(Jeremiah 44:13) I will punish those who live in Egypt with the sword, famine and plague, as I punished Jerusalem.

(Jeremiah 44:14) None of the remnant of Judah who have gone to live in Egypt will escape or survive to return to the land of Judah, to which they long to return and live; none will return except a few fugitives.”

(Jeremiah 44:15) Then all the men who knew that their wives were burning incense to other gods, along with all the women who were present—a large assembly—and all the people living in Lower and Upper Egypt, said to Jeremiah,

(Jeremiah 44:16) “We will not listen to the message you have spoken to us in the name of the LORD!

(Jeremiah 44:17) We will certainly do everything we said we would: We will burn incense to the Queen of Heaven and will pour out drink offerings to her just as we and our ancestors, our kings and our officials did in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. At that time we had plenty of food and were well off and suffered no harm.

(Jeremiah 44:18) But ever since we stopped burning incense to the Queen of Heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her, we have had nothing and have been perishing by sword and famine.”

(Jeremiah 44:19) The women added, “When we burned incense to the Queen of Heaven and poured out drink offerings to her, did not our husbands know that we were making cakes impressed with her image and pouring out drink offerings to her?”

(Jeremiah 44:20) Then Jeremiah said to all the people, both men and women, who were answering him,

(Jeremiah 44:21) “Did not the LORD remember and call to mind the incense burned in the towns of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem by you and your ancestors, your kings and your officials and the people of the land?

(Jeremiah 44:22) When the LORD could no longer endure your wicked actions and the detestable things you did, your land became a curse and a desolate waste without inhabitants, as it is today.

(Jeremiah 44:23) Because you have burned incense and have sinned against the LORD and have not obeyed him or followed his law or his decrees or his stipulations, this disaster has come upon you, as you now see.”

(Jeremiah 44:24) Then Jeremiah said to all the people, including the women, “Hear the word of the LORD, all you people of Judah in Egypt.

(Jeremiah 44:25) This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: You and your wives have done what you said you would do when you promised, ‘We will certainly carry out the vows we made to burn incense and pour out drink offerings to the Queen of Heaven.’

“Go ahead then, do what you promised! Keep your vows!

(Jeremiah 44:26) But hear the word of the LORD, all you Jews living in Egypt: ‘I swear by my great name,’ says the LORD, ‘that no one from Judah living anywhere in Egypt will ever again invoke my name or swear, “As surely as the Sovereign LORD lives.”

(Jeremiah 44:27) For I am watching over them for harm, not for good; the Jews in Egypt will perish by sword and famine until they are all destroyed.

(Jeremiah 44:28) Those who escape the sword and return to the land of Judah from Egypt will be very few. Then the whole remnant of Judah who came to live in Egypt will know whose word will stand—mine or theirs.

(Jeremiah 44:29) “‘This will be the sign to you that I will punish you in this place,’ declares the LORD, ‘so that you will know that my threats of harm against you will surely stand.’

(Jeremiah 44:30) This is what the LORD says: ‘I am going to deliver Pharaoh Hophra king of Egypt into the hands of his enemies who want to kill him, just as I gave Zedekiah king of Judah into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the enemy who wanted to kill him.’”

Jeremiah warns all the people of Judah who ignored God's Word and came to live in Egypt of God's impending judgment.

This is Jeremiah's last prophecy directed toward the people of Judah.

With this, Jeremiah concludes his prophetic ministry to the people of Judah, which began during the reign of King Josiah.

The Word of the Lord comes to Jeremiah.

(Jeremiah 44:1) This word came to Jeremiah concerning all the Jews living in Lower Egypt—in Migdol, Tahpanhes and Memphis—and in Upper Egypt:

The people of Judah were scattered throughout Egypt, living in places like Migdol, Tahpanhes, Noph, and Pathros.

Among them were Johanan and his companions, who, out of fear of Babylon, disobeyed God's Word and came down to dwell in Egypt.

There, just as their ancestors and they themselves had done in the past, they turned away from God and worshiped foreign gods served by the Egyptians.

God spoke to these people of Judah, reminding them that because of the evil their ancestors committed by worshiping foreign gods, His anger was poured out—leaving Jerusalem and all the towns of Judah desolate and uninhabited.

And He warned them: if they fail to recognize this and continue in their idolatrous ways even here in Egypt, He will bring disaster upon Egypt's cities as well, making them desolate like Judah.

(Jeremiah 44:2) "This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: You saw the great disaster I brought on Jerusalem and on all the towns of Judah. Today they lie deserted and in ruins

(Jeremiah 44:3) because of the evil they have done. They aroused my anger by burning incense to and worshiping other gods that neither they nor you nor your ancestors ever knew.

(Jeremiah 44:4) Again and again I sent my servants the prophets, who said, 'Do not do this detestable thing that I hate!'

(Jeremiah 44:5) But they did not listen or pay attention; they did not turn from their wickedness or stop burning incense to other gods.

(Jeremiah 44:6) Therefore, my fierce anger was poured out; it raged against the towns of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem and made them the desolate ruins they are today.

Why did disaster come upon Jerusalem and all the towns of Judah?

It was because of the evil committed by the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the people of Judah, who worshiped other gods and bowed down to idols.

Although the Lord God sent prophets to warn them, they refused to listen and did not turn from their wicked ways.

As a result, God poured out His anger and wrath upon them.

Yet even now, they fail to recognize the cause of their calamity.

Though Jerusalem and the towns of Judah have become ruins, the people of Judah living in Egypt have not changed in the slightest.

They acted as if they were determined to bring judgment upon themselves.

They continued to worship other gods and idols, showed no humility before God, had no fear of Him, and did not keep His laws and decrees.

God rebukes and warns them:

He declares that He will utterly destroy them—that they will become a curse and an object of scorn.

(Jeremiah 44:7) “Now this is what the LORD God Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Why bring such great disaster on yourselves by cutting off from Judah the men and women, the children and infants, and so leave yourselves without a remnant?

(Jeremiah 44:8) Why arouse my anger with what your hands have made, burning incense to other gods in Egypt, where you have come to live? You will destroy yourselves and make yourselves a curse and an object of reproach among all the nations on earth.

(Jeremiah 44:9) Have you forgotten the wickedness committed by your ancestors and by the kings and queens of Judah and the wickedness committed by you and your wives in the land of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem?

(Jeremiah 44:10) To this day they have not humbled themselves or shown reverence, nor have they followed my law and the decrees I set before you and your ancestors.

These people had witnessed with their own eyes the disaster that turned Jerusalem and the towns of Judah into ruins.

They could not possibly be unaware of why those cities were destroyed.

They knew well that it was the result of continuous evil—from their ancestors, kings and queens, down to the common people.

Yet they did not take this catastrophic disaster as a warning or lesson.

They lived as though God did not exist.

By disregarding His laws and decrees and worshiping the gods of Egypt, they brought curses and disgrace upon themselves.

God now pronounces judgment on the remnant of Judah living in Egypt—those who have broken His covenant and insist on living by their own thoughts.

He declares that He will destroy them with the sword, famine, and plague.

(Jeremiah 44:11) “Therefore this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: I am determined to bring disaster on you and to destroy all Judah.

(Jeremiah 44:12) I will take away the remnant of Judah who were determined to go to Egypt to settle there. They will all perish in Egypt; they will fall by the sword or die from famine. From the least to the greatest, they will die by sword or famine. They will become a curse and an object of horror, a curse and an object of reproach.

(Jeremiah 44:13) I will punish those who live in Egypt with the sword, famine and plague, as I punished Jerusalem.

(Jeremiah 44:14) None of the remnant of Judah who have gone to live in Egypt will escape or survive to return to the land of Judah, to which they long to return and live; none will return except a few fugitives.”

From the beginning, these people did not obey God's Word and went down to Egypt.

To make matters worse, they worshiped foreign gods and bowed down to idols there.

God declares that He will cut them off.

As a result, they will be excluded from the remnant who will establish God's future kingdom.

He will bring destruction upon them by the sword and famine, and make them objects of scorn, insult, and curse.

When God's judgment was proclaimed through Jeremiah, they stubbornly rejected it.

They refused to listen to the Word of the Lord spoken in His name and instead declared that they would continue to burn incense to the Queen of Heaven.

The Queen of Heaven refers to the goddess Ashtoreth, who was worshiped by peoples of the ancient Near East.

She was considered the goddess of war and love, symbolizing fertility and prosperity.

(Jeremiah 44:15) Then all the men who knew that their wives were burning incense to other gods, along with all the women who were present—a large assembly—and all the people living in Lower and Upper Egypt, said to Jeremiah, (Jeremiah 44:16) “We will not listen to the message you have spoken to us in the name of the LORD!

(Jeremiah 44:17) We will certainly do everything we said we would: We will burn incense to the Queen of Heaven and will pour out drink offerings to her just as we and our ancestors, our kings and our officials did in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. At that time we had plenty of food and were well off and suffered no harm.

(Jeremiah 44:18) But ever since we stopped burning incense to the Queen of Heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her, we have had nothing and have been perishing by sword and famine.”

(Jeremiah 44:19) The women added, “When we burned incense to the Queen of Heaven and poured out drink offerings to her, did not our husbands know that we were making cakes impressed with her image and pouring out drink offerings to her?”

They claimed that when they worshiped the Queen of Heaven in the towns of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem, they had plenty of food, were blessed, and experienced no disaster.

But ever since they stopped offering sacrifices to the Queen of Heaven, everything became scarce, and they were destroyed by sword and famine.

There was a reason behind such claims.

After King Josiah’s religious reform in 622 BC, Judah faced many difficulties.

In 609 BC, King Josiah went to battle against Egypt in alliance with Babylon but was killed at Megiddo.

His successor, King Jehoahaz, was deposed by Egypt, and Jehoiakim was installed in his place.

Judah then had to pay tribute to Egypt.

However, in 605 BC, the Babylonians defeated the Egyptian army at the Battle of Carchemish and took control of the region.

As a result, King Jehoiakim, who had been loyal to Pharaoh Necho of Egypt, quickly changed his allegiance to serve Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon.

During this time of political turmoil, Judah suffered three invasions by Babylon and was ultimately destroyed in 586 BC.

Having experienced these successive disasters, the people came to believe that the cause of their misfortune was the cessation of offerings and incense to the Queen of Heaven, brought about by Josiah's religious reform, which they believed had provoked divine wrath.

To a people without repentance, there is no mercy from God.

When the people of Judah living in Pathros fiercely resisted God's declaration of judgment, Jeremiah issued a final warning to all the Judeans living in Egypt.

God declared that just as Jerusalem and all the towns of Judah were destroyed as judgment for the people's long-standing and deep-rooted rebellion and idolatry, so too would judgment fall on all the people of Judah living in Egypt.

He declared that they would be destroyed by sword and famine.

(Jeremiah 44:24) Then Jeremiah said to all the people, including the women, "Hear the word of the LORD, all you people of Judah in Egypt.

(Jeremiah 44:25) This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: You and your wives have done what you said you would do when you promised, 'We will certainly carry out the vows we made to burn incense and pour out drink offerings to the Queen of Heaven.'

“Go ahead then, do what you promised! Keep your vows!

(Jeremiah 44:26) But hear the word of the LORD, all you Jews living in Egypt: ‘I swear by my great name,’ says the LORD, ‘that no one from Judah living anywhere in Egypt will ever again invoke my name or swear, “As surely as the Sovereign LORD lives.”

(Jeremiah 44:27) For I am watching over them for harm, not for good; the Jews in Egypt will perish by sword and famine until they are all destroyed.

God says, “Go ahead—offer incense and pour out drink offerings to the Queen of Heaven just as you vowed to do. But I will utterly destroy you.”

He declares that He will bring destruction upon them by the sword and famine, and that only a small remnant will return to the land of Judah.

Through this, all the remaining people of Judah living in Egypt will come to know whose word is true—God’s or theirs.

(Jeremiah 44:28) Those who escape the sword and return to the land of Judah from Egypt will be very few. Then the whole remnant of Judah who came to live in Egypt will know whose word will stand—mine or theirs.

To demonstrate the certainty of His Word, God gives a sign to the people of Judah living in the land of Egypt regarding the disaster He will bring upon them.

The sign is this: Pharaoh Hophra, king of Egypt, will be handed over to his enemies.

(Jeremiah 44:29) “‘This will be the sign to you that I will punish you in this place,’ declares the LORD, ‘so that you will know that my threats of harm against you will surely stand.’

(Jeremiah 44:30) This is what the LORD says: ‘I am going to deliver Pharaoh Hophra king of Egypt into the hands of his enemies who want to kill him, just as I gave Zedekiah king of Judah into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the enemy who wanted to kill him.’”

Just as God handed over King Zedekiah of Judah to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, He will also hand over Pharaoh Hophra of Egypt (589–570 BC) to his enemies.

In fact, in 570 BC, toward the end of his reign, Hophra was executed as a result of a military rebellion during a war with Libya.

This was the fulfillment of God's sign exactly as declared.

Beloved members of Church of God Dreams,

The people of Judah who fled and were living in the land of Egypt had witnessed the destruction of Jerusalem and Judah, yet they failed to understand the cause. They did not turn back to God, but continued in the evil practices of their ancestors.

They worshiped foreign gods and bowed down to idols.

In response, God pronounced judgment upon them.

Still, they did not turn from their wickedness.

Rather, they claimed that all their disasters came because they had stopped worshiping the Queen of Heaven, and insisted on continuing to offer sacrifices to her.

God declares that He will reveal the truth of His word through judgment upon such people.

He says He will destroy them completely and cut them off from being His people. Just as He destroyed all the cities of Jerusalem and Judah, He will also bring destruction upon Egypt, where they have sought refuge.

The consequence of rejecting God and despising His word is judgment.

The wages of sin is death.

The God of justice must judge sin.

Who dares to say that because God is love, there will be no judgment?
That is the deception of Satan, who wants to drag you to hell—do not fall for it.

Because God is love, He has already made a way for us to be forgiven and escape judgment.

He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to shed His blood and die on the cross in our place, paying the price for our sin.

And if we simply believe this truth, our sins are forgiven and we are saved from judgment.

Believe and obey God's word.

If you repent and believe in Jesus Christ, your sins will be forgiven, you will escape judgment, and you will become a citizen of God's Kingdom.

I bless you in the name of Jesus Christ, that you would humbly listen to God's word and turn back to Him.