

7/13/25

Sermon Title: The remnant of Judah who disobeyed God's word and went down to Egypt

Preacher: Pastor Kim Soonbae

Scripture Passage: Jeremiah 43:1–13

(Jeremiah 43:1) When Jeremiah had finished telling the people all the words of the LORD their God—everything the LORD had sent him to tell them—

(Jeremiah 43:2) Azariah son of Hoshaiah and Johanan son of Kareah and all the arrogant men said to Jeremiah, “You are lying! The LORD our God has not sent you to say, ‘You must not go to Egypt to settle there.’

(Jeremiah 43:3) But Baruch son of Neriah is inciting you against us to hand us over to the Babylonians, so they may kill us or carry us into exile to Babylon.”

(Jeremiah 43:4) So Johanan son of Kareah and all the army officers and all the people disobeyed the LORD’s command to stay in the land of Judah.

(Jeremiah 43:5) Instead, Johanan son of Kareah and all the army officers led away all the remnant of Judah who had come back to live in the land of Judah from all the nations where they had been scattered.

(Jeremiah 43:6) They also led away all those whom Nebuzaradan commander of the imperial guard had left with Gedaliah son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan—the men, the women, the children and the king’s daughters. And they took Jeremiah the prophet and Baruch son of Neriah along with them.

(Jeremiah 43:7) So they entered Egypt in disobedience to the LORD and went as far as Tahpanhes.

(Jeremiah 43:8) In Tahpanhes the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah:

(Jeremiah 43:9) “While the Jews are watching, take some large stones with you and bury them in clay in the brick pavement at the entrance to Pharaoh’s palace in Tahpanhes.

(Jeremiah 43:10) Then say to them, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: I will send for my servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and I will

set his throne over these stones I have buried here; he will spread his royal canopy above them.

(Jeremiah 43:11) He will come and attack Egypt, bringing death to those destined for death, captivity to those destined for captivity, and the sword to those destined for the sword.

(Jeremiah 43:12) He will set fire to the temples of the gods of Egypt; he will burn their temples and take their gods captive. As a shepherd picks his garment clean of lice, so he will pick Egypt clean and depart.

(Jeremiah 43:13) There in the temple of the sun in Egypt he will demolish the sacred pillars and will burn down the temples of the gods of Egypt.”

The remnant in the land of Judah had already made up their minds to go to Egypt. Yet they deceived themselves and went to Jeremiah, asking him to inquire of the Lord on their behalf regarding the path they should take and what they should do.

They even swore that they would obey whatever the Lord said.

However, when God's response was not in line with their desires, they ignored His word and acted according to their own plans.

Although God had clearly commanded them not to go to Egypt—and had promised that if they stayed in the land of Judah, He would make them part of His remnant people along with those exiled to Babylon—they stubbornly pursued their own will and forced their way into Egypt.

As they insisted on going to Egypt, they falsely accused Jeremiah of lying.

In an attempt to cover up their own disobedience, they labeled Jeremiah a deceiver and shifted the blame onto Baruch, the son of Neriah.

They claimed that Baruch had incited Jeremiah against them to hand them over to the Chaldeans, either to be killed or taken into exile in Babylon.

(Jeremiah 43:1) When Jeremiah had finished telling the people all the words of the LORD their God—everything the LORD had sent him to tell them—

(Jeremiah 43:2) Azariah son of Hoshai and Johanan son of Kareah and all the arrogant men said to Jeremiah, “You are lying! The LORD our God has not sent you to say, ‘You must not go to Egypt to settle there.’”

(Jeremiah 43:3) But Baruch son of Neriah is inciting you against us to hand us over to the Babylonians, so they may kill us or carry us into exile to Babylon.”

And then, just as they had originally planned, they forcefully proceeded with their journey to Egypt.

However, they took Jeremiah and Baruch with them.

The likely reason they brought Jeremiah and Baruch along was that they needed them to justify their actions.

By keeping the prophet and his scribe with them, they could claim legitimacy for their disobedience and make it seem as though God’s approval—or at least His silence—accompanied their decision.

(Jeremiah 43:4) So Johanan son of Kareah and all the army officers and all the people disobeyed the LORD’s command to stay in the land of Judah.

(Jeremiah 43:5) Instead, Johanan son of Kareah and all the army officers led away all the remnant of Judah who had come back to live in the land of Judah from all the nations where they had been scattered.

(Jeremiah 43:6) They also led away all those whom Nebuzaradan commander of the imperial guard had left with Gedaliah son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan—the men, the women, the children and the king’s daughters. And they took Jeremiah the prophet and Baruch son of Neriah along with them.

(Jeremiah 43:7) So they entered Egypt in disobedience to the LORD and went as far as Tahpanhes.

They feared Babylon more than they feared God.

To them, God’s command not to fear the king of Babylon seemed like an empty promise.

They cast aside God's instruction to remain in the land of Judah without hesitation and ultimately went down to Egypt.

As a result, they were disqualified from participating in God's future work of salvation.

The actions of Johanan, the leader of the group, stand in stark contrast to those of Nebuzaradan, the Babylonian commander.

While the foreigner Nebuzaradan listened to the word of God, Johanan, a commander of Judah and member of God's chosen people, refused to heed it.

Nebuzaradan recognized that the destruction of Jerusalem was a result of the people's disobedience to the voice of the Lord.

He released Jeremiah from among the captives and allowed him to go to Gedaliah in Mizpah.

In contrast, Johanan labeled Jeremiah's prophecy as false and forcibly took both Jeremiah and Baruch with him to Egypt.

Of course, not all the people of Judah went to Egypt.

Many Judeans still remained in the land of Judah.

Then, at Tahpanhes, the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah once again.

God declared that He would summon King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon to strike Egypt.

God would use Babylon as His instrument of judgment.

(Jeremiah 43:8) In Tahpanhes the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah:

(Jeremiah 43:9) "While the Jews are watching, take some large stones with you and bury them in clay in the brick pavement at the entrance to Pharaoh's palace in Tahpanhes.

(Jeremiah 43:10) Then say to them, 'This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: I will send for my servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and I will

set his throne over these stones I have buried here; he will spread his royal canopy above them.

God commands Jeremiah to perform a symbolic act.

He is instructed to take large stones and bury them in the pavement at the entrance to Pharaoh's palace in Tahpanhes.

God declares that the very spot where the stones are placed will be where King Nebuchadnezzar sets up his pavilion.

The large stones symbolize the foundation of the throne that Nebuchadnezzar will establish as a sign of his conquest over Egypt.

This signifies that King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon will indeed conquer Egypt.

No one can stand against the decisions of God.

As God has determined, some will die, some will be taken captive, and others will fall by the sword.

Even the temples and idols of Egypt will be burned and shattered.

(Jeremiah 43:11) He will come and attack Egypt, bringing death to those destined for death, captivity to those destined for captivity, and the sword to those destined for the sword.

(Jeremiah 43:12) He will set fire to the temples of the gods of Egypt; he will burn their temples and take their gods captive. As a shepherd picks his garment clean of lice, so he will pick Egypt clean and depart.

(Jeremiah 43:13) There in the temple of the sun in Egypt he will demolish the sacred pillars and will burn down the temples of the gods of Egypt."

King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon will gather his spoils and safely depart from Egypt.

The phrase "as a shepherd wraps himself with his garment" is a metaphor illustrating the thoroughness of the plundering.

Egypt was fortified on all sides, surrounded by natural defenses such as the Nile

River, the Red Sea, and various lakes—providing what seemed like ideal protection.

However, when God intervenes, even such formidable defenses become useless.

Beloved members of Church of God Dreams,

God spoke through Jeremiah to the remnant of Judah who feared Babylon and intended to flee to Egypt.

He told them not to go to Egypt, but to remain in the land of Judah.

If they obeyed, He promised to establish them as the remnant of His people alongside those already taken to Babylon.

He promised to bless them.

But the remnant in Judah rejected God's word and followed their own thoughts and judgments by going down to Egypt.

This is the outcome of a life that ignores God's Word and insists on following its own way.

God's Word may sometimes differ from our thoughts.

It may not seem logical or easy to understand.

However, within that Word, there is life, salvation, and the plan of God.

Right now, we are standing at a crucial crossroads between life and death.

There is no time left.

Judgment is near.

God is speaking to us:

"Obey My word. Then I will establish you, bless you, and make you My people."

Where are you headed right now?

Are you walking in obedience to God's Word? Or are you heading toward Egypt?

Egypt represents the world.

If you go to Egypt, you will perish just as the remnant of Judah did when they refused to listen to God's Word and went down to Egypt.

Obey God's Word and go the way He directs!

Only that path will make you part of the faithful remnant of God's people.