Jeremiah

Chapter 43

**When Jeremiah finished telling the people all the words of the LORD their Godeverything the LORD had sent him to tell them—  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.’  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.” 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.  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.  6 They also led away all the men, women and children and the king’s daughters whom Nebuzaradan commander of the imperial guard had left with Gedaliah son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, and Jeremiah the prophet and Baruch son of Neriah.  7 So they entered Egypt in disobedience to the LORD and went as far as Tahpanhes. 8 In Tahpanhes the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah:  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.  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.  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.  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 wraps his garment around him, so will he wrap Egypt around himself and depart from there unscathed.  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.’”**

**43:2** *Azariah.* See note on 42:1. (CSB)

*arrogant men.* They demonstrate themselves to be such by their words. (CSB)

They violated their vow. (TLSB)

**43:3** *Baruch.* See note on 32:12. Jeremiah’s opponents decide to put the blame on someone they consider less spiritually formidable than the prophet himself. (CSB)

He is someone whom they suspected of sympathizing with the Chaldeans. (Kretzmann)

**43:5** FROM ALL THE NATIONS – Moab, Ammon, and Edom are some of the countries from which people returned during Gedaliah’s governorship. (TLSB)

**43:6** *king’s daughters.* See note on 41:10 – (Women who had been members of King Zedekiah’s court, not necessarily daughters of the king himself.) (CSB)

*Jeremiah … and Baruch.* No doubt they went to Egypt unwillingly, in the light of 32:6–15; 40:1–6; 42:13–22. (CSB)

Because the commanders thought these men would betray them, they carried them off. Note that the commanders did not react by killing Jeremiah and Baruch, in contrast to the treacherous behavior of Ishmael (cf 40:14; 41:2). (TLSB)

All of these people were obliged to join the caravan of the refugees, whether they protested or not, for in this case also might made right. (CSB)

**43:7** *Tahpanhes.* See note on 2:16. (CSB)

This was the city of Daphne on one of the eastern delta-arms of the Nile, one of the cities nearest to the border of Palestine. Here they halted for a time, in order to consider ways and means of making their sojourn in the strange country safe and profitable. When men deliberately set aside the commands of the Lord and choose their own way of doing things, they invite destruction and ruin upon themselves. (Kretzmann)

**43:9** WHILE THE JEWS ARE WATCHING – This was so that he would have trustworthy witnesses of his act. The palace of Pharaoh included not only the buildings proper, but their entire enclosure as well, which usually was surrounded by a high wall. Opposite the entrance of this enclosure the bricks for the building or for the repairing of the royal palace were made, and it was in the clay of this kiln that the stones carried by Jeremiah were to be hid. (Kretzmann)

*Pharaoh’s palace.* Not necessarily his main residence. One of the Elephantine papyri, e.g., mentions the “king’s house,” apparently a more modest dwelling for Pharaoh’s use when he visited Elephantine in southern Egypt. (CSB)

**43:10** *my servant Nebuchadnezzar.* See note on 25:9. (CSB)

He acted in this instance, in carrying out the Lord's purpose upon Egypt. (Kretzmann)

*his throne.* Symbolizing his authority. (CSB)

The rich tapestry which formed the curtains of the throne. (Kretzmann)

**43:11** See 15:2 and note. (CSB)

*He will … attack Egypt.* A fragmentary text now owned by the British Museum in London states that Nebuchadnezzar carried out a punitive expedition against Egypt in his 37th year (568–567 b.c.) during the reign of Pharaoh Amasis (see Eze 29:17–20 and notes). (CSB)

**43:12** *As a shepherd wraps … so will he wrap.* Routinely and confidently. (CSB)

The point of comparison is the freedom and the ease of the act; for just as easily and quickly as a shepherd takes up his mantle, practically his only garment, and wraps it about him, so easily will Nebuchadnezzar take hold upon Egypt and, with the whole country in his power, leave without hindrance, with no one opposing him. (Kretzmann)

**43:13** *temple of the sun in Egypt.* Lit. “Beth Shemesh in Egypt,” with the qualifying phrase being used to distinguish the site from “Beth Shemesh in Judah” (2Ki 14:11). The Egyptian city is probably to be identified with Heliopolis (Greek for “city of the sun”; see NIV text note), called *On* in Hebrew (see note on Ge 41:45). (CSB)

This was the renowned Temple of the Sun at Heliopolis, one of the greatest sanctuaries of the country. (Kretzmann)

*sacred pillars.* Obelisks, for which ancient Heliopolis was famous. (CSB)

"The images of Beth-shemesh are, above all, the obelisks, of which there was an unlimited number in the city. Of the oldest, which, however, were not the largest, one still remains in its place." In this manner would all the representatives of Egyptian idol-worship fall before the power of Nebuchadnezzar, and the hope and trust of the Jews who fled to Egypt would be found to be vain. Thus all the plans of the wicked according to which they leave the command of God are frustrated to their own confusion. (Kretzmann)