**Jeremiah 39:1-14**

***“When Our Dreams Go Up In Smoke”***

Introduction:

1. Have your dreams gone up in smoke? One day every dream will go. What will you have left?

2. Jeremiah 39:1-14 After 43 years of prophecy, because of sin and continued disobedience, Babylon after

 a year and a half overcomes Jerusalem. Every dream is gone. One day every dream will go. What

 will be left?

Have your dreams gone up in smoke? One day every dream will go. *What will you have left?*

**I. POWER DETHRONED 39:1-3**

 ***A. The Pressure 1*** *“Besieged”*

**1.** The siege lasted about 30 months from January 15, 588 B.C. to July 18, 586 B.C.

 **2.** Nebuchadnezzar was the most powerful man in the world. All his army against…

 They besieged it…nothing could come in or go out.

 **3.** The loss of dreams can be very pressurized causing strain on the home, family

 and marriage.

***B. The Parting 2*** *“Broken up”*

 **1.** In the 11th year the 4th month the ninth day from 597 B.C. to 586 B.C. that is the

 time frame.

 **2.** Someday it will all come to an end. There is a day and an hour. Someday it will

 be broken up.

 **3.** The eyes aren’t as keen. The hearing doesn’t work so well. The feet are no

 longer swift. The hands are no longer steady. It happens sooner than you think!

***C. The Princes 3***

**1.** *All the princes of the king of Babylon came in…took over…all the residue of the*

 *princes of the king of Babylon.*

**2.** These are foreign names that we don’t even know. Nothing remains the same!

 I remember going back to the old neighborhood after 40 years.

 **3.** Someday another will receive the praise…another will fill your place and mine.

 Another will get the recognition.

 **4.** Life passes so quickly… *“Then What?”*

Have your dreams gone up in smoke? One day every dream will go. What will you have left?

**II. POSITION DEVASTATED 39:4-7**

This describes the flight, capture, torture and imprisonment of Zedekiah.

 ***A. The Flight 4***

**1.** *Flight* means, he went forth…he went out.

 **2.** Zedekiah realizing the end of Jerusalem had come, he hoped to save his life. He

 was heading south to the Arabian Desert and Egypt. He traveled down the east side

 of the Jordan.

 **3.** This is life on the run. The blood pressure goes up. Life is out of control.

 **4.** You use to always be in control, but now you control nothing. You run faster, but

 the enemy is bigger and faster.

 ***B. The Fear 5*** Pursued…overtaken…Taken to Nebuchadnezzar…Judged!

**1.** Your worst nightmare is coming true. He is taken to Riblah where

 Nebuchadnezzar had his headquarters on the Orontes R. which was 50 miles south of

 Hamath and 65 miles north of Damascus. There he was sentenced.

 **2.** You were so important, but now another is in charge. *“I get no respect.”*

 *“Doesn’t anyone know how important I am.”* Few even know Roy Rogers, Gene

 Autry, Hopalong Cassidy.

**3.** Another is in charge. Another calls the shots.

 ***C. The Frailty 6, 7***

**1.** The sons of Zedekiah and his nobles were killed by Nebuchadnezzar before his

 eyes. He had his eyes put out. Zedekiah had rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar.

 **2.** If he would have listened to Jeremiah, but he would not. Two prophecies at least

 were fulfilled: **a)** Zedekiah would see the king of Babylon and be taken there (32:3, 4)

 **b)** He would die in Babylon without seeing it (Ez 12:3).

 **3.** The things that really matter, you can do nothing about. God is writing the story

 of your life. He uses all kind of circumstances and all kind of people to fulfill His

 purposes.

 **4.** Life is too big for you to handle on your own.

Have your dreams gone up in smoke? One day every dream will go. What will you have left?

**III. POSSESSIONS DESTROYED 39:8-10**

 ***A. The Charred 8***

**1.** *Burned…*the king’s house and the houses of the people. Status…economic

 prosperity…one day it will all be gone. What’s left? Rockefeller: *I wonder how*

 *much he left? He left it all!*

**2.** *Broken…*the walls crumbled. One day our walls will crumble.

 **a) Safety…**that which kept you safe is gone!

 **b) Security…**that which kept all the negatives away is gone. The ‘security blanket’ is

 worn out! **It’s gone and so quickly!**

 ***B. The Captured 9***

**1.** Every able-bodied person was carried away to Babylon.

 **2.** This is the final deportation. Nebuchadnezzar is calling the shots!

  ***C. The Cultivated 10***

**1.** Some are captured, but the poorest get a promotion. They are left to oversee the

 settlements…the fields and vineyards.

 **2.** Everyone doesn’t have the same assignment or the same end, but we all have an

 assignment!

 **3. No one picks his or her assignment!**

Have your dreams gone up in smoke? One day every dream will go. What will you have left?

**IV. PROVIDENCE DELIVERS 39:11-14**

Jeremiah had nothing but God! God comes through! Daniel and Ezekiel are taken to

 Babylon, but Jeremiah stays in Jerusalem.

***A. God’s Charge 11***

Jeremiah had spoken favorably of the Babylonians, and Nebuchadnezzar got word.

 God is using Nebuchadnezzar to fulfill His purpose. God uses the most unusual, most unlikely to

 accomplish His purpose and to take care of His children.

 ***B. God’s Care 12***

**1.** *Take him…look well to him…do him no harm…do unto him even as he shall say to*

 *you.* Nebuchadnezzar was more concerned about the welfare of Jeremiah than his own people.

 It’s about time!! *There hath no temptation taken you but such is common to man; but God is*

 *faithful, who will not permit you to be tempted above that ye are able, but will with the*

 *temptation, also make a way of escape that you may be able to bear it.’ (I Corinthians 10:13)*

 ***C. God’s Caregivers 13***

**1.** God can use the ungodly to carry out His will and accomplish His purpose.

 **2.** See God at work all around you, and then say, “Thanks”.

 ***D. God’s Circumstances 14***

**1.** *Sent…took…committed…carry him home (either he was too weak to walk or he was injured)*

 *…he dwelt among his people.*

*He works all thing together for good to those who love God and who are called according to*

 *His purpose.**(Romans 8:28)**Gedaliah* is a reminder for 3 generations they served the Lord.

 *40:1* Following God doesn’t always go smoothly. Let God take care of the details.

 Mistakenly Jeremiah had been taken. At Ramah he was recognized by the officials and

 released.Remember Ebedmelech the Ethiopian who pulled Jeremiah out of the slime pit?

 God never forgot that act of kindness and show of faith. (39:18)

 *God will do what is best to accomplish His purposes.*

***If everything was gone, what do you have left?***

***GOD IS ALL YOU’VE GOT!* THAT’S ENOUGH!!!!**