

## God's Displeasure With The Jews Who Escaped To Egypt

### Jeremiah 44

Group <sup>1</sup>	C	V	Description
Conquest of Egypt Predicted	44	1-10	Jeremiah's prophecy for the inhabitants concerning God's actions because of the people's unrepentant attitude
		11-14	God promises wrath to those who fled to Egypt
		15-19	The men and their wives refuse to stop worshipping idols
Calamity for the Jews	44	20-23	The desolation of the land is a result of idol worship, not as a result of stopping
		24-30	God promises a sign—Egypt captured by Babylon—so that all God's people will know that the prophecy is true

There were many who fled to Egypt when they saw the impending conquest of Judah and Jerusalem. While there they reverted back to worshipping the fertility gods of Egypt and the surrounding nations. Their reasoning for it was that when they stopped worshipping the idols while in Judah, the hard times befell the land. Jeremiah is reminding them that they didn't understand where the desolation of the land came from.

God's patience is *v-e-r-y* longsuffering and He is willing to allow time for people to repent of their sins, but He does not or will not wait forever.

**2 Peter 3:8-10 NASB** But do not let this one *fact* escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. **9** The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. **10** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

When the Israelites were brought out of Egypt the first time and then rebelled against God and refused to enter the promised land, God chose to allow that generation to die in the wilderness rather than experience the joy of entering the promised land. God wanted to destroy them completely but Moses intercedes for them.

**Numbers 14:17-23 NASB** "But now, I pray, let the power of the Lord be great, just as You have declared, **18** 'The LORD is slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He will by no means clear *the guilty*, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth *generations*.' **19** "Pardon, I pray, the iniquity of this people according to the greatness of Your lovingkindness, just as You also have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now." **20** So the LORD said, "I have pardoned *them* according to your word; **21** but indeed, as I live, all the earth will be filled with the glory of the LORD. **22** "Surely all the men who have seen My glory and My signs which I performed in Egypt and in the wilderness, yet have put Me to the test these ten times and have not listened to My voice, **23** shall by no means see the land which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who spurned Me see it.

God also promised that He would vindicate His people when they have been oppressed if they remain

<sup>1</sup> (NASB) "Group" column from the headings in the NASB text.

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faithful.

**Deuteronomy 32:36-42 NASB** 36 "For the LORD will vindicate His people, And will have compassion on His servants, When He sees that *their* strength is gone, And there is none *remaining*, bond or free. 37 "And He will say, 'Where are their gods, The rock in which they sought refuge? 38 'Who ate the fat of their sacrifices, *And* drank the wine of their drink offering? Let them rise up and help you, Let them be your hiding place! 39 'See now that I, I am He, And there is no god besides Me; It is I who put to death and give life. I have wounded and it is I who heal, And there is no one who can deliver from My hand. 40 'Indeed, I lift up My hand to heaven, And say, as I live forever, 41 If I sharpen My flashing sword, And My hand takes hold on justice, I will render vengeance on My adversaries, And I will repay those who hate Me. 42 'I will make My arrows drunk with blood, And My sword will devour flesh, With the blood of the slain and the captives, From the long-haired leaders of the enemy.'

That is why the writer of Hebrews had this to say to his generation, which is true about each generation's lifetime.

**Hebrews 3:7-13 NASB** Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says,  
"TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, 8 DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS AS WHEN THEY PROVOKED ME, AS IN THE DAY OF TRIAL IN THE WILDERNESS, 9 WHERE YOUR FATHERS TRIED *Me* BY TESTING *Me*, AND SAW MY WORKS FOR FORTY YEARS. 10 "THEREFORE I WAS ANGRY WITH THIS GENERATION, AND SAID, 'THEY ALWAYS GO ASTRAY IN THEIR HEART, AND THEY DID NOT KNOW MY WAYS'; 11 AS I SWORE IN MY WRATH, 'THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST.'"  
12 Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. 13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is *still* called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

God is faithful in all His promises. He can be trusted! Choose TODAY, right now while your reading this, to follow Him. You won't be disappointed.

If you are following God and things seem to be difficult, don't turn back to your old "idols" seeking to live selfish lives again but remain faithful to the God of the Universe.

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