

~EBED-MELECH (106)

(E'bed-mel'ech) [Servant of the King]

- An Ethiopian eunuch in the house of King Zedekiah who, by his course of action, demonstrated that he was in full agreement with the work of Yehowah's prophet Jeremiah.
- When the princes of Judah falsely charged Jeremiah with sedition, Zedekiah surrendered the prophet into their hands. These princes then took Jeremiah and threw him into the miry cistern of Malchijah in the Courtyard of the Guard, there to die without food.
- And the princes began to say to the king; Let this man, please, be put to death, for that is how he is weakening the hands of the men of war who are left remaining in this city and the hands of all the people, by speaking to them according to these words. For this man is one seeking not for the peace of this people but for calamity. (**Jeremiah 38:4**)
- So King Zedekiah said; Look! He is in your hands. For there is nothing at all in which the king himself can prevail against you. (**Jeremiah 38:5**)
- And they proceeded to take Jeremiah and throw him into the cistern of Malchijah the son of the king, which was in the Courtyard of the Guard. So they let Jeremiah down by means of ropes. Now in the cistern there was no water, but mire, and Jeremiah began to sink down into the mire. (**Jeremiah 38:6**)
- Courageously, notwithstanding the danger in which it placed him because of the prevailing bitter hatred for Jeremiah and his message, **Ebed-melech** publicly approached the king seated in the Gate of Benjamin and there presented an appeal in behalf of Jeremiah.
- Zedekiah responded favorably. Then Ebed-melech, at the king's command, took 30 men to the cistern and let down ropes with worn-out rags and pieces of cloth for Jeremiah to place under his armpits in order to bring him up out of the cistern.
- And **Ebed-melech** the Ethiopian, a man who was a eunuch and who was in the house of the king, got to hear that they had put Jeremiah into the cistern, and the king was sitting in the Gate of

Benjamin. (**Jeremiah 38:7**)

- So **Ebed-melech** went out of the house of the king and spoke to the king, saying; (**Jeremiah 38:8**)
- O my lord the king, these men have done bad in all that they have done to Jeremiah the prophet, whom they have thrown into the cistern, so that he will die where he is because of the famine. For there is no bread anymore in the city. (**Jeremiah 38:9**)
- Then the king commanded **Ebed-melech** the Ethiopian, saying; Take in your charge from this place thirty men, and you must get Jeremiah the prophet up out of the cistern before he dies. (**Jeremiah 38:10**)
- Accordingly **Ebed-melech** took the men in his charge and went into the house of the king to beneath the treasury and took from there worn-out rags and worn-out pieces of cloth and let them down to Jeremiah into the cistern by means of the ropes. (**Jeremiah 38:11**)
- Then **Ebed-melech** the Ethiopian said to Jeremiah; Put, please, the worn-out rags and the pieces of cloth under your armpits beneath the ropes. Jeremiah now did so. (**Jeremiah 38:12**)
- Finally they drew out Jeremiah by means of the ropes and brought him up out of the cistern. And Jeremiah continued to dwell in the Courtyard of the Guard. (**Jeremiah 38:13**)
- Likely Zedekiah directed **Ebed-melech** to take 30 men along, not that so many men were needed to get Jeremiah out of the cistern, but in order to effect a successful deliverance despite any possible interference on the part of the princes or the priests.
- Because of this righteous act toward God's prophet, Ebed-melech was assured by Yehowah, through Jeremiah, that he would not perish during the Babylonian siege but would be furnished an escape.
- And to Jeremiah the word of Yehowah occurred while he happened to be shut up in the Courtyard of the Guard, saying; (**Jeremiah 39:15**)
- Go, and you must say to **Ebed-melech** the Ethiopian; This is what Yehowah of armies, the God of Israel, has said; Here I am

bringing true my words upon this city for calamity and not for good, and they will certainly happen before you in that day. (Jeremiah 39:16)

- **And I will deliver you in that day, is the utterance of Yehowah, and you will not be given into the hand of the men of whom you yourself are scared. (Jeremiah 39:17)**
- **For I shall without fail furnish you an escape, and by the sword you will not fall, and you will certainly come to have your soul as a spoil, because you have trusted in me, is the utterance of Yehowah. (Jeremiah 39:18)**

See Also EUNUCH