



# The Heart is Deceitful!

*Jeremiah 42*

When Nebuchadnezzar conquered Jerusalem, countless Jews died and many others were carried captive to Babylon. A little remnant of Jews remained. One day they came to Jeremiah asking him to pray to Jehovah for guidance, to “show us the way wherein we may walk.”

After Jeremiah agreed to do this, the people said, “The LORD be a true and faithful witness between us, if we do not even according to all things for the which the LORD thy God shall send thee to us. Whether it be good or whether it be evil, we will obey the voice of the LORD” (*Jer. 42:5-6*).

Their response seemed so good! They agreed to obey God’s voice even if His message was contrary to what they wanted to hear. **Yet their hearts were deceitful!** God made them wait ten days, and then through Jeremiah, the LORD gave them a very clear message: ***Stay in the land and don’t go to Egypt!*** It was the very message the people did not want to hear.

They were terrified of Nebuchadnezzar, and for good reason. He was an oppressive conqueror feared by all. They longed to go to Egypt where they might experience peaceful conditions and enjoy abundant food. God promised them the opposite. Jehovah warned that going to Egypt would result in death by the sword, by famine and by pestilence. Yet their deceitful hearts chose to ignore God’s severe warnings. If they would stay in the land, God would protect them and would cause the king of Babylon to be merciful to them. They refused to believe God’s promise.

May we learn from their tragic failure. Our hearts are no different from theirs: “**deceitful above all things and desperately wicked**” (*Jer. 17:9*). How often do we ignore God’s clear guidance and sobering warnings, thinking our way is better?

**Father knows best! Trust Him!**

~George Zeller: [www.middletonbiblechurch.org](http://www.middletonbiblechurch.org)



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