
JEREMIAH'S ENEMY

Jeremiah was one of the prophets whom God used to deliver a message of pending doom upon a nation which had refused to heed his commands. And when the people heard the unpleasant news, some of the leaders of Judah wanted to kill Jeremiah. One such man was named Jehucal the son of Shelemiah, a high-ranking prince who served under King Zedekiah.

A seal impression once made by Jehucal was recently uncovered in Jerusalem which proves that he lived shortly before the destruction of the city by the Baby-Ionians.

The seal reads: **"Belonging to Jehucal, son of Shelemiah, son of Shovi."**



Seal of Jehucal,
son of Shelemiah

His father, Shelemiah, may also be the same man mentioned on another artifact known as Lachish letter IX which says: "May Yahweh cause my lord to hear tidings of peace! . . . Return word to my servant through **Shelemiah** giving us instructions as to what action we shall take tomorrow!"

Jeremiah's dealings with his son Jehucal are recounted in the following passages of scripture:

"Now King Zedekiah the son of Josiah reigned instead of Coniah the son of Jehoiakim,

whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon made king in the land of Judah. **But neither he nor his servants nor the people of the land gave heed to the words of the LORD which He spoke by the prophet Jeremiah.**

And Zedekiah the king sent **Jehucal the son of Shelemiah**, and Zephaniah the son of Maaseiah, the priest, to the prophet Jeremiah, saying, "Pray now to the LORD our God for us." . . . Now Shephatiah the son of Mattan, Gedaliah the son of Pashhur, **Jehucal the son of Shelemiah**, and Pashhur the son of Malchiah heard the words that Jeremiah had spoken to all the people, saying, "Thus says the LORD: 'He who remains in this city (Jerusalem) shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence; `but he who goes over to the Chaldeans shall live; his life shall be as a prize to him, and he shall live.'" "Thus says the LORD: 'This city shall surely be given into the hand of the king of Babylon's army, which shall take it.' "

Therefore the princes said to the king, "Please, let this man be put to death, for thus he weakens the hands of the men of war who remain in this city, and the hands of all the people, by speaking such words to them. For this man does not seek the welfare of this people, but their harm."

Then Zedekiah the king said, "Look, he is in your hand. For the king can do nothing against you."

So they took Jeremiah and cast him into the dungeon of Malchiah the king's son, which was in the court of the prison, and they let Jeremiah down with ropes. And in the dungeon there was no water, but mire. So Jeremiah sank in the mire. Now Ebed-Melech the Ethiopian, one of the eunuchs, who was in the king's house, heard that they had put Jeremiah in the dungeon. When the king was sitting at the Gate of Benjamin, Ebed-Melech went out of the king's house and spoke to the king, say-

ing: "My lord the king, these men have done evil in all that they have done to Jeremiah the prophet, whom they have cast into the dungeon, and he is likely to die from hunger in the place where he is. For there is no more bread in the city."

Then the king commanded Ebed-Melech the Ethiopian, saying, "Take from here thirty men with you, and lift Jeremiah the prophet out of the dungeon before he dies."

Jeremiah 37:1-38:10

WANT TO BE HEARD? GIVE HEED TO THE WORDS OF THE LORD

Then the word of the LORD came to Zechariah, saying, "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Execute true justice, Show mercy and compassion Everyone to his brother. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, The alien or the poor. Let none of you plan evil in his heart Against his brother'

"But they refused to heed, shrugged their shoulders, and stopped their ears so that they could not hear. "Yes, they made their hearts like flint, refusing to hear the law and the words which the LORD of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets. Thus great wrath came from the LORD of hosts.

"Therefore it happened, that just as He proclaimed and they would not hear, so they called out and I would not listen" says the LORD of hosts. Zechariah 7:8-13

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