

The Good Figs and the Bad Figs

A comparison between Revelation 13:10 and Jeremiah 15:2, 43:11

And the coming captivity

This teaching is not meant to give you a definitive answer to precisely what we are being told in Rev 13:10. What I hope to achieve is to cause anyone who hears this to meditate and pray about what we are being told, and to consider a different possible outcome than we (at least I) had been taught for years in the Christian churches.

By the end of this, I pray that it will encourage you that Y—H has a plan for His people. And yes, though very difficult times are ahead... there is hope, including for those who are called by divine purpose to captivity.

I am going to ask a lot of questions as I go. This is to make you stop and think. If it spurs a good thought, please write it down to share during the midrash afterwards.

There is another aspect to this as well, this isn't just about me sharing my thoughts on these passages from the Bible. I have looked at this particular verse in Revelations for approximately 15 years. I think there is a Mystery here for us to try to understand.

After coming into Torah, I looked at Rev 13:10 and surrounding verses, through 'Torah' eyes and have come to establish the *theories* that I am sharing with you today. They are just that, theories, meaning I can not prove them, and don't know that I am correct. I do think they are highly probable, and even likely, otherwise I would not be wasting your time. I am asking you here today to challenge me and show me where my understanding is off. But, if I am correct, then this is critical to us that are in the 'last days' as described throughout Scripture, if that is indeed where we are.

For the sake of time I will be teaching with the understanding that I accept as fact the following –

There will be at some future time a 'Greater Exodus' that will take place, having NOT taken place yet. The foundation of the modern State of Israel in 1948, although fulfilling many Biblical prophecies, was not the ultimate fulfillment of the 'Second Exodus' as some have taught. This is not a controversial statement in my view.

Jer 23:7-8 and Isa 11:11-16 are just a couple of witnesses to this-

Jer 23:7 Therefore behold, days are coming, saith Jehovah, that they shall no more say, As Jehovah liveth, who brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; 8 but, As Jehovah liveth, who brought up and who led back the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them. And they shall dwell in their own land.

Isa 11:11 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to acquire the remnant of his people which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea... :16 And there shall be a highway for the remnant of his people which will be left, from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day when he went up out of the land of Egypt.

I also believe, but again, can not prove- that there can't be a 'greater exodus' without also having a 'greater captivity'. This would be like having the story of Noah and the ark, but no worldwide flood. The captivity is such an integral part of the story of the first exodus that I think it MUST be part of the future 'Second/Greater Exodus'

Everyone will get their opportunity to dispute this and any other points in the following discussion that we have come to love about these weekly meetings!

Start of study-

Read Rev 13:4-10

The first question that must be answered is this-

Is John quoting, or referring to Jeremiah here in verse 10?

Some Bibles give Jer 15:2 and 43:11 as references to Rev 13:10. The CJB version goes as far to put this section of the verse in quotation and bold print, which is to indicate that it is a direct quote from the TANAKH.

The wording is VERY similar, keeping in mind that Rev is translated from Greek, whereas Jer is translated from Hebrew. Meaning that it is highly unlikely that the wording could be the EXACTLY same when translated.

If we accept that John was referring to the passages in Jeremiah, we must ask ourselves, 'WHY'?

It seems to me that the book of Jeremiah is all about Israel being judged for not obeying the Torah. A major part of that judgement is captivity and exile. Let's read some passages together- but first...

I am going to interject a thought here, I want this to be in the back of your mind while we are thinking about what connections there are between Rev and Jer.

Although Jeremiah is speaking to the people of his day, there are a number of prophecies that Y—H gives him that speak to the very 'last days'. Again 'WHY, and WHAT does it mean?'

Read Jer ch 30 all

after reading look at verse 24 closely.

'...till he accomplishes the purpose in His heart. In the *last days*, you will understand'

Also, Jer 23:20 – the same message and wording as 30:24

'last H319 days H3117' Strong numbers included here

Let's look at some other places this same term is used.

Gen 49:1, Isa 2:2, Mic 4:1, Num 24:14, Hos 3:5

There are many more places this term is used to describe what, in my opinion, can only be understood as the *end of this age* during a *time of future fulfillment*.

Challenge-

Don't agree? Do you think Jeremiah is only speaking to those of his day? Then show me where ALL the promises spoken through Jeremiah have ALREADY happened? Jer 30:7-11, 21&22, 30:25 (31:1 in most translations) 33:15-16 and many, many more.

Chapter 30 and 31 speaks to the severe discipline of 'Israel and Judah' (verse 3) then the promised restoration in the 'last days'

(read and note highlights of chapter 30 and 31 referring to the weak coming back from exile and captivity.) Jer 30:8-11, 16 Jer 31:8-11 'blind and lame, women in labor' the very weakest will return. 'ransomed'

(maybe mention the difference between exile vs captivity)

We see that there are prophecies for the end of days in Jeremiah. The point of this detour was to establish that there are things described in Jeremiah that have NOT happened yet. Sorry if that was unnecessary, we will now get back to the main theme.

We will start with the first place was referenced from Rev 13:10, Jer 15:2, starting at verse 15:1-9

Here we see because of the sins of King Manasseh the judgement of Y--H is coming on all of Israel.

What was the sin of Manasseh? Read 2Kings 21:1-18

He did not follow the Torah, but instead followed the 'abominations of the heathen' and '... he made Judah to sin, in doing *that which was* evil in the sight of the LORD.'

So the King of Judah did evil in the sight of Y—H and caused the people to follow into idolatry.

The people were warned and warned repeatedly by Jeremiah, but would not repent. He even gave them the cure to their situation-

Read Jer 17:19-27

Let's move forward in the story to the point the judgements that Jeremiah prophesied are taking place. Specifically with King Zedekiah of Judah.

Read Jer ch 21 all -'surrender, your life will be your only spoils of war'

Let's look at what Jeremiah had to say about captivity in the vision of the 'good figs and the bad figs'.

Read Jer 24 all- the Good figs and the Bad figs

Take note of these verses !

Jer 24:4 Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Jer 24:5 Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel; Like these good figs, so will I acknowledge them that are carried away captive of Judah, whom I have sent out of this place into the land of the Chaldeans for *their* good.

Jer 24:6 For I will set mine eyes upon them for good, and I will bring them again to this land: and I will build them, and not pull *them* down; and I will plant them, and not pluck *them* up.

Jer 24:7 And I will give them an heart to know me, that I *am* the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart.

So now we are getting to heart of why I think John in Revelations 13 has pointed us back to the book of Jeremiah. Where did John get this? Was it a new concept?

John could have referred to a Scripture where a captivity was used ONLY for punishment with the destruction of the people... BUT HE DIDN'T, WHY? In this captivity the Father says he will protect them and bless some of them- the Good Figs, the chastised obedient of Israel.

Remember, Rev 13:10 says this is a time for '... God's holy people...'

This reminds me of when the Judgment was going to fall on Sodom and surrounding cities. Do you remember what Avraham said to Y—H?

In Gen 18:23 Then Abraham drew near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? 24 Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city. Will you then sweep away the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? 25 Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?"

I know He is a Righteous Judge, he will not treat the upright and wicked the same. He will punish but not destroy, as Jer 30:11 says-

For I am with you to save you, declares the LORD; I will make a full end of all the nations among whom I scattered you, but of you I will not make a full end. I will discipline you in just measure, and I will by no means leave you unpunished.

--Captivity is going to be used for our good, as part of the plan--

Read Jer 27:1-15 (maybe through 22)

'submit and you will live'

Jer 29:16-19

Jer 38:14-23 look close at v 23 '...I'm afraid...'

So repeatedly the people and the King were told very clearly to 'go into captivity and you will live and be blessed' and those who don't will suffer the same as is described in Rev 13:10 and here in Jer 15:2

“Such as are for death, to death; such as are for the sword, to the sword; such as are for the famine, to the famine; and such as are for captivity, to captivity.”

The king didn't listen out of fear... because he listened to the FEAR instead of the word of Y—H, this happened to him- Read Jer 39:6-9

Look at the next place that phrase out of Rev and Jer is used-

Read Jer 43:11

Why are they being told this here? Same reasons?? Not quite-

Read Jer 41:1-2 Leader of Judah appointed by the King of Babel is assassinated. Things had actually been going well for the few 'poor' and lowly people that were left in Israel under his rule. Read Jer 39:10, 40:7-10 and v 12 'harvested in great abundance'- blessing

Now the people are afraid (FEAR) because of the assassination of the ruler the king of Babel had put in place, thinking the king will seek retribution on their lives for what took place. Read Jer 41:17-18

Jer 42:10-12 they are told to now STAY in the land or they will die

And Jer 42:13-18

So first they are told to go into captivity or die, now those who remain are told to stay where they are or they will die.

What is going on, this seems contradictory in some ways...

What is the common thread through all these passages in Jeremiah and Revelations?

Y—H has a plan, we don't know all the details of those plans and he wants us to trust Him in the moment, by His Spirit. See Rev 10:4 John told 'not to write' what he saw. Daniel told that the prophecy was 'sealed until the end' Dan 12:4 and 9.

We see the people making bad choices based on FEAR in Jeremiah, then we see as the Beast is making war on God's holy people, we are told to persevere and TRUST, or in other words have FAITH!

FEAR- don't make ANY decision out fear, it is ALWAYS wrong!

If there is only one thing you walk away from this teaching with, let it be the line above.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please God. For he that cometh to God must believe that he is: and is a rewarder to them that seek him.

FEAR is the opposite of FAITH or TRUST

2Ti 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear: but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Let's read Revelation 13:4-10 again in light of everything we have just studied.

With special focus on verses 9 and 10.

9 If anyone has ears let them hear! 10 "If anyone is meant for captivity, into captivity he goes! If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword he is to be killed." This is when God's holy people must persevere and trust!

Do you see an escape option here? I've heard many who read one in and teach it. Rapture? I don't see it. This is when YHVH's set apart ones must PERSEVERE AND TRUST. What does persevere mean? To endure, get through, tough it out, and have Faith/Trust through the process.

Jer 24:5 Thus saith the Lord the God of Israel: Like these good figs, so will I regard the captives of Juda, whom I have sent forth out of this place into the land of the Chaldeans, for their good.

My perspective on the coming captivity is a little different than most. According to some, we would escape by gathering together at the last place we had Sukkot and weather the coming tribulation hiding out. That just doesn't fit what I am seeing throughout Scripture. One question was, how does the Father rain down judgments down on the world with his children mixed in small groups all over the world? In the first Exodus/Captivity they were all gathered together in Goshen, they were separated from the wicked Egyptians, they were TOGETHER. The Israelites didn't experience the plagues the way the Egyptians did. A prime

example of this, is when the curse of darkness came over the land, the Israelites had 'light in their homes'.

It is important to note that they were still in slavery and their children had been killed during that captivity, it wasn't easy. There was great suffering in their captivity until being delivered. But this isn't the type of captivity that Jeremiah speaks of in the Good Figs vision.

This question must also be answered. Why were the Israelites in Egypt? Was it due to sin? Were they being chastised? Cut off? NO, this was part of the plan from Avraham. Let's look at that picture of Avraham-

Gen 12:12 Therefore it shall come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they shall say, This *is* his wife: and they will kill me, but they will save thee alive.

So Avraham's WIFE/BRIDE's true identity is being hidden from the peoples. This is important! The world doesn't know who the bride belongs to! But they will!

Gen 12:17 And the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai Abram's wife.

Then later Abram is told about the affliction and slavery coming to his offspring.

Gen 15:13 And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land *that is* not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years;

Gen 15:14 And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance.

We see here the fulfillment of that prophecy with the Israelites in the exile/captivity of Moses' time.

Exo 5:1 And afterward Moses and Aaron went in, and told Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me in the wilderness.

Exo 5:2 And Pharaoh said, Who *is* the LORD(YHVH), that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.

See, Pharaoh (great house) doesn't know who this people/Bride belongs to. But he will, once the curses start for keeping the Bride from her Husband! Just like with Avram and Sarai.

I think ALL of Scripture can best be understood if we recognize it is ALL about the 'controversy over the Bride'. Seen through this perspective it all makes sense.

So why did I tell you all this? Is this something I am looking forward to? No, I will be very pleased if I am wrong. I told this to you so that IF a captivity is coming to us as part of His plan of redemption, then I want us to be prepared to accept what He has for us.

I have heard some say things like, 'I couldn't serve a God who would make me live through the Tribulation!' That makes me sad. Nobody wants to go through trials and suffering, I certainly don't. I don't want to see my family suffering any more than any of you. But, are we any better than our forefathers? What about Abraham, Jacob, Joseph and so on all the way to modern times. Too many righteous people have suffered for me think I deserve any better. Do I pray for an escape and an easier way, absolutely! More than that, I pray that not one of us will lose our Faith in Y—H if/when trouble comes. So pray for escape around the coming troubles, but also for Mercy should we need to go THROUGH them, as I think we will.