

chapel 2/5/74 Jeremiah

We have other -- various other passages in the book which show that God announced His definite purpose to protect Jer. in the work that He had for Jer. to do. Yet God does not ~~always~~ always protect His people in this way. This is brought out very clearly in Jer. 26:20ff. "There was also a man who prophesied in the name of the Lord, Urijah . . . (reading text) " This is what happened to Urijah. It is very interesting that in the Lachish letters we find among them an account of this very thing, of the man being sent into Egy. by K. Jehoiakim in order to get Urijah, the son of Shemariah, who said these things that so displeased the king. But vs. 24 says: Nevertheless ~~at~~ the hand of Ahikam the son of Shaphan was with Jer. that he should not give him into the hand of the people to put him to death." God protected Jer. in this situation. God cause Urijah to go into --- to ~~fall~~ fall into Jehoiakim's hand even though he fled way off there into Egypt. And Jehoiakim slew him. I think in the later years of Jer.'s life he may have wished that his fate had been that of Urijah as he faced still worse circumstances as time went on. But it was God's will to take Urijah at this point. It was God's will to ^{keep} teach Jeremiah alive to go through those terrible situations that were ahead. God had ~~his~~ his definite purpose to use ~~of~~ each of them to accomplish His purpose and also in the inscrutable wisdom of God, God had his purpose for the development of Jer.'s spirit in the way God wished it to develop, and for the development of Urijah's spirit in the way that God wished it to develop. God has those same two purposes in connection with each one of us. God may give us lives in which we have prosperity, or he may give us lives of adversity. How are we better than the Christians of Russia or China who have to gather out in the forest to worship God and who are seized and cast into prison and suffer torture if they get caught even telling their children that God exists. How are we better that live here in the conditions that we have? than they? God has a purpose for us here. He has a purpose for them there. God has a purpose for each of His children.