THE HISTORY OF THE PROPHET

JEREMIAH

AND OF HIS DISCIPLES BARUCH AND ABIMELECH

When God determined to deliver up Jerusalem into captivity, he spake unto Jeremiah, saying: « Go thy way out of the city, thou and Baruch thy scribe; for I am about to deliver up into captivity the city of Jerusalem, and the children of Judah. »

Jeremiah said: « Far be it from thee, O Lord, do not this thing. But if thy wrath be great against us, O Lord, let our city be overthrown by thine own hand, and let not those be extolled who hate Thee, and who are our enemies. »

And the Lord said: « Make thou haste
his troops shall be able to go into the city until I open its door. Do thou go and tell it unto Baruch, and at midnight get upon the walls and I will show thee that without me they cannot take the city. »

And Jeremiah arose and quickly went to Baruch and told him all these things. And they both went together and entered into the temple of the Lord; they rent their garments, and cast dust upon their heads, and greatly sighed and mourned. And at the sixth hour of the night they went to the wall, and on a sudden there was heard the sound of a trumpet; and they saw angels coming down from heaven, holding lighted lamps in their hands, and making a ring round about the walls.

And Jeremiah and Baruch said: « Now we recognize that the word Thou hast said, is true. » And lifting their eyes up to heaven they said: « Now we perceive that Thou hast delivered up this city into the hands of the enemy. What dost Thou command us to do with the precious vessels of the service of Thy temple? »

And the Lord said: « Take them yourselves and conceal them under ground, and say: « Hearken, 0 thou earth, to the voice of thy Creator, and take and keep the holy
and tell it unto Baruch, and at midnight
go ye both your way out unto the wall, and
I will show you what is going to happen;
for they shall not be able to do anything
without me. »

And Jeremiah arose and departed quickly,
and told everything unto Baruch the scribe.
And they went together and entered into
the temple of the Lord, and rent their gar-
ments, and with many sighs they fell before
the Lord, and cast dust upon their heads;
and then they arose and went upon the wall.
And all of a sudden the sound of a trum-
pet was heard, and they saw the angels of
God, coming down from heaven with light-
ed lamps, and making a circle round about
the wall.

Then Jeremiah and Baruch lifted their
eyes towards heaven, saying: « Behold, ()
Lord, we understand that Thou hast deli-
vered up this our city into the hands of our
enemies; what shall we do with the vessels
of the altar of thy sanctuary? »

And the Lord said: « Take thou them,
Jeremiah, and bury them in the earth, and
say: « Hearken, thou earth, to the words of
thy Creator, and take and keep the vessels
vessels of the Lord's temple, until the coming into it of the Beloved One. »

Jeremiah said: « Tell me what shall I do with Abimelech the Ethiopian, to whom I am very grateful; for he brought me out of the pit of mire, and I am not pleased that he should see the destruction of this Thy holy city, and that it should grieve him. »

And the Lord said: « Send him to the village of Agrippa, and I will hide him until I make the people return from captivity into this city. And thou, go thy way after the people into Babylon, but let Baruch remain in this city, and I will take care of him. »

And the Lord having said this went up into heaven; and Jeremiah and Baruch went into the sanctuary of God, and they took the vessels destined for the service of the temple, and hid them underground, and instantly the earth swallowed them up. And they both sat and did mourn greatly.

And in the morning Jeremiah said unto Abimelech: « Take a fruit-basket and go thy way to the village of Agrippa, by the road of the mountains, and bring green figs for the people who are ill, and the hand of the Lord will shelter thee. »
of the Lord’s temple, until His coming from heaven. »

Jeremiah said: « I beseech thee, O Lord, show me what I shall do with Abimelech the Ethiopian? For I owe much to him, because he brought me out of the pit of mire, and I am not willing that he should see the destruction of Thy holy city. »

And the Lord said: « Let him go to the village of Agrippa, and there will I hide him, until the people shall return from captivity to this city. And go thou thy way after thy people into Babylon, and let Baruch remain in this city, and I will take care of him. »

And the Lord having said this, urged Jeremiah to do all that He had commanded. And Jeremiah and Baruch went into the temple and took the vessels and buried them in the earth, and instantly the earth swallowed up the holy vessels; and Jeremiah and Baruch sat down to weep and pray.

And on the next day Jeremiah said unto Abimelech: « My son, take the fruit-basket and go thy way to the village of Agrippa, and bring thence green figs for the sick people that are with us, and may the Lord’s hand preserve thee. »
So Abimelech departed with the fruit-basket, according as Jeremiah commanded him. And lo, the troops of the Chaldeans arrived and formed a ring round about the city of Jerusalem. And the angel of the Lord sounded the trumpet, saying: «Go into that city, all ye troops of the Chaldeans, for, behold, all the doors have been opened unto you, and take into captivity all the people of Jerusalem. »

And Jeremiah ran and shut up the temple of the Lord, and took the keys, and going out of the city, threw them towards the sun, and weeping, he said: «Take unto thee and keep the keys of the Lord's temple, until God shall ask for them. We are not worthy to keep them. »

And the Chaldeans entered into the city of Jerusalem, and they plundered all the treasures, and made the children of Israel captives, and carried them away into Babylon; and Jeremiah went after them. But Baruch, with great mourning, putting dust upon his head, went and dwelt alone among the tombs; and the angel of the Lord appeared unto him every day and gave him comfort.

And Abimelech went and gathered figs,
And so Abimelech departed. And behold, the troops of the Chaldeans came and made a circle round about the city of Jerusalem, and they entered into the city on all sides, and made a prey of everything, and shed much blood, and threw the bodies of holy men round about the city to be eaten by the beasts and the birds, and there was no man to bury them. And they took captives of the children of Judah and of all Israel, and carried them into Babylon.

And Jeremiah threw the fire of the temple into a pit, and the key he threw into the sun-light, saying: «Take and keep them yourselves by the command of your Creator. »

Then Jeremiah went after the captives into Babylon, and Baruch went out of the city with great mourning, and dwelt alone amongst the tombs; and the angel of the Lord appeared unto him every day, and comforted him.

And while Abimelech was bringing the
and when he carried them, he felt consumed by burning heat, and retired to rest under the shadow of a tree. And being much fatigued, he bent down his head and laid it upon the fruit-basket and fell asleep; and thus he remained asleep sixty-six years. And according to the command of the Lord God, as long as the children of Israel remained in Babylon, he did not awake.

But sixty-six years after he awaked and said: « I slept a little and sweetly, and I feel my head heavy, because I have not taken my fill of sleep. »

Then he opened the fruit-basket and found the figs still green, for the milk still dropped down from them, and he said: « If I sleep again, I fear I may be late, and Jeremiah my father may be angry with me, for he bid me hasten to carry the figs for the sick people. »

So he arose and took up the fruit-basket and went on his way. And when he arrived at Jerusalem he did not recognize the city, and did not find the house of Jeremiah, nor any of his acquaintances, and said: « Blessed be God, I fell into a great trance, and I have gone astray, as I came by the road of the mountain, being
figs, on the way he felt very hot on account of the burning heat, and he sat down under a tree to rest, for he was very fatigued. And he put his head upon the basket, and slept a sleep of sixty-eight years, and did not awake.

And when he awoke he said: « I slept a little very calmly and very sweetly. »

Then he opened the basket and saw the figs were green, and the milk still dropped from them, and he said: « I feel my head heavy, for I have not been satisfied with sleep; but if I sleep a little more, I am afraid I shall be late, and Jeremiah, the prophet, will be angry with me for being so late, for he sent me to-day to get figs for the sick people. »

And he arose and took the basket, and went on his way; but he did not recognize the city nor the way; nay, he did not see any people whom he knew in the aforetime, and he said: « May God be praised, then I have gone astray! »
drowsy through sleep! And how dare I say to Jeremiah that I have slept and gone astray in my path?»

So he went again out of the city, and observed the landmarks and recognized them. Again he entered into the city and found no one, and he looked earnestly.

And again out of the city went he, and putting down the fruit-baskets sat on the ground, and through the Spirit of God having seen an old man, he asked him, saying: «What city is this?»

And he said: «Jerusalem.»

And Abimelech said: «And where is Jeremiah, the priest of God, and Baruch the reader, and all the people of this city, for I did not find any of them?»

The old man said: «Art thou one of this city, and dost thou remember Jeremiah after so long a time has passed by? for Jeremiah went a captive with the people into Babylon, when they were carried away by Nebuchadnezzar, king of the Babylonians.»

Abimelech said: «Since thou art an old man, it is not seemly to abuse thee, but it is only a little while since Jeremiah sent me to the village of Agrippa, to gather some figs for the sick. Look at the figs, they are still green and the milk drops
And having seen an old man, he said unto him: "What city is this?"

The old man said: "This city is Jerusalem."

Abimelech said: "Where is Jeremiah, the prophet and the priest?"

The old man answered: "Brother, thou art out of thy senses and art mad, or thou thinkest that we are mad! Jeremiah, after whom thou askest, has gone to Babylon with the sons of the king that were taken captive."

Abimelech said: "If thou wert not an old man I would despise thee; for Jeremiah sent me to-day to get figs for the sick people; and now look, the figs are still green, and the milk still drops from them. And I slept only a little on the way, and was not
down from them. I slept a little while on the way under a tree, and was not satisfied with sleep, but hastened to come back; and thou sayest that the people and Jeremiah are gone captives to Babylon!

And he drew out the figs and showed them to him.

And when the old man saw them, he said: "My son, thou art a righteous man, and God was not pleased to show thee the destruction of this city, but caused a trance to come upon thee. Know, my son, that it is sixty years since this city was besieged, and they carried Jeremiah and the people to Babylon. Look, my son, this is not the time of figs, the trees have no leaves as yet, this being the month of Nisan."

And Abimelech lifting up his hands, said: "Blessed be the God of heaven and earth, who everywhere and always giveth rest to the righteous."

Then he took out a fig and gave it to the old man.

And Abimelech prayed to God, and the angel of the Lord took hold of his right hand and put him, with the fruit-basket, in the tomb where Baruch was, and on seeing one another, they were seized with fear, and they embraced and kissed each other and wept sore.
satisfied with sleep, but hastened my return.

And he took out the figs and shewed them to him.

And on seeing the figs, the old man said: "My son, thou art a righteous man, wherefore God was not willing that thou shouldst see the destruction of this city; and He brought upon thee a sleep, and covered thee in the shadow of his arms. Know, my son, that it is sixty-eight years since this city was taken captive; and lo, observe. my son, that it is winter, and it is not the time of figs."

And Abimelech lifted up his voice and said: "Blessed be God, who evergiveth rest to righteous men."

And taking one of the figs he gave it to the old man.

And through the inspiration of the angel of God, he went to Baruch the scribe, and they embraced one another and wept; and then they sat down and spake to each other.
And Baruch, having seen the figs green, as they still dropped down milk, prayed, saying: «Blessed be the Lord God who rewards His beloved ones. He has prepared for thee, O my soul, a reward, and my heart shall rejoice, for my mourning has been turned into joy. This is the sixty-sixth year since these figs have been gathered and they are not corrupt, but they drop down milk as if they had been cut down from the tree this same day. »

And having finished these words, Baruch said unto Abimelech: «Let us pray God that He should show to us, what we may do that this wonderful thing may reach the ears of Jeremiah and of the people. »

And the prayer being over, an eagle appeared unto them and sat upon a tree, and speaking in a man’s voice, he said: «Hail, thou Baruch, the chosen of God. »

Baruch answered: «May He be blessed, who sends thee; tell us, for what thou art come? »

And the eagle said: «That thou shoulddest send by me to Jeremiah the wonderful thing that has been wrought. »

And Baruch wrote upon a roll, and fastened upon it seventeen figs, then tied them about the neck of the eagle and said: «Go
And on seeing the figs, Baruch said: « May God be blessed, who loves them that fear Him, and preserves them. »

And Baruch said: « How can we make known these wonderful things to Jeremiah the priest? »

And while he was saying this, behold, an eagle came and sat upon a tree opposite to them. Then Baruch wrote these wonders, and in the same paper wrapped up fifteen figs, and fastened them upon the neck of the eagle and said: « Go thy way and carry this to Jeremiah, the priest of God, in Babylon, and return again and bring us an answer. »
thy way and carry this answer to Jeremiah and to the captive people, the children of Israel, and return and bring us an answer."

And the eagle took his flight and went peacefully to Babylon, and sat upon a tree outside the town. And Jeremiah, at the head of many people, men and women, was coming out to bury their dead; for he had solicited from the king some place for the people outside the city.

And when they came near to the tree, the eagle cried out in a human voice, saying: "I say unto thee, Jeremiah, servant of God the Most High; hear the message of God, which Baruch and Abimelech have sent unto thee."

And when they heard the voice of the eagle, they sent up praise unto God. And the eagle came down upon the dead, beating his face with his wings, and instantly the dead arose up. And all the people were sore afraid and said that God, as through Moses, so through this eagle has appeared unto us.

And the eagle said to Jeremiah: "Loose the roll from my neck, and read it to the people; look also at the green figs."

And when he had done with the reading, the people said unto Jeremiah: "Now command us, what shall we do?"
And the eagle took his flight and went to Babylon, and sat upon a tree which was near the tombs.

And behold, Jeremiah the prophet was coming with a multitude of people to bury one dead of the children of Israel. Then the eagle flew down upon the dead man and beat his face with its wings, and instantly the dead man came again to life, at which the people being wonderfully astonished, gave praise unto God.

And when they saw the letter upon the neck of the eagle, they took it and read it, and were enraptured. And Jeremiah wrote to Baruch an answer, and told him of the sufferings they had endured in Ba-
Jeremiah said: «Fulfil the commandments of the Lord God, and He will quickly carry us into Jerusalem, our city.

And Jeremiah wrote unto Baruch and unto Abimelech a letter before all the people, in which he related all the sufferings that Nebuchadnezzar had caused them, and fastened it about the neck of the eagle.

The eagle took his flight and went to Baruch and Abimelech. And they took the letter and read it and wept a great deal when they knew the torments and the sufferings of Jeremiah and the people.

And Jeremiah took the green figs and gave them to the sick ones to eat, and they were healed, and he commanded the people to abstain from the abominable meats of the heathen.

Then God commanded the people to depart from Babylon, and they departed peacefully.

And when Baruch and Abimelech saw them, they took hold of the feet of Jeremiah and worshipped him. And they kissed one another, and offered praise unto God with all thankfulness; and during eight days they offered sacrifices unto God. And on the tenth day Jeremiah alone offered sacrifice, and prayed to God. And his mind was exalted, and he said: «Holy, holy,
bylon from ungodly men; and he fastened it upon the neck of the eagle, who took his flight and came to Baruch. And Baruch took it and read it, and when they heard of the sufferings of the people, they wept sore.

And Jeremiah took the figs and gave them to the sick people, and instantly they recovered.

And on the same days Jeremiah and the people returned to Jerusalem. There they arrived with great joy, and for ten days they offered up sacrifices with thanksgiving.

And the sacrifices being over, Jeremiah prayed to God so earnestly that his mind was raised up into heaven, and he said: « Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Hosts, living Tree and true Light, that enlightenth me when I come unto Thee. »

And thus having spoken, he fell like a dead man, so that Baruch and Abimelech thought he was dead.
Holy true Light that hast enlightened me when I came unto Thee.» And as soon as he said this, he fell upon his face on the ground, like one dead. And Baruch and Abimelech thought he was dead, and they wept sore, and they cast dust upon their heads, and the people gathered together to bury him. But a voice came unto them, saying: « Bury not the living one. » So they left him three days.

And then Jeremiah opened his eyes and got up, and in a loud voice said: « Give blessing unto God, and unto his Son the Anointed One, our Awakener. For He is the inextinguishable Lamp, and the Life of faith, Who after two hundred and seventy-five years, and some days, shall come upon the earth. He is the Tree of life which was planted in the midst of the Garden, and which shall render fruitful the trees that bear no fruit. He shall cause Jordan to become white like wool and like snow; He shall grant His blessing to the isles, and through the words that come out of the mouth of Christ, they shall bring forth fruits. And He shall go in and out, and shall choose twelve apostles to spread the good tidings among the heathen. — He, whom I
Then they rent their garments, and the people were preparing to bury Jeremiah, but a voice came unto them, saying: « Bury not the living one. »

Then they left him three days.

Afterwards, Jeremiah opened his eyes, and arose and stood up, saying in a loud voice: « Do ye all with one accord give praise unto God, and unto his Son the Anointed One, who causes us to awake, for He is the life of the dead. Now, three hundred and seventy-five years more, and the Tree of life shall come upon earth, and shall cause the unfruitful trees to bear fruit. »

And in those days many of the remnant of the people went down into Egypt; Jeremiah the prophet also went down with them, and dwelt in Taphnas. And there he prophesied, that the Lord should come from heaven upon earth, and that He should choose from among men twelve apostles, who should preach his tidings among the Gentiles.
have seen adorned by my father, — shall come upon earth to satisfy the hungry people. »

And when the people heard these words, they were angry, and said: « These are the words that Isaiah, the son of Amos, spake, when he said: ‘I saw God and His Son.’ Let us not slay him like as we slew Isaiah, but let us stone him. »

And Baruch and Abimelech were filled with much grief, for they wished to hear the secret mysteries that he had seen.

And Jeremiah said unto them: « Weep not, and be not grieved, for they shall not slay me until I have told you all. »

And he added: « Bring a large stone. »

And they brought it.

And Jeremiah said: « O Lord God, Light of the true knowledge, Ray without shadow, hear me, and make of this stone a man in my likeness, until I have told Baruch and Abimelech all the mysteries that Thou hast revealed unto me. »

Then by God’s commandment the stone became a man in the likeness of Jeremiah,

1. Literal translation, the meaning of which is impossible to understand, perhaps it may be « foretold by my father. »
Now when the people heard this, they were provoked to anger, and said: « These are the words that Isaiah spake, that 'he saw God and His Son.' Come, let us slay Jeremiah, but not as we slew Isaiah. Let us rather stone him with stones. »

And Baruch and Abimelech were sorely grieved, for they were desirous to hear from Jeremiah the secret mystery he had seen; so they wept bitterly.

But Jeremiah said unto them: « Weep not, and be not grieved, for they cannot slay me ere I have told you everything. Do ye bring to me a large stone. »

And they brought it.

Then Jeremiah said: « Lord God, New Light of Israel: make this stone to be like me, until I have told unto Baruch and unto Abimelech, all the mysteries Thou hast revealed unto me. »

And, through the will of God, the stone became as a man in the likeness of Jere-
and the people began to cast stones at the stone, thinking that it was Jeremiah himself. And Jeremiah told everything, and Baruch wrote it in his book. And then Jeremiah went and halted among the people.

And the stone raised its voice, saying:
« Mad and foolish, children of Israel, why do ye stone me, a stone, thinking that I am Jeremiah? Behold, Jeremiah is standing among you! »

And the stone once more became a mass of rock. And when the people saw Jeremiah, they all ran upon him and stoned him. And Jeremiah was put to death by them on the first day of May. And Baruch and Abimelech buried him, and set up the stone upon his tomb, and they wrote upon it, that « This stone came to the assistance of Jeremiah. »

And some time afterwards, Nephtali, a king of Alexandria, removed the bones of Jeremiah into Alexandria, and around the walls of the city buried with honour each one of the bones; and all the crocodiles that were hurtful things died, and those
miah; and the people thinking that it was Jeremiah himself began to stone it. Meanwhile Jeremiah told everything to Baruch and Abimelech, and then he went and stood among the people.

Then the man of stone cried out in a man's voice, saying: "Ye foolish ones! Behold. Jeremiah stands amongst you, why do ye stone me?"

And again it turned to a stone. Then the crowd having seen Jeremiah, stoned him; and he knelt down to pray, and to entreat for the pardon of those who stoned him. Thus he was put to death in that place, and was buried by his disciples Abimelech and Baruch, who placed the stone upon his tomb, as a witness of the martyrdom of the prophet, and upon it they wrote, that this was the stone that came to the assistance of Jeremiah, and was stoned with him.

And the Egyptians greatly honoured and exalted Jeremiah, because they were benefitted by him, and through him they had found the mercy of God. For, while he was living, he through his prayers, destroyed the asp, and the crocodile, the wild beast...
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who saw the wonders gave praise unto God. Amen.
that lives in the water, both of which caused much damage to the inhabitants of the country.

But Alexander, the Macedonian king, having learned those wonders, removed the relics of the prophet into Alexandria, his city, and there he laid them with pomp and great honour. And by the walls of the city, he placed with honour one of the ribs of the holy prophet, and there also the asps and the crocodiles were destroyed.

Jeremiah gave a sign to the Egyptians that their idols should be shaken and fall down, and go to pieces, by reason of an Infant born of a Virgin, the Saviour of Israel.