

two or three chapters of somewhat similar character dozens of chapters in Isaiah, but Jeremiah had the difficult task of being the prophet of doom and misery. Isaiah said to the people: Sennacherib is coming with his great army, he is going to surround Jerusalem; you are going to be in terrible danger, but God is going to protect you and deliver you from Sennacherib. God told Jer. to say: Neb. is coming with his arm. He is going to conquer Jerusalem. You must surrender to him. If you surrender you will lose everything you have but you will save your lives. If you don't surrender you will either be killed or taken off in to captivity. For a patriotic citizen of Judah, think what a difficult and miserable task this seemed to be.

Then after Jerusalem had been destroyed, Jer. continued to live in the area with the comparatively few people who were left in the land, and here I think he had one of the saddest parts of his life. It is described in chs.42 and following. Jer. urged these people to submit to Neb. He said, God has turned this area over to Neb. Even when Jer. was writing the book of Lamentations expressing his sorrow over the destruction of Jerusalem he was urging these people to submit to Neb., and the people refused to do it and instead went to the man who had been appointed ruler over the area and assassinated him despite Jeremiah's ~~the~~ urging them to not do it. Then we find that they said(in ch. 42): We are going to go down to Egypt, and flee from Neb. and be saved in Egypt. We read there in vs. 8-17, Jer. said to them: No you should stay here. Let us look at those verses -- Jer. 42:8: "Then called he . . . (reading text)"

After Jeremiah gave these words and declared this was the will of ~~the~~ Lord, we find in ch. 43:2-7 that the attitude of the people was to refuse to obey his words. They fled into Egypt and seized Jer. and took him with them down into Egypt. So he spent his last days there in Egypt trying there to present God's message to a rebellious people. What a sad life Jeremiah had. What a life that seemed to be a life of failure.