

Jer. 45:1 ¶ The word that Jeremiah the prophet spake unto Baruch the son of Neriah, when he had written these words in a book at the mouth of Jeremiah, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, saying,
Jer. 45:2 Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, unto thee, O Baruch;
Jer. 45:3 Thou didst say, Woe is me now! for the LORD hath added grief to my sorrow; I fainted in my sighing, and I find no rest.

Some times I wonder at the organization of this book. That being said, this chapter jumps back in time identified as the fourth year of the reign of Jehoiakim.

The LORD is responding to words uttered by an obviously depressed Baruch. This depression came after taking dictation from Jeremiah for the scroll. It would seem the depression was prompted by the declared judgment of God on the horizon.

I wonder if this was after taking dictation of the second scroll to replace the one that the king destroyed.

Jer. 45:4 Thus shalt thou say unto him, The LORD saith thus; Behold, *that* which I have built will I break down, and that which I have planted I will pluck up, even this whole land.
Jer. 45:5 And seekest thou great things for thyself? seek *them* not: for, behold, I will bring evil upon all flesh, saith the LORD: but thy life will I give unto thee for a prey in all places whither thou goest.

Jeremiah is instructed to tell Baruch that judgment is certain, but that he is not to consider these things with thoughts of what could have been—his own desires for the future. Yes, he is going to experience tough times, but God is going to protect his life.

Maybe this little note was put here to tell us that Baruch and Jeremiah were allowed to be part of the remnant that escaped the declared judgment on Egypt.

I was also reminded of the scriptures that Baruch could and should have been clinging to.

Psalms 18:30 "As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him."

Psalms 103:17–18 "But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them."