



博愛讀經

Agape Bible Reading

追求真知，归和真神，活出真愛

Seek the wisdom, Reconcile to the true God, Live out true Agape

博愛路 Agape Way, PO Box 16275, Chapel Hill, NC 27516; agapeway@gmail.com; 919-432-5188; agapeway.org

ABR177

困难与灾难

Difficulties and Disasters

耶利米书 Jeremiah 37-39

李万兵 Wanbing Frank Li, PhD

当前美国正在经历大选的过程。政治家们受到舆论的考验，特别是媒体对其印象的考验，因为在很大程度上媒体控制了大众舆论。社会大众对某个候选人的印象是至关重要的。一般说来，“政治正确”是赢得公众支持的关键。

“政治正确”不只是现代社会的问题。这对于2000年以前的犹太王西底家也是一个困难的挑战，如在耶利米书37-39章记载的那样。

西底家被巴比伦王尼布甲尼撒设立在犹大地作王，而巴比伦王是犹大地的入侵者和占领者。西底家王认为他需要赢得犹太人的支持，他的王位才能得以延续。他极其热爱权力，努力成为政治正确，为要给人们这样的

Right now the United States of America is experiencing the process of election. Politicians are tested by public opinions, especially by the perceptions of the media, which in a large degree control the public opinions. It is critical how the general public perceive a candidate. Generally “political correct” is a key to win the public support.

“Politically correct” is not just modern issue. It was a difficult struggle for Jewish King Zedekiah more than two thousand years ago, as recorded in the chapters 37-39 of the book of Jeremiah.

Zedekiah was made king in the land of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon who invaded and occupied the land. King Zedekiah thought that he needed to win the support of the people of Judah for his kingship to survive. He loved the power so much that he tried very hard to be politically correct in order to give the people the

印象：他是为他们服务的，而不是为占领者的。

西底家被巴比伦王设立为王。但是，他用埃及人对抗迦勒底人。巴比伦的军队围困耶路撒冷城数年。西底家王试图以自己的智慧去处理那种困难的状况。

依靠他自己的智慧

一方面，西底家求先知耶利米为他和他的子民祷告(耶利米书 37:3)，但另外一方面，他并不采纳耶利米有关投降巴比伦人的劝告，因为那就可能摧毁他深受欢迎的权力基础。

讨好军队

西底家试图讨他的臣仆们，特别是军队将领们的欢心，因为他们有能力推翻他。

首领对王说：“求你将这人治死，因他向城里剩下的兵丁和众民说这样的话，使他们的手发软。这人不是求这百姓得平安，乃是叫他们受灾祸。”西底家王说：“他在你们手中，无论何事，王也不能与你们反对。”(耶利米书 38:4-5)

当然西底家要处理大有能力的军队是很困难的。他需要军队的支持，甚至他的性命方能得以存活。

impression that he was for them, not for the occupiers.

Zedekiah was made king by the Babylonian king, but he used Egyptians against the Chaldeans. The Babylonian army besieged the city of Jerusalem for years. King Zedekiah tried to deal with the difficult situation with his own wisdom.

Rely on His Own Wisdom

On one hand, Zedekiah asked Jeremiah the prophet to pray for him and his people (Jeremiah 37:3), but on the other hand, he did not take the advice of Jeremiah to surrender to the Babylonians, because that might destroy his popular power base.

Please Military

Zedekiah tried to please his officials, especially the military officials who had the powers to overthrow him.

The officials said to the king, "Now let this man be put to death, inasmuch as he is discouraging the men of war who are left in this city and all the people, by speaking such words to them; for this man is not seeking the well-being of this people but rather their harm." So King Zedekiah said, "Behold, he is in your hands; for the king can do nothing against you." (Jeremiah 38:4-5)

Of course it was difficult for Zedekiah to deal with the powerful military. He needed the support of the military in order to survive even physically.

避免行大恶

军队的将军们希望杀掉先知耶利米，并放他在水牢里面，西底家王试图避免大恶，派 30 人去救出耶利米，让他不至于在淤泥里面饿死：

王就吩咐古实人以伯米勒说：“你从这里带领三十人，趁着先知耶利米未死以前，将他从牢狱中提上来。”（耶利米书 38:10）

避免得罪人们

西底家王征求先知耶利米的意见。他的利益和权柄可以让他释放耶利米，但西底家害怕他的臣仆，他就仅仅试图掩盖他与先知耶利米见面谈话的内容（耶利米书 38:24），因为他不想得罪军队将领们和犹太人。

惧怕犹太人

因为西底家王是被设立为王的，他努力避免叛徒的形象，害怕人民可能因那种形象而虐待他。

西底家王对耶利米说：“我怕那些投降迦勒底人的犹太人，恐怕迦勒底人将我交在他们手中，他们戏弄我。”（耶利米书 38:19）

严厉的惩罚

西底家王努力寻找到窄路来行走，但最终他失去了他希望保持的一切。

Avoid Great Evils

The military officials wanted to kill Jeremiah the prophet, and casted him into the cistern. King Zedekiah tried to avoid great evils by sending 30 people to save Jeremiah from starving to death in the mud:

The king commanded Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, saying, "Take thirty men from here under your authority and bring up Jeremiah the prophet from the cistern before he dies." (Jeremiah 38:10)

Avoid Offending People

King Zedekiah sought advice from Jeremiah the prophet. He had the interests and the authority to release Jeremiah, but Zedekiah was afraid of his officials so he just tried to hide the content of his interview with Jeremiah the prophet (Jeremiah 38:24), because he did not want to offend the military officials and the people of Judah.

Fear of the Jews

Because King Zedekiah was made the king of Judah, he tried very hard to avoid the image of a traitor, and feared that people might abuse him because of it.

King Zedekiah said to Jeremiah, "I dread the Jews who have gone over to the Chaldeans, for they may give me over into their hand and they will abuse me." (Jeremiah 38:19)

Severe Punishments

King Zedekiah tried very hard to find a narrow road to walk, but in the end he lost everything he tried to keep.

The king of Babylon slew the sons of

巴比伦王在利比拉、西底家眼前杀了他的众子，又杀了犹大的一切贵胄。7 并且剜西底家的眼睛，用铜链锁着他，要带到巴比伦去。8 迦勒底人用火焚烧王宫和百姓的房屋，又拆毁耶路撒冷的城墙。(耶利米书 39:6-8)

西底家王处理犹大地的情况是极其困难的。他被迫入侵略者设立在犹大地作王，但他希望被看作为犹太人的王。他使用自己的政治智慧来稳固他的权力基础，避免做任何极端的事情，以保持其政治生命，最终他被严厉地惩罚，因为他依赖他自己的智慧去处理困难的状况，而不是依靠富有恩典慈爱的上帝和通过其先知的启示。最终西底家王遭受他人生的灾难。

今天许多政治家都努力保持他们的地位，如西底家王那样。或许最终他们也会丧失他们努力保持的所有一切。

我们大家都需要作出困难的决定，以避免最终的灾难。只有依赖上帝和祂的启示才会给我们这样的智慧和勇气。

或许我们都需要更多的时间来反思这些的字句：

‘你知己的朋友催逼你，胜过你，见你的脚陷入淤泥中，就转身退后了。’

Zedekiah before his eyes at Riblah; the king of Babylon also slew all the nobles of Judah. 7 He then blinded Zedekiah's eyes and bound him in fetters of bronze to bring him to Babylon. 8 The Chaldeans also burned with fire the king's palace and the houses of the people, and they broke down the walls of Jerusalem. (Jeremiah 39:6-8)

It is difficult for King Zedekiah to deal with the situation in the land of Judah. He was made the king in the land of Judah by the invader, but he wanted to be seen as a king for the Jews. He used his own political wisdoms to stabilize his power base; avoiding doing anything extreme in order to survive politically, in the end he was punished severely, because he relied on his own wisdoms to deal the difficult situations instead of relying on the merciful God and His revelations through His prophet. In the end Zedekiah received disasters of his life.

Today many politicians try very hard to keep their positions, like King Zedekiah did. Probably in the end they will lose all things they tried to keep as well.

We all may need to make difficult decisions to avoid disasters in the end. Only relying on God and His revelations may we have such a wisdom and courage.

We all may need more time to reflect the following words:

'Your trusted friends have deceived you and prevailed against you; now that your feet are sunk in the mud, they turn away from you.' (Jeremiah 38:22)

(耶利米书 38:22)

今天谁或者什么是“你知己的朋友”呢？今天你的脚陷入淤泥了吗？注意，或许正是你所爱的知己朋友让你陷入泥潭，而你陷入泥潭之后，“你知己的朋友”可能会永远的离开你！

Who or what are “your trusted friends” today? Are your feet sinking in the mud today? Be careful, maybe your beloved trusted friends make you sink in the mud. In the end “your trusted friends” may leave you forever.

ABR177HQ

博愛读经问题 ABR Questions

阅读: 路加福音 21 章; 诗篇 119:161-176; 耶利米书 37-41 章

Weekly Bible reading: Luke 21; Psalm 119:161-176; Jeremiah 37-41

礼拜六 Saturday

- 读经 Bible Reading: 路加福音 21 章; Luke 21
- 路 21:8 耶稣说：“你们要谨慎，不要受迷惑，因为将来有好些人冒我的名来，说‘我是[基督]’又说：‘时候近了！’你们不要跟从他们。”
- 问题：如何才能认定谁是真正的基督呢？今天确实接近末世了吗？我们怎样才不会跟随错的基督呢？
- Luke 21:8 And He said, "See to it that you are not misled; for many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not go after them.
- Question: How can we recognize true Christ? Is the time near today? How do we not to follow a wrong Christ?

礼拜天 Sunday

- 读经 Bible Reading: 诗篇 119:161-176; Psalm 119:161-176
- 诗 119:176 我如亡羊走迷了路，求你寻找仆人，因我不忘记你的命令。
- 问题：他没有忘记上帝的命令，为什么还是如亡羊走迷了路？
- Psalm 119:176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Your servant, For I do not forget Your commandments.
- Question: He did not forget God's commandments, why did he still go astray like a lost sheep?

礼拜一 Monday

- 读经 Bible Reading: 耶利米书 37 章; Jeremiah 37
- 耶 37:2 但西底家和他的臣仆，并国中的百姓，都不听从耶和华借先知耶利米所说的话。3 西底家王打发示利米雅的儿子犹甲和祭司玛西雅的儿子西番雅，去见先知耶利米，说：“求你为我们祷告耶和华我们的上帝。”
- 问题：西底家王和他的百姓都不听从先知耶利米，为什么他还请求耶利米为他们祷告呢？这意味着什么？
- Jeremiah 37:2 But neither he (King Zedekiah) nor his servants nor the people of the land listened to the words of the LORD that he spoke through Jeremiah the prophet. 3 King Zedekiah sent Jehucal the son of Shelemiah, and Zephaniah the priest, the son of Maaseiah, to Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "Please pray for us to the LORD our God."
- Question: King Zedekiah and his people did not listen to Jeremiah the prophet, why did he ask Jeremiah to pray for them? What is the implication?

礼拜二 Tuesday

- 读经 Bible Reading: 耶利米书 38 章; Jeremiah 38
- 耶 38:5 西底家王说：“他在你们手中，无论何事，王也不能与你们反对。”
- 问题：这节经文意味着什么？
- Jeremiah 38:5 So King Zedekiah said, "Behold, he is in your hands; for the king can do nothing against you."
- Question: What is the implication of this verse?

- 耶 38:19 西底家王对耶利米说：“我怕那些投降迦勒底人的犹太人，恐怕迦勒底人将我交在他们手中，他们戏弄我。”
- 问题：这节经文表现西底家王什么样的品德？
- Jeremiah 38:19 Then King Zedekiah said to Jeremiah, "I dread the Jews who have gone over to the Chaldeans, for they may give me over into their hand and they will abuse me."
- Question: What does this verse indicate about the character of King Zedekiah?

礼拜三 Wednesday

- 读经 Bible Reading: 耶利米书 39 章; Jeremiah 39
- 耶 39:6 巴比伦王在利比拉、西底家眼前杀了他的众子，又杀了犹大的一切贵胄。7 并且剜西底家的眼睛，用铜链锁着他，要带到巴比伦去。
- 问题：从这个犹大王这里，你学习到什么功课？
- Jeremiah 39:6 Then the king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes at Riblah; the king of Babylon also slew all the nobles of Judah. 7 He then blinded Zedekiah's eyes and bound him in fetters of bronze to bring him to Babylon.
- Question: What is the lesson you have learned from this Judean king?

礼拜四 Thursday

- 读经 Bible Reading: 耶利米书 40 章; Jeremiah 40
- 耶 40:13 加利亚的儿子约哈难和在田野的一切军长，来到米斯巴见基大利，14 对他说：“亚扪人的王巴利斯，打发尼探雅的儿子以实玛利来要你的命，你知道吗？”亚希甘的儿子基大利却不信他们的话。
- 问题：基大利不去怀疑以实玛利，是因为他善良并有根据不去怀疑，还是因为他缺乏智慧？
- Jeremiah 40:13 Now Johanan the son of Kareah and all the commanders of the forces that were in the field came to Gedaliah at Mizpah 14 and said to him, "Are you well aware that Baalis the king of the sons of Ammon has sent Ishmael the son of Nethaniah to take your life?" But Gedaliah the son of Ahikam did not believe them.
- Question: Gedaliah did not doubt Ishmael. Was it because he was kind and had the fundamental information to do so, or because he lacked the basic wisdom?

礼拜五 Friday

- 读经 Bible Reading: 耶利米书 41 章; Jeremiah 41
- 耶 41:2 尼探雅的儿子以实玛利和同他来的那十个人起来，用刀杀了沙番的孙子亚希甘的儿子基大利，就是巴比伦王所立为全地省长的。
- 问题：这个情节告诉我们什么？
- Jeremiah 41:2 Ishmael the son of Nethaniah and the ten men who were with him arose and struck down Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, with the sword and put to death the one whom the king of Babylon had appointed over the land. 3 Ishmael also struck down all the Jews who were with him, that is with Gedaliah at Mizpah, and the Chaldeans who were found there, the men of war.
- Question: What does the scenario tell us about Gedaliah?

- 耶 41:18 因为尼探雅的儿子以实玛利杀了巴比伦王所立为省长的亚希甘的儿子基大利，约哈难惧怕迦勒底人。
- 问题：他们没有杀犹大省长，为什么他们惧怕迦勒底人呢？
- Jeremiah 41:18 because of the Chaldeans; for they were afraid of them, since Ishmael the son of Nethaniah had struck down Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, whom the king of Babylon had appointed over the land.
- Question: They did not kill the governor, why did they fear the Chaldeans?

背诵: 耶 38:20 耶利米说：“迦勒底人必不将你交出。求你听从我对你所说耶和華的话。这样，你必得好处，你的命也必存活。

Memorize: Jeremiah 38:20 But Jeremiah said, "They will not give you over. Please obey the LORD in what I am saying to you, that it may go well with you and you may live.

博愛读经提示

ABR Hints

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- 问题: 如何才能认定谁是真正的基督呢? 今天确实接近末世了吗? 我们怎样才不会跟随错的基督呢?
- Luke 21:8 And He said, "See to it that you are not misled; for many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not go after them.
- Question: How can we recognize true Christ? Is the time near today? How do we not to follow a wrong Christ?

提示 Hints

请分享你的想法。

Please share your thoughts.

礼拜天 Sunday

- 读经 Bible Reading: 诗篇 119:161-176; Psalm 119:161-176
- 诗 119:176 我如亡羊走迷了路, 求你寻找仆人, 因我不忘记你的命令。
- 问题: 他没有忘记上帝的命令, 为什么还是如亡羊走迷了路?
- Psalm 119:176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Your servant, For I do not forget Your commandments.
- Question: He did not forget God's commandments, why did he still go astray like a lost sheep?

提示 Hints

虽然作者没有忘记上帝的命令, 他还是不能够依靠他自己的力量。此乃是谦卑的态度。

Even though the author did not forget God's commandments, he still could not depend on his own strength. It is a humble attitude.

礼拜一 Monday

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- 耶 37:2 但西底家和他的臣仆，并国中的百姓，都不听从耶和华借先知耶利米所说的话。3 西底家王打发示利米雅的儿子犹甲和祭司玛西雅的儿子西番雅，去见先知耶利米，说：“求你为我们祷告耶和华我们的上帝。”
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- Question: King Zedekiah and his people did not listen to Jeremiah the prophet, why did he ask Jeremiah to pray for them? What is the implication?

提示 Hints

虽然西底家王对耶利米有怀疑，他对自己也有怀疑。因此他试图保持一个平衡，让自己能够开放。但是，他自己的利益使得他不能完全对上帝开放。

Although King Zedekiah had doubts about Jeremiah, he might also have doubts about himself. So he tried to keep the balance and keep himself open. However his own interests kept him from opening up to God completely.

礼拜二 Tuesday

- 读经 Bible Reading: 耶利米书 38 章; Jeremiah 38
- 耶 38:5 西底家王说：“他在你们手中，无论何事，王也不能与你们反对。”
- 问题：这节经文意味着什么？
- Jeremiah 38:5 So King Zedekiah said, "Behold, he is in your hands; for the king can do nothing against you."
- Question: What is the implication of this verse?

提示 Hints

或许因为西底家王是由巴比伦王设立在犹大地作王的，西底家王是一个软弱的

Because King Zedekiah was made king in the land of Judah by the king of Babylon, he was a weak

君王。他认为他做任何事情都不能违背他的军事领袖的意愿，否则他们就可能起来推翻他。

king. He thought that he was not able to do anything against the will of his military leaders. Otherwise they might overthrow him.

- 耶 38:19 西底家王对耶利米说：“我怕那些投降迦勒底人的犹太人，恐怕迦勒底人将我交在他们手中，他们戏弄我。”
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- Question: What does this verse indicate about the character of King Zedekiah?

提示 Hints

因为西底家是被巴比伦王尼布甲尼撒设立在犹大地作王的，他很关注他的自我，犹太人会怎样看他。他很关心他个人会失去什么。

Because King Zedekiah was made king in the land of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, he cared a lot to his ego and how the Jewish people might see him. He cared very much about what he might lose at the personal level.

礼拜三 Wednesday

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- Question: What is the lesson you have learned from this Judean king?

提示 Hints

因着他对上帝的不服，他带给他自己和其他人严重的损失。

He brought severe damages to himself and others because of his disobedience to God.

礼拜四 Thursday

- 读经 Bible Reading: 耶利米书 40 章; Jeremiah 40
- 耶 40:13 加利亚的儿子约哈难和在田野的一切军长，来到米斯巴见基大利，14 对他说：“亚扪人的王巴利斯，打发尼探雅的儿子以实玛利来要你的命，你知道吗？”亚希甘的儿子基大利却不信他们的话。
- 问题：基大利不去怀疑以实玛利，是因为他善良并有根据不去怀疑，还是因为他缺乏智慧？
- Jeremiah 40:13 Now Johanan the son of Kareah and all the commanders of the forces that were in the field came to Gedaliah at Mizpah 14 and said to him, "Are you well aware that Baalis the king of the sons of Ammon has sent Ishmael the son of Nethaniah to take your life?" But Gedaliah the son of Ahikam did not believe them.
- Question: Gedaliah did not doubt Ishmael. Was it because he was kind and had the fundamental information to do so, or because he lacked the basic wisdom?

提示 Hints

结果表明他作为领袖缺乏基本的智慧。

The result displayed that he as a leader lacked the basic wisdom.

礼拜五 Friday

- 读经 Bible Reading: 耶利米书 41 章; Jeremiah 41
- 耶 41:2 尼探雅的儿子以实玛利和同他来的那十个人起来，用刀杀了沙番的孙子亚希甘的儿子基大利，就是巴比伦王所立为全地省长的。
- 问题：这个情节告诉我们什么？
- Jeremiah 41:2 Ishmael the son of Nethaniah and the ten men who were with him arose and struck down Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, with the sword and put to death the one whom the king of Babylon had appointed over the land. 3 Ishmael also struck down all the Jews who were with him, that is with Gedaliah at Mizpah, and the Chaldeans who were found there, the men of war.
- Question: What does the scenario tell us about Gedaliah?

提示 Hints

基大利没有智慧。缺乏基本的保护自己和他人的防卫。

Gedaliah had no wisdom and had no basic defense for himself and others.

- 耶 41:18 因为尼探雅的儿子以实玛利杀了巴比伦王所立为省长的亚希甘的儿子基大利，约哈难惧怕迦勒底人。
- 问题：他们没有杀犹太省长，为什么他们惧怕迦勒底人呢？
- Jeremiah 41:18 because of the Chaldeans; for they were afraid of them, since Ishmael the son of Nethaniah had struck down Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, whom the king of Babylon had appointed over the land.
- Question: They did not kill the governor, why did they fear the Chaldeans?

提示 Hints

因为那些杀人的是犹太人，迦勒底人可能认为他们是在一起的。

Because the killers are Jews, the Chaldeans might consider that they were together.

背诵: 耶 38:20 耶利米说：“迦勒底人必不将你交出。求你听从我所说耶和華的话。这样，你必得好处，你的命也必存活。

Memorize: Jeremiah 38:20 But Jeremiah said, "They will not give you over. Please obey the LORD in what I am saying to you, that it may go well with you and you may live.

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