

**I. Jeremiah's goings**

v 1 - 6

1. Jeremiah's release
2. the captain's report
3. Jeremiah's reward

v 1 *the word to Jeremiah* - the prophecy is found in chapter 42:7

v 2 *God hath pronounced this evil* - **Deuteronomy 29:24-28, Jeremiah 22:8-9**

v 3 **Numbers 32:23**

**II. Judah's governor**

v 7 - 12

Gedaliah was a poor man with a rich spiritual history. His father Ahikam was an officer in King Josiah's court who had hearkened to Jeremiah's words, 2 Kings 25:22 & Jer 26:24.

Here we see God's hand of mercy : a bright opening of sky after the storm of judgment.

1. Gedaliah, a Jew, is made governor rather a Babylonian prince.
2. He swore an oath of good government over their dutiful labors, v 9-10.
3. Many Jews from many regions (v 11) came back to live under his rule being assured of his faithful leadership in their homeland.

v 10 doct: **Luke 19:17-19**

**III. Ishmael's guile**

v 13 - 16

Suddenly a dark cloud appears on the horizon of this new beginning. The devil moves *Baalis the king of the Ammonites* (v 14) to launch a plot against Gedaliah. Baalis, an age old enemy of the Jews, employs Ishmael as his instrument of malice against Gedaliah. When Johanan learns of the conspiracy he warns Gedaliah (v 15). Gedaliah, a sincere man himself, cannot believe that a fellow Jew would be a traitor. He was harmless as a dove, but had not the wisdom of a serpent, Mt 10:16.