

A Study of JEREMIAH



Lesson Seven – Chapters 33-36

GREAT AND MIGHTY THINGS

Jeremiah 33:1-13

- How does verse four illustrate the seriousness of Judah's condition as the siege continued?
- How do you explain the change between the **anger, fury, and death** of verse 5 and the **health and peace** of verse 6? Why the change? (Rom 11:22)
- Verse 8 speaks about **cleansing** and **pardon** of iniquities. What does such forgiveness presuppose? Based on all you know about God, **what must happen before such cleansing?**
- What, according to verses 9-11, was to cause God to be glorified?
- When Old Testament prophets like Isaiah and Jeremiah prophesy, is it more likely to be about (a) the fate of the nation, (b) the coming Messiah, or (c) both?

A BRANCH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Jeremiah 33:14-18

- What does the inclusion of “the house of Israel” in the prophecy of verse 14 suggest to you about how/when this prophecy is fulfilled? Was there ever a time when the physical nation of Israel (i.e., the ten Northern tribes) were reconstituted and blessed by God?
- Regarding the Son of David (v15-18)
 - Was there ever a time after the exile when Judah was again a free monarchy ruled by a descendant of David?
 - Who was the last son of David to seat on the throne in Jerusalem?
 - How then was this prophecy fulfilled? (Matt 1:1; Acts 2:30)

THE EVERLASTING PRIESTHOOD

Jeremiah 33:18

“Nor shall the priests, the Levites, lack a man to offer burnt offerings before Me, to kindle grain offerings, and to sacrifice continually.”

- This is clearly a Messianic prophecy
- But the Levitical priesthood was superseded by a new priesthood (Heb 7:11-24)
 - With Jesus as high priest – who was of the tribe of Judah and not of Levi (Heb 7:14)
 - And every Christian serving as priests (1Pet 2:5, 9; Rev 5:10, 20:6)
- So why are Levite priests specifically mentioned?
 - This was symbolic language to facilitate understanding by Jeremiah’s immediate audience about a future spiritual restoration (with new priests and new sacrifices)

THE SECURITY OF GOD'S COVENANT

Jeremiah 33:19-26

²⁰Thus says the LORD: 'If you can break My covenant with the day and My covenant with the night, so that there will not be day and night in their season, ²¹then My covenant may also be broken with David My servant, so that he shall not have a son to reign on his throne, and with the Levites, the priests...' (v20-21).

- In this verse (also 25-26) God states in the strongest possible terms that His promises regarding David and the Levites WILL be fulfilled!
 - Reminds us of His strong oath in Heb 6:13-18
 - And Paul's discussion of the restoration and salvation of Israel in Romans 11
 - Strange wording "multiply the seed of David" (v22 & 26) – He speaks of Christians. Perhaps because Christ is the Seed of David and we are of Christ.

NOTES ON CHAPTER 34

Jeremiah 34:1-7

- **Zedekiah's fate was terrible.**
 - His sons were killed before his eyes then his eyes were put out and he was taken to Babylon (2Kings 25:4-7)
- **But it could have been worse**
 - The Lord promised that he would not die by the sword but would die in peace with many lamenting him (Jer 35:4-5)
- **Note that by the time of chapter 34, Judah was mostly in the hands of the Babylonians**
 - Only three cities – Jerusalem, Lachish, and Azekah – were still free

BROKEN PROMISES

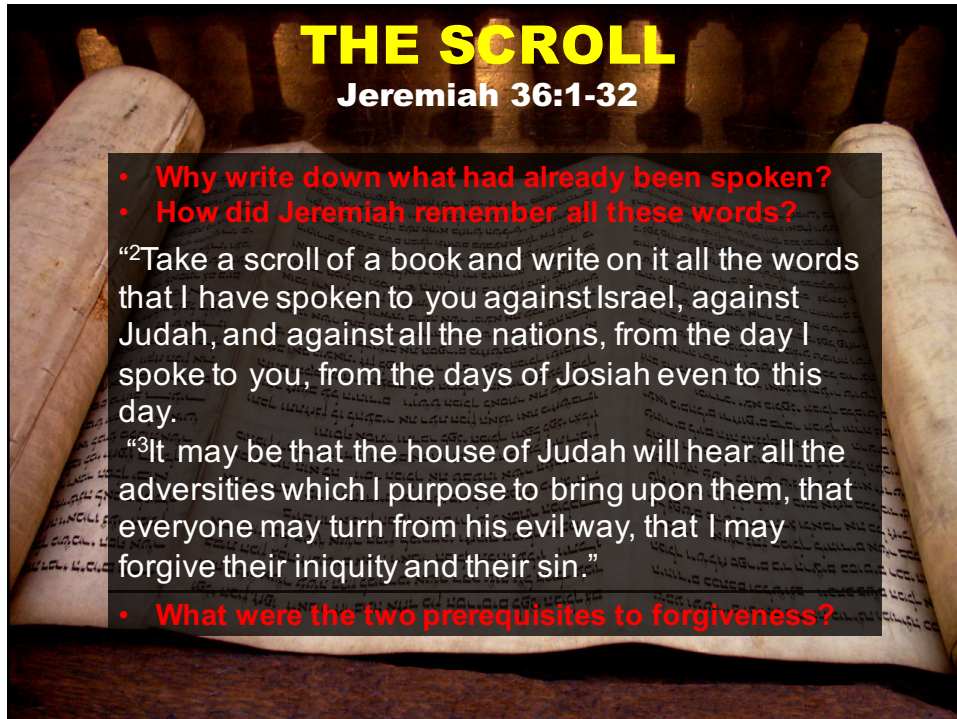
Jeremiah 34:8-22

- Many in Jerusalem had Jewish slaves
 - This practice was allowed but regulated by the law (Ex 21:1-6, esp. v2)
- King Zedekiah caused the people to “proclaim liberty” to these slaves (8-9)
 - Perhaps because of the disaster the nation faced
 - And because they had been enslaved more than seven years that was allowed (v14)
 - The slave owners did as Zedekiah requested (v10)
 - “But afterward they changed their minds” (v11)
- The Lord was not pleased!
 - This was a clear violation of the covenant (v13, 18)
 - And they were to pay for their rebellion (19-22)

THE EXAMPLE OF THE RECHABITES

Jeremiah 35:1-19

- The Rechabites
 - A clan of Kenites who were descendants of Rechab through Jehonadab. (1Chron 2:55; Jer 35:6)
 - Commanded by their father, Jehonadab, to live a nomadic lifestyle and not to drink wine (Jer 35:6-7). They obeyed him completely (v8)
 - They were currently residing within the walls of Jerusalem out of fear of the Babylonians (v11)
- At the Lord’s command, Jeremiah had them brought into the temple area and offered them wine (v2-4)
- They replied, “We will drink no wine...” (v6)
- The Lord said to Judah, ‘Why can’t you be obedient to your Father as the Rechabites are to their father (v14-16)



THE SCROLL

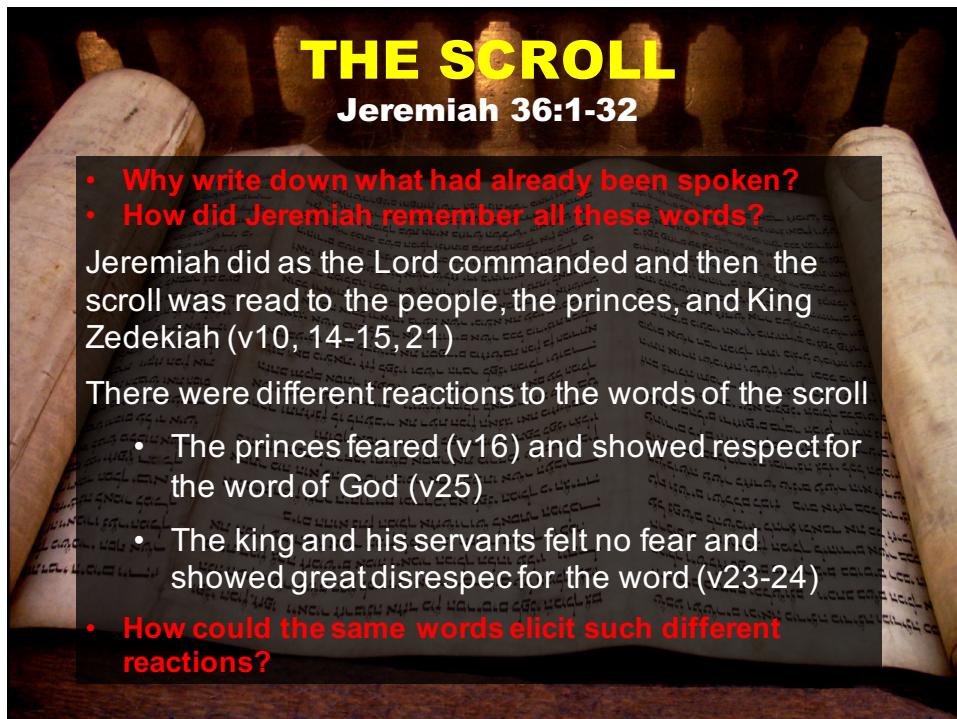
Jeremiah 36:1-32

- Why write down what had already been spoken?
- How did Jeremiah remember all these words?

“²Take a scroll of a book and write on it all the words that I have spoken to you against Israel, against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spoke to you, from the days of Josiah even to this day.

“³It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the adversities which I purpose to bring upon them, that everyone may turn from his evil way, that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin.”

- What were the two prerequisites to forgiveness?



THE SCROLL

Jeremiah 36:1-32

- Why write down what had already been spoken?
- How did Jeremiah remember all these words?

Jeremiah did as the Lord commanded and then the scroll was read to the people, the princes, and King Zedekiah (v10, 14-15, 21)

There were different reactions to the words of the scroll

- The princes feared (v16) and showed respect for the word of God (v25)
- The king and his servants felt no fear and showed great disrespect for the word (v23-24)

- How could the same words elicit such different reactions?

THE SCROLL

Jeremiah 36:1-32

- How successful was the King in opposing God's will?
- Any similar efforts to selectively reject God's words today? With what results?

The Lord said to Jeremiah, "Take yet another scroll, and write on it all the former words that were in the first scroll which Jehoiakim the king of Judah has burned" (v28)

"I will punish him, his family, and his servants for their iniquity; and I will bring on them, on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and on the men of Judah all the doom that I have pronounced against them; but they did not heed" (v31)

- Reconcile v30 with 2Kings 24:6 and 2Chr 36:6?