

# A Study of **JEREMIAH**



Lesson Six– Chapters 21-24

## **JEREMIAH'S MESSAGE TO ZEDEKIAH**

Jeremiah 21: 1–14

1. Zedekiah was the last king of Judah

### **KINGS OF JUDAH IN THE TIME OF JEREMIAH**

1. Josiah
2. Jehoahaz
3. Jehoiakim
4. Jehoiachin
5. Zedekiah
6. Captivity



## JEREMIAH'S MESSAGE TO ZEDEKIAH

### Jeremiah 21: 1–14

1. King Zedekiah wanted to know, 'We are in trouble. Will God save us from Nebuchadnezzar as He saved us from other enemies in the past'?
2. God's response through Jeremiah was a resounding 'No!'
  - "I Myself will fight against you with an outstretched hand and with a strong arm, even in anger and fury and great wrath" (v5).
  - They will suffer the judgment of pestilence, the sword, and famine (v7)
  - There would be no escape, no pity, and no mercy (v7)

## EVEN AT THIS LATE DATE – HOPE!

### Jeremiah 21: 8–10

"Behold, I set before you the way of life and the way of death."

1. A great catastrophe was coming but there was still hope – if the right choice was made
  - Stay in Jerusalem and die
  - Defect to the besieging Babylonians and live
2. Like the challenge of Deut 30:19, "...I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live."
3. What are hard thing for Jeremiah to proclaim! And even harder for Judah to hear and to heed! (2Tim 2:2-4)
4. God always offers salvation – but hard choices are often involved

## HARD CHOICES...

Jeremiah 21:8–10

1. Abraham had to choose between comfort in Ur or a dusty tent in a strange land
2. Moses had to choose between a life as royalty or the adversity of the wilderness
3. Paul had to choose between Jewish fame or persecution and hardship as a follower of Christ
4. Jesus had to choose between the pleasures offered by Satan and a life and death of suffering
5. They all made the hard choose – and the right choose
6. Does God also call on us to make hard choices?  
Examples?
7. What will we choose, “the way of life or the way of death?”

## INSTRUCTION FOR THE KING

Jeremiah 21:11–22:9

1. Those serving a kings of Judah were given great power along with great responsibility and accountability (Luke 12:48)
2. But, for the most part, they failed miserably!
3. To them God said:
  - Execute judgment and righteousness against the oppressors (21:12, 22:3)
  - Do no wrong or violence to the stranger, orphans, widows, or other innocents (22:3)
4. Their response would have consequences (22:4-9)

## MESSAGE AGAINST JEHOAHAZ

Jeremiah 22: 10–12

1. Jehoahaz became king at age 23 when his father, Josiah, died. He reigned only three months then Necho took him prisoner into Egypt (2Kings 24:31-33)

### KINGS OF JUDAH IN THE TIME OF JEREMIAH

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## MESSAGE AGAINST JEHOIAKIM

Jeremiah 22: 13–23

1. Necho put Jehoahaz's 25 year old brother on the throne in his place (2Chr 36:4)

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## MESSAGE AGAINST JEHOIAKIM

Jeremiah 22: 13–23

*“Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness And his chambers by injustice, Who uses his neighbor’s service without wages and gives him nothing for his work” (v13).*



Suppose a brother owns an auto repair shop...

- Should you expect a fair deal from him?
- A good deal?
- A free deal?

If you are the shop owner, what should you expect from a customer who is a brother?

## MESSAGE AGAINST JEHOIAKIM

Jeremiah 22: 15–16

### LESSONS JEHOIAKIM COULD LEARN FROM HIS FATHER, JOSIAH

Want to have things go well for you?

**Obey God!**

Want to have a close relationship with God –  
to really know Him?

**Obey Him!**

## MESSAGE AGAINST JEHOIAKIM

Jeremiah 22: 18–23

**GOD FIERCE WRATH COULD NOT BE DENIED. JEHOIAKIM DIED AN IGNOBLE DEATH JUST LIKE JEREMIAH PROPHESED**

- Nebuchadnezzar had Jehoiakim bound in bronze fetters with plans to take him to Babylon (2Chr 36:10)
- But instead he was killed outside Jerusalem and left to rot on the ground like an animal – with no funeral and no burial (Jer 22:18-19, 36:30)

## MESSAGE AGAINST JEHOIACHIN

Jeremiah 22: 24–30

- Jehoiachin, son of Jehoiakim, became king at age 18 and reigned for 3 months (2Kings 24:6, 8)

### KINGS OF JUDAH IN THE TIME OF JEREMIAH

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## MESSAGE AGAINST JEHOIACHIN

Jeremiah 22:24–30

“As I live,” says the LORD, “though Coniah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, were the signet on My right hand, yet I would pluck you off” (24)



“Thus says the LORD: ‘Write this man down as **childless**, a man who shall not prosper in his days; For none of his descendants shall prosper, sitting on the **throne of David**, and ruling anymore in Judah.’”

What about Jesus?

What about Shealtiel?

## ‘WRITE HIM AS CHILDLESS’

Jeremiah 22:30

“Thus says the LORD: ‘Write this man down as childless, a man who shall not prosper in his days; For none of his descendants shall prosper, sitting on the throne of David, and ruling anymore in Judah.’”

- Jehoiachin was the last in the Davidic line to serve as king on the throne in Jerusalem. When he went into captivity, his uncle (not his son) served as king. And Zechariah died long before Jehoiachin did.
- While in Babylonian captivity, he had a son, Shealtiel (Matt 1:12)
- **Matthew’s genealogy** shows Jesus’ link (through his legal, but not biological, father, Joseph) to the throne of David through Shealtiel, the son of Jehoiachin (Matt 1:12)
- **Luke’s genealogy** Shows Jesus to be of the (biological) seed of David though the lineage of Mary. She was NOT a descendant through Jehoiachin and the kingly lineage. Instead, she was a descendant of David through his son Nathan rather than Solomon (Luke 3:31; Rom 1:3)

**So Jeremiah’s prophecy came true. Jehoiachin reigned only 3 months. None of his seed became king.**

## “Woe to the Shepherds”

Jeremiah 23: 1–2

In recent chapters, Jeremiah has prophesied against three kings of Judah – Zedekiah, Jehoiakim, and Jehoiachin

In Jer 23:1-2 he addresses Judah’s sinful leadership in general; revealing both their sin and their coming judgment.



## A PROMISE OF RESTORATION

Jeremiah 23: 3–4

“I will gather the remnant”

- Unlike the bad shepherds who caused them to be scattered
- Applies to the return from Babylonian captivity
- But even more so to the Messianic age

I will set up [new] shepherds – to feed, protect

- Men like Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah?
- And/or Apostles, prophets, elders, etc. of the Messianic age?



## “THE DAYS ARE COMING”

Jeremiah 23:5-8

### The Days are Coming

- Appropriate words for a book of prophecy
- Used 22 times in NKJV – 15 of these in Jeremiah
- “In those days” used 8 times in Jeremiah

### What is Coming?

- **Judgment** – Babylonian captivity (e.g., Jer 7:32)
- **Return from captivity** (e.g., Jer 30:3)
- **The Messianic Age** (e.g., Jer 23:5-6)

## “THE DAYS ARE COMING”

Jeremiah 23:5-8

### The Messiah is Coming! (5-6)

- A king is coming
- From the kingly lineage of David
- He will be a righteous king (5a, 5b, 6; Heb 1:8-9; Ps 45:6)
  - **Righteous** – “morally good : following religious or moral laws. Without sin or guilt. Just. Lawful.
  - **His name:** “The Lord our Righteousness” (6)
- He will reign over His kingdom
- He will save Israel (6; Matt 1:21)

### Deliverance from Captivity is Coming! (7-8)

- The coming deliverance will be so great it will be on everyone's mind and will totally overshadow the deliverance from Egypt.

## CONDEMNATION OF FALSE PROPHETS

Jeremiah 23:9–40



Jeremiah's heart was broken because of the proliferation of false prophets who preached lies to Israel and led the people away from God (9-10)

- They caused the land to be cursed (10)
- They were evil, wicked, and profane (10-11)
- They were adulterers (13)
- They caused the people to err (13, 32)
- They encourage people to keep on sinning (14)

## CONDEMNATION OF FALSE PROPHETS

Jeremiah 23:9–40

- They falsely claim to have miraculous visions (16, 25)
- Heeding them makes the people worthless (16)
- They promise peace and prosperity to the foolish (17)
- They had an opportunity to led the people to repentance but did not do so (22)
- They try to make the people forget God (27)
- They stole God's word from their neighbor (30)
- They perverted the word of the living God (36)

## CONDEMNATION OF FALSE PROPHETS

Jeremiah 23:9–40

Just as there were false prophets in Jeremiah's day, they also troubled the people of the 1<sup>st</sup> century

- But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction" (2Pe 2:1 ).
- Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world" (1Jo 4:1 ).

And so there are today...

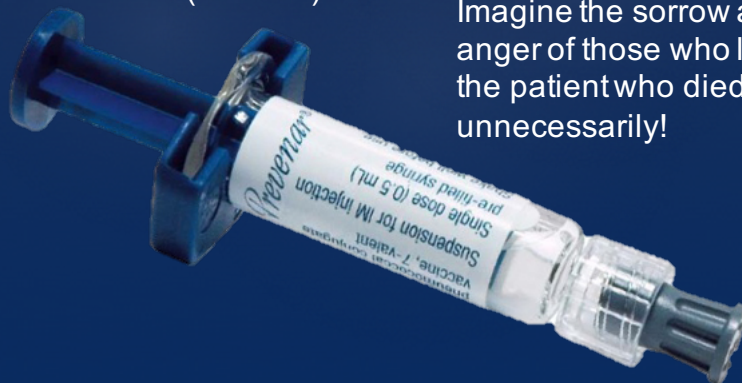
But they will all see the same end

- "Behold, I, even I, will utterly forget you and forsake you ... And I will bring an everlasting reproach upon you, and a perpetual shame, which shall not be forgotten." (Jer 23:39-40).

## CONDEMNATION OF FALSE PROPHETS

Jeremiah 23:9–40

What a tragedy when a so-called doctor has access to an effective vaccine to a terrible disease but he refuses to use it. Instead he makes up and administers a worthless concoction. As a result the patient dies an unnecessary death. It was no less than murder! (see v22)



Imagine the sorrow and anger of those who loved the patient who died unnecessarily!

## CONDEMNATION OF FALSE PROPHETS

Jeremiah 23:9-40

““Am I a God near at hand,” says the LORD, “And not a God afar off? Can anyone hide himself in secret places, So I shall not see him?” says the LORD; “Do I not fill heaven and earth?” says the LORD” (Jer 23:23-24).

“LORD, how long will the wicked,  
How long will the wicked triumph?  
They utter speech, and speak  
insolent things; All the workers of  
iniquity boast in themselves. They  
break in pieces Your people, O  
LORD, And afflict Your heritage. They  
slay the widow and the stranger, And  
murder the fatherless. Yet they say,  
“The LORD does not see...”  
(Psa 84:3-7)



Who learned that lesson  
the hard way?

**ONE WHO  
STEALS MONEY  
IS DESPICABLE**

**BUT THE ONE  
WHO STEALS  
GOD'S  
WORDS  
EVEN MORE  
SO!**

### ONE DOES SUCH A THING?

- ❖ False prophets (v30)
- ❖ Preachers who hold back the hard truths (Acts 20:27)
- ❖ Christians who do not defend the truth when they have an opportunity (1Pet 3:15)
- ❖ Christians who do not set the right example (Matt 5:16)

**Jer 23:30**

## TWO BASKETS OF FIGS

Jeremiah 24:1-10



## TWO BASKETS OF FIGS

Jeremiah 24:1-10



'Like these good figs, so will I acknowledge those who are carried away captive from Judah, whom I have sent out of this place for their own good, into the land of the Chaldeans. <sup>6</sup>For I will set My eyes on them for good, and I will bring them back to this land; I will build them and not pull them down, and I will plant them and not pluck them up. <sup>7</sup>Then I will give them a heart to know Me, that I am the LORD; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, for they shall return to Me with their whole heart.

## TWO BASKETS OF FIGS

Jeremiah 24:1-10

'And as the bad figs which cannot be eaten, they are so bad' --surely thus says the LORD--'so will I give up **Zedekiah the king of Judah, his princes, the residue of Jerusalem who remain in this land, and those who dwell in the land of Egypt.** <sup>9</sup>I will deliver them to trouble into all the kingdoms of the earth, for their harm, to be a reproach and a byword, a taunt and a curse, in all places where I shall drive them. <sup>10</sup>And I will send the sword, the famine, and the pestilence among them, till they are consumed from the land that I gave to them and their fathers.'"

