

A Study of **JEREMIAH**



Lesson Seven – Chapters 25-28

CHRONOLOGY

Jeremiah 25:1-12

What words come to mind to describe
Jeremiah's service to the Lord?

- **Steadfast** –
- **Faithful** –
- **Diligent** –
- **Patient** –

“YET YOU HAVE NOT LISTENED”

Jeremiah 25:1-10

- God issued countless calls for repentance (3-6)
- So that they might be blessed and avoid judgment (5-6)
- But they refused to listen (7)
- To their own hurt (7)
- Therefore, judgment was coming at the hands of Nebuchadnezzar, “My servant” (8-9)
- This judgment was to last 70-years (11-12; 25:12, 29:10; Dan 9:2; 2 Chron 36:22)
- After 70-years, the Lord would judge Babylon (12-14)

THE CUP OF GOD’S FURY!

Jeremiah 25:1-11-29

It was to be a terrible cup of fury – not only for Babylon but for all the wicked nations of the area

“For thus says the LORD God of Israel to me: “Take this wine cup of fury from My hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send you, to drink it.

“And they will drink and stagger and go mad because of the sword that I will send among them.”



THE FIERCE ANGER OF THE LORD

Jeremiah 25:1-38

“And at that day the slain of the LORD shall be from one end of the earth even to the other end of the earth. They shall not be lamented, or gathered, or buried; they shall become refuse on the ground” (33)... **“because of the fierce anger of the LORD”** (37).

“It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God ... For our God is a consuming fire.”
(Heb 10:31; 12:29)

I WILL MAKE THIS HOUSE LIKE SHILOH

Jeremiah 26

“If you will not listen to me...then I will make this house like Shiloh” (Jer 26:4,6, also 7:12, 14)

- **Origin of Shiloh as home of the tabernacle** – “Now the whole congregation of the children of Israel assembled together at Shiloh, and set up the tabernacle of meeting there. And the land was subdued before them” (Jos 18:1).
- **God forsakes the tabernacle at Shiloh** – When threatened by the Philistines, “the people sent to Shiloh, that they might bring from there the ark of the covenant” to their camp (1Sam 4:3-4). Then, “the ark of God was captured” and taken away by the Philistines (1Sam 4:11)

They thought the temple to be eternal but God said that He would forsake it just as He did the tabernacle at Shiloh.

“THIS MAN DESERVES TO DIE!”

Jeremiah 26:7-15

The priests and the prophets said, ‘What, the glorious temple built by Solomon is going to be destroyed! And Jerusalem, the holy city! No way!’ Jeremiah deserves to die!

Truth is sometimes inconvenient and even unpleasant

Truth does not sooth itching ears

Truth provokes anger – It is not always accepted

Note that Jeremiah did not shrink in compromise even in the face of great opposition. Instead, he ‘doubled down’ on the truth (v13)

THE PRINCES DEFEND JEREMIAH

Jeremiah 26:16-19

- The priests and the prophets said, “This man deserves to die!” (v11)
- Jeremiah responded, “The Lord sent me...” (v12, 15)
- The princes and the people defended Jeremiah saying, “He does not deserve to die. For he has spoken to us in the name of the Lord our God” (v16)
- They used the example of the prophet Micah to make their case and to illustrate what the correct response to a prophet should be – “Fear the Lord and seek His favor” (v18-19)
- Our response to truth must be like Hezekiah’s rather than that of Jehoiakim’s religious leaders.

THE DEATH OF A PROPHET

Jeremiah 26:20-24

- In those days **Urijah** prophesied (v20)
 - In the name of the Lord
 - According to all the word of Jeremiah
- Jehoiakim had him killed because of his prophecy (v21-23)
- But Jeremiah had a powerful ally, **Ahikam** who protected him (v24) – or was it **God**? (Jer 1:818-19)
 - An influential prince since the time of Josiah (2Kings 22:11-14, 23:1).
 - His son, Gedaliah, was appointed governor of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar (Jer 39:14)

So some prophets were killed (Luke 11:47; Heb 11:32-36) while others were protected by God (2Kings 6:13-17). Explain?

BONDS & YOKES



“Thus says the LORD to me: ‘Make for yourselves bonds and yokes, and put them on your neck’”

Jeremiah 27:1-2

BONDS & YOKES

- The sovereign God has decreed that His “servant,” Nebuchadnezzar, will rule over the nations including Judah (5-6)
 - That decree cannot set aside – not by Nebuchadnezzar, by Judah, or by any of the other affected nations (see Psa 2:1-5)
 - No comfortable or easy option: (a) submit and live or (b) resist and die (7-11)
 - Not an easy message to preach – sounds like treason!
- Jeremiah is commanded to use **bonds and yokes** as an object lesson (2-3)

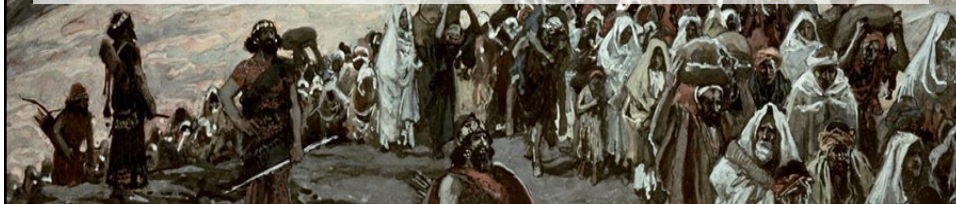
“Thus says the LORD to me: ‘Make for yourselves bonds and yokes, and put them on your neck’”

Jeremiah 27:1-2

Who would have thought that the exiles would be better off than those who remained in Jerusalem?

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isa 55:8-9).

“Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: ‘... I [will] 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” (Jer 24:5-6).



DECISION TIME!

- King Jehoiakim disobeyed and died (2Kings 24:1)
- King Jehoiachin submitted (at least in this matter) and lived (2Kings 24:12)
- Then Jeremiah said to King Zedekiah, “Bring your necks under the yoke of the king of Babylon, and serve him and his people, and live! Why will you die, you and your people...” (Jer 27:12-13)
- Really equivalent to saying, ‘lay off the yoke of self-willed pride’ and “take My yoke upon you...” (Matt 11:29)
- Clearly God calls for decisions that are not easy!
- And lying voices spouting comforting words make doing the right thing harder (Jer 27:14-17)
- Some made the right hard decision (2Kings 25:11). Will we?

REAL PROPHETS OR NOT?

Jeremiah 27:19-22

- Nebuchadnezzar had already taken away some, but not all, of items in the temple (v19-20)
- If these so-called prophets are so close to God, let them ask Him to preserve the temple items from further such plunder
 - If then, there is no more plunder, they must be real prophets of God (v18)
- But what does the Lord say? “They shall be carried to Babylon, and there they shall be until the day that I visit them Then I will bring them up and restore them to this place” (v22)
- And that is exactly what happened! (2Chron 36:18; Ezra 1:7-11)

PLEASANT WORDS

Jeremiah 28

- Hananiah responded to Jeremiah's dark prophecy with an encouraging message – supposedly from the Lord:
 - “I have broken the yoke of the king of Babylon” (v2)
 - “Within two full years I will bring back to this place” the temple plunder that King Nebuchadnezzar took away” (v3)
 - “And I will bring back to this place Jeconiah [Jehoiachin] ... with all the captives” (v4)
- He took the yoke off of Jeremiah's neck and broke it (v10)
- Jeremiah said, “Hear now, Hananiah, the LORD has not sent you, but you make this people trust in a lie ... This year you shall die, because you have taught rebellion against the LORD.’ So Hananiah the prophet died the same year in the seventh month” (v15-17).