

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE PROPHET JEREMIAH

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JOHN S. TORELL

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PART 5: FORGETTING GOD

JEREMIAH CHAPTER ONE

The first 31 years of Jeremiah's ministry were under King Josiah, who loved the Lord and ushered in revival to Judah. **2 Chronicles 34:1-7**

We don't know the timeline between the calling of Jeremiah and his first prophetic assignment. Knowing the condition of Judah under the reign of Josiah, it is likely that the prophecies of warning began to come toward the end of his reign.

THE POLITICAL SITUATION

God used the Assyrian Empire to attack, destroy and remove the 10 northern tribes in 727 B.C. Now 100 years later, the Assyrian Empire was fighting for its existence and had aligned itself with Egypt. Opposing them was the Babylonian Empire, aligned with Medes, Persians and Scythians.

The Kingdom of Judah was caught in the middle between two superpowers, and in order for the armies to travel to the battleground north of Israel; they had to march through the land of Judah. After more than 30 years of conflict between these two superpowers, it came to an abrupt end during the end of Josiah's reign. As the Egyptian army made a last attempt to push back Babylon, Josiah sided with the Babylonians and was killed in the battle. **2 Chronicles 35:20-27**

THE PROPHETIC WARNING

King Josiah, Jeremiah and the people in Judah had no idea which of the superpowers would win the war. Then God told Jeremiah that the threat would come from the north. This could have meant Assyria or Babylon since both of them would have travel from the north to attack Judah.

God many times will use different objects to make a point and this time He used an almond tree. **Jeremiah 1:11-12**

Then God used a boiling pot to make the same point and had it tilted north. **verse 13**

God wanted to make sure that the people of Judah understood that the threat against their kingdom would be from the north. God had foreseen the wickedness the kings and people of Judah would do after the death of King Josiah. **verses 14-16**

God is all about love but He will also mete out judgment. Once Jeremiah had received the message, the Lord said that if he did not deliver the message as given, God would destroy the prophet. The word used in the King James Bible is "confound," which means to "to bring to ruin, destroy."

Men wore robes at the time of Jeremiah, but when it came to war or an action of haste, they would roll them up just a little bit above their knees. The term for this was "to gird up your loins."



When God wanted Jeremiah to deliver a message, He wanted the prophet to be dressed like he was going to fight. **verse 17**

God told Jeremiah that his enemies would be the future kings of Judah, the princes (politicians), the priests and the people of Judah. Jeremiah would become the most unpopular person in the kingdom of Judah, but God also stated that Jeremiah would be protected by the Lord; it didn't matter how many people fought against him, they would simply not prevail. **verses 18-19**

JEREMIAH CHAPTER TWO

The second chapter is a long prophetic message from the Lord totaling 37 verses.

LOOKING BACK

God reminded the people how their ancestors loved the Lord and served Him in the wilderness before they came into the Promised Land. At the time, they were a holy people and anyone attacking them would be harshly dealt with by God. **Jeremiah 2:1-3**

In speaking to the people, God asked what He had done to cause the people in Judah to reject Him. **verses 4-5**

God wanted to know why they were not seeking Him, even after all the miracles He performed to bring them out of Egypt and into the Promised Land. **verses 6-7**

The priests, scribes, pastors and the prophets had all abandoned God. **verse 8**

Even though the people of Judah had rejected God, He was still going to make an emotional appeal to their grandchildren. **verse 9**

God made a reference to two nations: Chittim (Cyprus) and Kedar (Saudi Arabia). Had these two heathen nations ever changed their gods, which were nothing but lifeless idols? Judah has left God and exchanged Him for inert and unresponsive idols. **verses 10-11**

God stated that the angels residing in heaven would be stunned and the people in Judah would have great fear since they would be laid to waste. **verse 12**

The people had committed two evils. First, they had forsaken God, and secondly, they had tried to build a support system that would not help at all. **verse 13**

God wants to know if the people of Israel are servants to the Lord or had they become slaves? Why had they been spoiled? **verses 14-15**

Judah had become a vassal state of Egypt; men from the Egyptian cities of Memphis and Tahapanes had subdued Judah. **verse 16**

Judah had brought all these disasters upon herself by forsaking God. **verse 17**

Judah had tried to drink water from the Nile River as well as from rivers in Assyria. **verse 18**

BITTERNESS

The wickedness of the people of Judah would correct them, because when a people abandon God, it is an evil thing that leads to bitterness. **verse 19**

Esau abandoned God by despising his birthright and he became a bitter man. **Hebrews 12:15-17**

After he despised his birthright, Esau went against the will of God and his parents and married pagan women. **Genesis 26:34-35**

God spoke to the prophet Obadiah and pronounced the final curse on Esau's descendants (Edomites). The kingdom of Edom was eventually destroyed and ceased to exist. Its remnants moved into the southern part of Judea and became known as Idumaeans. **Obadiah 8-10**

At the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, Herod was the king of Judah. It was this man that tried to kill Jesus. **Matthew 2:1-5, 16**

It is significant that Herod was an Idumaeen and a descendant of Esau.

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?