

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 04 Jun 2023 Jeremiah 01 Prepares
- 2) 11 Jun Jeremiah 02-06 Judges
- 3) 18 Jun Jeremiah 07-10 Personal
- 4) 25 Jun Jeremiah 11-15 Exclusive
- 5) 02 Jul Jeremiah 16-18 Shapes
- 6) 09 Jul Jeremiah 19-25 Rules
- 7) 16 Jul Jeremiah 26-29 Present**
- 8) 23 Jul Jeremiah 30-33 Redeems
- 9) 30 Jul Jeremiah 34-35 Worthy
- 10) 06 Aug Jeremiah 36-39 Speaks
- 11) 13 Aug Jeremiah 40-45 Trustworthy
- 12) 20 Aug Jeremiah 46-52 Just
- 13) 27 Aug Lamentations 01-05 Good

INTRODUCTION

- It is OK to pray for things not to get worse, and to pray for ungodly leaders, co-workers, and neighbors who have an influence on us
 - perhaps God would relent from destroying them **Amos 5:15; Joel 2:14**
 - and perhaps God would grant them repentance **2Timothy 2:25**

Passage	Comments
Jeremiah 26:1-24	<p>God Threatened to Destroy His House of Prayer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Jeremiah 22:5 God threatened to destroy the King's house if Judah did not repent • vv1-6. Here, God threatened to destroy His house of prayer, the temple complex, and the entire city of Jerusalem – God's footstool <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ This would remove the key cornerstones of cultural identity for the Jews ♦ It would be akin to destroying Washington DC and America's Constitution for us • vv8-24. Jeremiah was apprehended and was about to be executed when men of reason stood up to defend him. • vv12-14. Jeremiah's rule of thumb for dealing with crowds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Don't Buckle Under Pressure ♦ In one case, mob rule worked in favor of a believer. Nehemiah used mob intimidation to fix things Neh 5:7 ♦ Sometimes it takes trouble to eventually see godly ones stand up and be counted – much like cream rises to the top after churning 1Corinthians 11:19
27:1-22	<p>God's Sovereignty is Absolute</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v5. God made the earth and everything in it, and He alone chooses whom to give things to ➔ the ones who do His bidding (not necessarily the Righteous) • v6. Nebuchadnezzar, a non-Jew & a brutal tyrant, received prosperity from God to accomplish things God wanted him to perform, namely take Jews into exile for their sins • vv9-10. Do not listen to your prophets, your diviners, your dreamers, your soothsayers, or your sorcerers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ WHY? Because their prophecies, divinations, and dreams were not from God • vv18-22. Let the godly prophets pray for God not to allow things go from bad to worse (in this case for the temple artifacts to be stolen away to Babylon). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Alas, God did eventually allow temple artifacts to be stolen by the Babylonians. See Ezra 8:33 for return of artifacts
28:1-17	<p>False Prophets are Hard to Detect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-6. Hananiah prophesies falsely and Jeremiah initially wishes for Hananiah's prophecy to come true • vv7-9. However, godly prophets are known by their 100% success rate • vv12-17. God reveals Hananiah's false prophecy to Jeremiah and of Hananiah's soon demise <p>BEWARE ➔ The Last Days will be earmarked by false signs, wonders, and prophecies Rev 13:14; 18:23; 19:20</p>
29:1-32	<p>God is in Total Control of History</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v4. God caused Jerusalem's deportation to Babylon, not Nebuchadnezzar

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv5-6. God tells the deportees to make a life for themselves while in exile – build houses, get married, have children • v7. And pray for the prosperity of your captors – If they fare well, you will fare well - Note: Babylon wasn't going to prosper as well as they could without the prayers of God's saints (same with America – we should pray for America's economic healing) • vv8-9. Be not deceived by your dreams – The false prophets made their money by telling people what they wanted to hear • v10. Seventy years are determined for Judah's deportation • vv11-14. God will one day restore Judah's fortunes and their benefit to the nations. This seems to be alluding to the Millennial Reign of Christ or possibly during the New Heavens and Earth Rev 20-21 • vv15-19. Back to the Past. In the meantime, God will pursue His people with Sword, Famine, and Pestilence because they deliberately failed to listen to God and obey His Word.

Notes on Dreams and Dream Gullibility

- Does God use dreams today to foretell events and bring new revelations? Don't Bank on It!
- God did give men dreams whereby they could foretell God's directives, even for some heathens (see **Gen 20:3,6 Judges 7:13, Mat 27:19**), BUT revelatory dreams were never commonplace
- **Num 12:6**. "I reveal myself to My prophet in visions, I speak to him in **dreams**"
- **Job 33:14-17**. For God does speak ...in a **dream**, in a vision of the night...(that) he may speak and terrify men with warnings (NIV)
- **Zech 10:2**. "... the diviners see lying visions and tell **false dreams**; they comfort in vain. Therefore, the people wander like sheep"
- **Ecc 5:7**. For in **many dreams** and in many words there is emptiness. Rather, fear God.
- **Jer 23:32**. "Behold, I am against those who prophesy **false dreams**," declares the LORD, "and related them and led My people astray
- BUT – What about **Joel 2:28/Acts 2:17**? "It will come about after this that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and daughters will prophesy, **Old men will dream dreams, Young men will see visions**
 - ♦ We see this fulfilled in Agabus, Barnabas, Simeon, and the four daughters of Philip the evangelist (cf **Acts 11:28; 13:1; 21:9,10**)
- **Common Principle on Dreams** – Trust in God's objective word and not in subjective dreams. People receive their dreams while not in full control of their faculties and possibly under the influence of pizza or spicy wings from dinner.

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Even in our "enlightened" modern times false prophecies abound
- We are commanded in Scripture not to be deceived by false signs, not to be deceived by others, not to be deceived by Satan, and not to be self-deceived – so be vigilant, sober, and watch and pray

NEXT WEEK: Jeremiah 30-33. Jacob's Trouble – A time of severe upheaval is compared to men travelling with child; New things begin happening on earth – women encompass men; God makes a new covenant with Israel and Judah; and we learn there is nothing too hard for God to accomplish.

THE BACK PEW - JEFF LARSON



Sometimes Kings and False Prophets Have Scary Dreams.