

**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**

- God's sovereignty reigns over every bullet on the battlefield; over every established ruler and kingdom; and over every other aspect of life without removing anyone's ability to freely choose – WOW!
- If you were to conquer a nation, who would you send into exile? The free-thinking entrepreneur upper class or the more docile poorer class who are more dependent upon others for their livelihood?

Passage	Comments
Jeremiah 40:1-16	<p><b>Even the Non-Believing Enemy Recognized God's Hand Against Judah</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv2-3. "The Lord your God has done just as He promised because you sinned and did not listen                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ IOW, Judah got what they deserved!"</li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv4-5. Did Jeremiah do the right thing by not going to Babylon as dictated by God's command for the vast majority of Judah?                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ This is similar to did the Apostle Paul do the right thing to head for Jerusalem when there were prophecies galore telling him not to go?</li> <li>◆ Scripture is silent about whether or not these situations were in the right or wrong, but sometimes silence is deafening.</li> <li>◆ Though, Jeremiah was carted off to Egypt and Paul was carted off to Rome, both men still accomplished much for God's Kingdom</li> <li>◆ God is not handicapped because we may choose Door #2 instead of Door #1                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– we often have such flexibility within God's will</li> </ul> </li> <li>◆ <b>Ephesians 2:10</b> says that God prepared beforehand the good works we should be doing on His behalf, so, Jeremiah and Paul both accomplished what God had planned for them</li> <li>◆ Even if Jeremiah and Paul were somehow estranged from God's will, God is not shorthanded. Everyone is expendable and can easily be replaced by others. That's how sovereign our God is.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v7. The poorest of the land were left behind. Nebuchadnezzar took captive the entrepreneurs, the doctors, the mechanics, and other successful leaders and workers. He knew if a poor people could not make it in their own land, they would be even worse off in a captive environment, and Babylon did not want those who could not fend for themselves and be profitable for their kingdom</li> <li>• vv13-16. Sanctioned political assassinations – Is it right or wrong? Here, the Governor voted against assassinating a disgruntled political foe.                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Did Gedaliah make the right decision not to take action against a possible assassination attempt?</li> <li>◆ What else could have been done?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
41:1-18	<p><b>Political Assassination</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv1-3. The foe eventually killed the Governor</li> <li>• What could Gedaliah have done differently to prevent his assassination, short of assassinating his enemy?                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Diplomacy apparently failed</li> <li>- Possibly avoid going to dinner with a staunch enemy</li> <li>- What does light have to do with darkness principle?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
42:1-22	<p><b>Tell Us What to Do, and We Will Do It</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv4-17. Where shall we go? Egypt or stay in Judah?</li> <li>• v7. Why did God wait 10 days to tell Jeremiah?</li> </ul>
43:1-13	<p><b>We Lied</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv4-7. Jeremiah is carted off to Egypt</li> <li>• v11. Passage on God's sovereignty – those meant for death to death, those for captivity to captivity, those for the sword to the sword</li> </ul>
44:1-30	<p><b>God is Forced to Punish</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv2-3. Again, God states He is the one who brought calamity on Jerusalem – because of their wickedness</li> <li>• vv7-13. Judah causes more self-inflicted wounds                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Why would people prefer their addictions and sins over humbling themselves to please their Creator?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v14. Consequences of their actions – only a very small remnant will return</li> <li>• vv15-19. Self-deception reigns supreme                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ The Jews even stated they never had it so good when they worshipped the queen of heaven. They had plenty of food, prosperity, and no misfortune</li> <li>◆ How do we challenge such a response?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv20-30. Here is how Jeremiah and God responded:                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ You (Judah) go ahead and continuing worshipping the queen of heaven (false idol)</li> <li>◆ v27. And God will watch over you for harm and not for good – and the men of Judah will meet their end by sword and famine.</li> <li>◆ v28. And only a remnant will be saved.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
45:1-5	<p><b>A Special Note to Baruch, Jeremiah's Scribe</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v3. God has added sorrow to pain. IOW, things keep getting worse and worse. When will the pain stop?</li> <li>• v5. You, Baruch, are seeking great things for yourself. IOW, No Pain! DO NOT SEEK THEM!..... BUT WHY?</li> <li>• Consider this. God's time of Wrath has come, and there is no more turning back. Baruch is to Endure.</li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS**

- We have to acknowledge God's sovereignty over nations and realize He has a purpose for each of us in these last days
- So, let's continue to serve and pray while it is still day, and watch out for those self-inflicting wounds and friendly fire

**NEXT WEEK: Jeremiah 46-52.** Not all is lost. Egypt will one day be restored to a nation of prominence; Moab, Ammon, Elam (Iran) will also be destroyed and restored; Edom, Damascus (Syria), and Babylon will be annihilated forever; and Israel and Judah will be restored and forgiven.

