

## Jeremiah 20:1 – 22:30

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~ Our Spiritual Safari is traversing one of the most serious, sobering, and shocking sections of Scripture found in the entire Word of God; and this is one area of the Bible that is wholly and completely ignored by the church and modern religion, in general. We have been standing with Jeremiah as he pronounces grave judgment upon the nation Israel – his own people – God’s chosen people; and Jeremiah just didn’t seem altogether lovely and wonderful to those who heard him. The message of the impending Babylonian captivity didn’t make Jeremiah any friends or influence people to follow him. In fact, Jeremiah never made a single convert in his entire life.

Judgment is the absolute silent point in the church today along every line of doctrinal, theological and denominational faith – even amongst fundamental conservatives. We love to talk about modern day problems, how to make everything great again – and politics unfortunately dominates the pulpit. What we fail to realize is that the United States is becoming more and more Godless with each passing day – even as more people – even our leaders – proclaim “*Jesus, Jesus, Jesus*” and “*love, love, love*” incessantly. While we claim to love the Lord, we are turning from Him in a cold, indifferent, and callous way; the likes of which have never been seen before in this world. The Word of God is going out to the world more than it ever has before – but, instead of being completely wrong – it’s just not quite right; and that makes it full-on blasphemy, heresy, and Baal worship of the worst kind – the kind God hates – just as it was in Jeremiah’s day, immediately preceding the captivity.

In the day in which we are studying, the judgment of God began with climate change. Drought was crippling Israel – the crops were failing, and the livestock were severely affected – but Jeremiah said, “... *this is only the beginning.*” Unfortunately, the biggest lesson history has taught us is that mankind does not learn any lessons from history. See, this part of the Old Testament is not about Josiah, Jehoiakim, Jehoshaphat, or Zedekiah – and it’s not even about Jeremiah – although it would be impossible to

understand this prophecy without understanding the life and state of mind of the prophet – but, no, this is a spiritual lesson for God’s children in this modern age as I write and you read this report. There came a day when God said to Jeremiah, in effect, “... *don’t worry about these judgments, Jeremiah. And don’t pray for these people anymore. I know you are disturbed, and this breaks your heart that people will not listen to you, and they won’t turn back to Me – but I am finished with them.*” Well, there’s a supernatural spiritual lesson to be learned today; a lesson that only an abjectly foolish and hypocritical idiot would not be interested in. Place this down in connection with Romans chapter one, where Paul says three times, “... God gave them up” — and you’ll uncover a profoundly deep understanding of Holy Writ. We’ll learn it in this report. Don’t miss it....

**XX**

***1 Now Pashur the son of Immer the priest, who was also chief governor in the house of the LORD, heard that Jeremiah prophesied these things.***

***2 Then Pashur smote Jeremiah the prophet, and put him in the stocks that were in the high gate of Benjamin, which was by the house of the LORD.***

~ In our last report, we saw Jeremiah go to the potter’s house, take a vessel the potter had just made, and take the vessel to Tophet in the valley of Hinnom, which was a place of idolatry and gross immorality. The men of Tophet worshipped Molech – which means they practiced child sacrifice. The name “*Tophet*” includes references to “*burning and drums*” – and they played the drums very loudly to drown out the cries of the children being sacrificed in the red hot arms of their idol. Well, Jeremiah took this brand new clay vessel and broke it before the people, proclaimed that the people had broken God’s covenant, and were going into captivity as a result and, actually, denounced everything those people were doing as a society.

If you have followed along in our safari reports, you should have noticed a transformation of the prophet Jeremiah. When he gave his messages in the temple gate, he was strong, adamant, and extremely hard-nosed. However, personally, he was very weak with a most tender heart; and I can’t find any

place in this record that Jeremiah was not weeping. He wept when King Josiah died. He wept as he received the message from the Lord. He wept as he gave God's message out. He wept over his rejection by the people and he wept because his message was totally and completely ignored. However, his persecution has not been personal – until now. So, he is weeping even more.

Persecution for Jeremiah began in organized religion. Although the Word of God is being bantered around more than at any time in history, the cause of Christ is being harmed and made ineffective more than at any time in history, too; and it is the organizational church that is doing the most damage. In fact, the organized liberal church is doing *ALL* of the damage; because they reject the Word of God while proclaiming it. They boast of their brotherhood, broad-mindedness, unity and how they “love, love, love” everyone and everything, regardless of who you are or how you are – and they always team up with the shadiest of characters – but I can tell you one thing about them: they don't accept Andrew C. Hunt. They *SURE* do not love me. They don't even like me. They *HATE* my message as much – or more than – the children of Israel hated Jeremiah's message.

The liberal's “*broad horizon*” is a mirage. Their tremendous concern for others just isn't real. I know most people have a hard time believing me when I tell you that I just happen to know what I'm talking about; but I have a little bit more experience in the church than some might want to recognize. The people that want me to cease and desist are *NOT* the drug users or the alcoholics or any political group, yet – and it is *NOT* even the lost atheistic man. Oh, no, my beloved, the ones that want me to go away are those involved in organized religion. Persecution of the Word of God *ALWAYS - ALWAYS - ALWAYS* begins in the church. The organized religious concern today is unequivocally and unilaterally the only terror to any man who truly loves the Word of God and the Lord Jesus Christ, and is genuinely Spirit-filled and Spirit-led — living a life well-pleasing to God, friends; you can just write that down. Jeremiah did....

***3 And it came to pass on the morrow, that Pashur brought forth Jeremiah out of the stocks. Then said Jeremiah unto him, The LORD hath not called thy name Pashur, but Magormissabib.***

***4 For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will make thee a terror to thyself, and to all thy friends: and they shall fall by the sword of their enemies, and thine eyes shall behold it: and I will give all Judah into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall carry them captive into Babylon, and shall slay them with the sword.***

***5 Moreover I will deliver all the strength of this city, and all the labours thereof, and all the precious things thereof, and all the treasures of the kings of Judah will I give into the hand of their enemies, which shall spoil them, and take them, and carry them to Babylon.***

***6 And thou, Pashur, and all that dwell in thine house shall go into captivity: and thou shalt come to Babylon, and there thou shalt die, and shalt be buried there, thou, and all thy friends, to whom thou hast prophesied lies.***

***7 O LORD, thou hast deceived me, and I was deceived: thou art stronger than I, and hast prevailed: I am in derision daily, every one mocketh me.***

***8 For since I spake, I cried out, I cried violence and spoil; because the word of the LORD was made a reproach unto me, and a derision, daily.***

***9 Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.***

~ When the persecution became personal and physical, Jeremiah decided he was going to turn in his resignation from the office of prophet. Personally, and quite frankly, I cannot blame Jeremiah for wanting to quit. Jeremiah was not indifferent to what was about to happen to his country – and to him. The psychological and emotional turmoil – and, I’m sure, the financial impoverishment – was literally draining this man’s strength and resolve. By this point in his account, Jeremiah was unquestionably on the verge of a nervous breakdown. It simply could not have been otherwise. The way he speaks to God in prayer is alarming. Giving out the message that God had given him to give to the nation Israel had earned Jeremiah

nothing in the world but a bunch of trouble; but it was the rejection by the religious rulers that made Jeremiah want to simply give-up and quit. Well, the Word of God was like a fire burning inside of this prophet – a fire that would not go out.

Now, if that isn't the mark of a man giving out the Word of God then, my friends, you have a phony worshipper of Baal with a false doctrine. Most people go into a ministry because they are really just lazy. I would say ninety-nine point six, six, six percent of all pastors, evangelicals, missionaries and Bible teachers would disappear tomorrow if they didn't get a paycheck. Now, I am not opposed to paying your preacher – but – is his heart really in it, and does he really care about total and completely sound doctrine, irrespective of the cost or consequences? Is it just a job that affords the ability to only work a day or two each week? Let's just keep this real: the Bible is meaningless to the same percentage of people – 99.666% – in and out of the ministry. They should quit. Quit preaching – quit going to church. I say the Lord Jesus wants them to quit – because they make Him sick....

***10 For I heard the defaming of many, fear on every side. Report, say they, and we will report it. All my familiars watched for my halting, saying, Peradventure he will be enticed, and we shall prevail against him, and we shall take our revenge on him.***

***11 But the LORD is with me as a mighty terrible one: therefore my persecutors shall stumble, and they shall not prevail: they shall be greatly ashamed; for they shall not prosper: their everlasting confusion shall never be forgotten.***

***12 But, O LORD of hosts, that triest the righteous, and seest the reins and the heart, let me see thy vengeance on them: for unto thee have I opened my cause.***

***13 Sing unto the LORD, praise ye the LORD: for he hath delivered the soul of the poor from the hand of evildoers.***

***14 Cursed be the day wherein I was born: let not the day wherein my mother bare me be blessed.***

***15 Cursed be the man who brought tidings to my father, saying, A man child is born unto thee; making him very glad.***

***16 And let that man be as the cities which the LORD overthrew, and repented not: and let him hear the cry in the morning, and the shouting at noontide;***

***17 Because he slew me not from the womb; or that my mother might have been my grave, and her womb to be always great with me.***

***18 Wherefore came I forth out of the womb to see labour and sorrow, that my days should be consumed with shame?***

## **XXI**

***1 The word which came unto Jeremiah from the LORD, when king Zedekiah sent unto him Pashur the son of Melchiah, and Zephaniah the son of Maaseiah the priest, saying,***

***2 Enquire, I pray thee, of the LORD for us; for Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon maketh war against us; if so be that the LORD will deal with us according to all his wondrous works, that he may go up from us.***

~ Alright, our Spiritual Safari ends this devastatingly harsh, nearly traumatic, leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God with another reading assignment. Pray for wisdom, judgment and discernment and then read these two chapters – chapters twenty-one and twenty-two – that represent the time period of the final king, King Zedekiah, in the southern kingdom of Judah. Read them in your own Bible if you can. Captivity is upon Judah now and they all know it will be just as bad as Jeremiah has said it is going to be. Interestingly, King Zedekiah passed right by Pashur and the other priests at this time, and inquired of the one man he hated the most – Jeremiah – but he won't be getting any comfort from him. God has set before them the way of life and the way of death – and

they have to make that choice now — in a hurry. God says, *“take My salvation today or leave it forever; because you’re going into captivity.”*

The liberal will always criticize sound doctrine – but they are also the first who will quote and emulate the man who is teaching sound doctrine. Again, friends, don’t think I don’t know what I am talking about in this connection – because I do know. The liberal honestly and sincerely believes they can reconcile a proper, correct and complete Bible teaching with their pious and pretentious nonsensical platitudes. Well, when one gets into deep trouble, *NOTHING* is going to satisfy the heart, mind and soul except the Word of God being taught by the Spirit of God through the man of God; the man who actually knows the Lord Jesus Christ, and lives a life that reflects that relationship. That’s something else you can just write down....

***3 Then said Jeremiah unto them, Thus shall ye say to Zedekiah:***

***4 Thus saith the LORD God of Israel; Behold, I will turn back the weapons of war that are in your hands, wherewith ye fight against the king of Babylon, and against the Chaldeans, which besiege you without the walls, and I will assemble them into the midst of this city.***

***5 And I myself will fight against you with an outstretched hand and with a strong arm, even in anger, and in fury, and in great wrath.***

***6 And I will smite the inhabitants of this city, both man and beast: they shall die of a great pestilence.***

***7 And afterward, saith the LORD, I will deliver Zedekiah king of Judah, and his servants, and the people, and such as are left in this city from the pestilence, from the sword, and from the famine, into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, and into the hand of their enemies, and into the hand of those that seek their life: and he shall smite them with the edge of the sword; he shall not spare them, neither have pity, nor have mercy.***

***8 And unto this people thou shalt say, Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I set before you the way of life, and the way of death.***

**9 He that abideth in this city shall die by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence: but he that goeth out, and falleth to the Chaldeans that besiege you, he shall live, and his life shall be unto him for a prey.**

**10 For I have set my face against this city for evil, and not for good, saith the LORD: it shall be given into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall burn it with fire.**

**11 And touching the house of the king of Judah, say, Hear ye the word of the LORD;**

**12 O house of David, thus saith the LORD; Execute judgment in the morning, and deliver him that is spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor, lest my fury go out like fire, and burn that none can quench it, because of the evil of your doings.**

**13 Behold, I am against thee, O inhabitant of the valley, and rock of the plain, saith the LORD; which say, Who shall come down against us? or who shall enter into our habitations?**

**14 But I will punish you according to the fruit of your doings, saith the LORD: and I will kindle a fire in the forest thereof, and it shall devour all things round about it.**

## **XXII**

**1 Thus saith the LORD; Go down to the house of the king of Judah, and speak there this word,**

**2 And say, Hear the word of the LORD, O king of Judah, that sittest upon the throne of David, thou, and thy servants, and thy people that enter in by these gates:**

**3 Thus saith the LORD; Execute ye judgment and righteousness, and deliver the spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor: and do no wrong, do**

***no violence to the stranger, the fatherless, nor the widow, neither shed innocent blood in this place.***

***4 For if ye do this thing indeed, then shall there enter in by the gates of this house kings sitting upon the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, he, and his servants, and his people.***

***5 But if ye will not hear these words, I swear by myself, saith the LORD, that this house shall become a desolation.***

***6 For thus saith the LORD unto the king's house of Judah; Thou art Gilead unto me, and the head of Lebanon: yet surely I will make thee a wilderness, and cities which are not inhabited.***

***7 And I will prepare destroyers against thee, every one with his weapons: and they shall cut down thy choice cedars, and cast them into the fire.***

***8 And many nations shall pass by this city, and they shall say every man to his neighbour, Wherefore hath the LORD done thus unto this great city?***

***9 Then they shall answer, Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD their God, and worshipped other gods, and served them.***

***10 Weep ye not for the dead, neither bemoan him: but weep sore for him that goeth away: for he shall return no more, nor see his native country.***

***11 For thus saith the LORD touching Shallum the son of Josiah king of Judah, which reigned instead of Josiah his father, which went forth out of this place; He shall not return thither any more:***

***12 But he shall die in the place whither they have led him captive, and shall see this land no more.***

***13 Woe unto him that buildeth his house by unrighteousness, and his chambers by wrong; that useth his neighbour's service without wages, and giveth him not for his work;***

**14 That saith, I will build me a wide house and large chambers, and cutteth him out windows; and it is cieled with cedar, and painted with vermilion.**

**15 Shalt thou reign, because thou closest thyself in cedar? did not thy father eat and drink, and do judgment and justice, and then it was well with him?**

**16 He judged the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well with him: was not this to know me? saith the LORD.**

**17 But thine eyes and thine heart are not but for thy covetousness, and for to shed innocent blood, and for oppression, and for violence, to do it.**

**18 Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah; They shall not lament for him, saying, Ah my brother! or, Ah sister! they shall not lament for him, saying, Ah lord! or, Ah his glory!**

**19 He shall be buried with the burial of an ass, drawn and cast forth beyond the gates of Jerusalem.**

**20 Go up to Lebanon, and cry; and lift up thy voice in Bashan, and cry from the passages: for all thy lovers are destroyed.**

**21 I spake unto thee in thy prosperity; but thou saidst, I will not hear. This hath been thy manner from thy youth, that thou obeyedst not my voice.**

**22 The wind shall eat up all thy pastors, and thy lovers shall go into captivity: surely then shalt thou be ashamed and confounded for all thy wickedness.**

**23 O inhabitant of Lebanon, that makest thy nest in the cedars, how gracious shalt thou be when pangs come upon thee, the pain as of a woman in travail!**

***24 As I live, saith the LORD, though Coniah the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah were the signet upon my right hand, yet would I pluck thee thence;***

***25 And I will give thee into the hand of them that seek thy life, and into the hand of them whose face thou fearest, even into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, and into the hand of the Chaldeans.***

***26 And I will cast thee out, and thy mother that bare thee, into another country, where ye were not born; and there shall ye die.***

***27 But to the land whereunto they desire to return, thither shall they not return.***

***28 Is this man Coniah a despised broken idol? is he a vessel wherein is no pleasure? wherefore are they cast out, he and his seed, and are cast into a land which they know not?***

***29 O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the LORD.***

***30 Thus saith the LORD, Write ye this man childless, a man that shall not prosper in his days: for no man of his seed shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah ~***

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