

Jeremiah 39:7 – 44:30

-- -- --

~ It's a great day to study the Bible in our Spiritual Safari, friends. From here, we're going to sprint to the finish line with Jeremiah in his prophecy, with just two more reports after this one completing our collection of this series of eschatological commentary. We have meticulously covered this book of the Bible in our previous seventeen safari reports. Now, we are in a purely *historical* section; where only highlights need be called to our attention. It will be helpful to have read our previous reports, as that background will avoid much unnecessary redundancy. We did not quite develop everything of importance from chapter thirty-nine in our last report, though; so we're going to drop back and pick those things up as we begin this report. What we did see in our last report was the fall of Jerusalem and how horrible it really was.

I highly suggest you pray for wisdom, judgment and discernment, and then read the six chapters covered by this report in their entirety in one sitting before reading this report; because I am not printing all the Bible text. See, friends, there's no easy way to study the Bible. There is no shortcut for the serious student of Scripture. It takes time. It takes effort. It takes prayer. It takes a *WHOLE LOT* of Bible reading – and we are just not going to get it in a video, or some overnight course, or in a few weeks, or even a couple years; plenary comprehension isn't going to happen that way. If we are sincere about knowing the Lord Jesus Christ, it is going to take a *LONG* time – and it can only happen in a competent, educated, daily Bible study; line upon line and precept upon precept, as Isaiah would say. So, if you're ready to commit to that, then let's begin this leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God....

XXXIX

7 Moreover Nebuchadnezzar put out Zedekiah's eyes, and bound him with chains, to carry him to Babylon.

8 And the Chaldeans burned the king's house, and the houses of the people, with fire, and brake down the walls of Jerusalem.

9 Then Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away captive into Babylon the remnant of the people that remained in the city, and those that fell away, that fell to him, with the rest of the people that remained.

~ In this section of Scripture, God is revealing His anger against Judah, who claimed to love Him, but who were an unrepentant bunch of Baal worshiping hypocrites. Those who profess Christ today, but really do not know Him correctly, and do not care to know Him properly, will be judged more severely, much harsher than anyone else in this world. God judges, my beloved, everyone and everything will be judged – one way or another. God judges the wicked man and the false prophets in anger; and, although He judges His children in love, that actually makes their judgment much worse; because God is not a tyrant – but He *MUST* judge sins – and He *WILL* judge the sin in our lives. Sinning against the love of God will be the most tragic mistake ever made in one's life, too. Don't kid yourself, my beloved, this is what's real – and sin accounts for every problem, sorrow, heartache and sickness in one's life.

The judgment, fury, and anger of God are revealed both in nature and in history; in the Old Testament and in the New Testament. Prisons are in the interest of the free. Hell is the safeguard of Heaven. A state or nation that cannot, or will not, punish crime is doomed to fall. A god who tolerates evil is not a good deity. Deny me of my Biblical revelation of God's wrath, and I have no security whatsoever in this universe. Reveal to me His Throne, established and occupied by a loving God, Whose heart is full of tenderness, love and mercy – *THEN* can I be assured He will in no way tolerate that which blights the bud, blasts the crops, or dams the righteous. If you do not believe that tenet of truth, if you do not understand it, if you do not accept it – or maybe you just don't like the fact that God judges sin – then, my friend, you can renounce your Christianity, and embrace atheism, because you **DO NOT BELIEVE THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD!** Period. Full stop.

You and I should, frankly, be thanking God that He destroyed Jerusalem when He did and as He did; oh, yes, I mean that - because it revealed that He *LOVED* them. Had God been a disinterested party, or doting old grandfather, sitting on the porch of Heaven watching His children play, and winking at their sins, then they would have sank into the lowest depths of hell. I cannot stress to you dear readers exactly how important it is to understand all of this. I look around these United States today and I see a nation pulling farther and farther away from God – while claiming to love and serve Him – and it scares the living daylights out of me. I’m just being honest because, of course, I always am honest with you dear readers. If you think this sick society will ever be great again you are utterly deceived, willfully foolish, and abjectly hypocritical. To put it plain and succinctly, and in a manner in which there is no misunderstanding what I am saying, we are finished as a nation — and it is time to kiss it goodbye. Holding out hope for this country is like propping up a dead spouse at the dinner table a year after they died, and believing you are going to have a romantic candlelight dinner together.

The only hope we have is that, as we read on, we discover Nebuchadnezzar was particularly good to this aging prophet named Jeremiah. Jeremiah received worse treatment at the hands of his own people than he did from the enemy. There is no denying that I am hurt more, slandered more, ridiculed more, humiliated more, neglected more, abandoned more, and relegated desuetude by so-called Christians more than by hard-core atheists or the unsaved world. This is one tremendous principle; and I am sure many of you would agree with it. Well, finally, after all of those years of beatings and false imprisonments, Jeremiah is free to do whatever he wants to do....

11 Now Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon gave charge concerning Jeremiah to Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard, saying,

12 Take him, and look well to him, and do him no harm; but do unto him even as he shall say unto thee.

13 So Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard sent, and Nebushasban, Rabsaris, and Nergalsharezer, Rabmag, and all the king of Babylon's princes;

14 Even they sent, and took Jeremiah out of the court of the prison, and committed him unto Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan, that he should carry him home: so he dwelt among the people.

~ Nebuchadnezzar gave Jeremiah the choice to stay in the land or go with the captives to Babylon. Interestingly, Jeremiah did not want to go with his own people. I am sure he would have been given special privileges whereby he might have helped his people in their misery – but Jeremiah said, “... *no, thank you.*” If that doesn’t absolutely amaze you, then I don’t know what would, friends. Candidly, I don’t think he wanted to see his brethren suffering down by the canals and in the ditches of Babylon. Remember, we learned in Psalms that these people in Babylonian captivity sat down by the rivers and hung their hearts on the trees. Their captivity was altogether pitiful and hopeless. Jeremiah could have gone to the land where they were slaves and ridiculed them for not listening to him. All they could do is weep as they remember how good they had it back in Zion. They wished they had done things differently now; and had listened to Jeremiah. Jeremiah didn’t want any part of that. Jeremiah had done his job and they had rejected him and God’s message wholesale. So, here they are. Even so, God graciously and lovingly raised up another prophet down in Babylon named Ezekiel – which we will meet later in this Spiritual Safari.

Remember, the kings of Judah, the nation as a whole, and the individual people had accused Jeremiah of blaspheme, heresy, and political treason. Well, it turns out that Jeremiah had been the one who was faithful and true to God and his Word. It was Jeremiah who really loved the land and the Jewish way of life. It was Jeremiah who had truly been patriotic by giving sound advice to all of the kings. The prophet that everyone hated and despised was the only one who really had the best interest of the people in mind. Sure, it’s all obvious now – and that means there comes a time when it will behoove you and me to shut our mouths and actually try to learn something from someone who knows what they are talking about, my

beloved. Too few people are truly teachable today – they sure won't listen to Andrew C. Hunt – and guess where they're going to end up? ~

XL

~ Alright, Jeremiah is in the land, but the people are all gone to Babylon; except a small remnant. Here, Jeremiah is speaking to the people Nebuchadnezzar had left behind after the destruction of Jerusalem. These were the very poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame – and the criminal element! Those are the people Jeremiah chose to stay behind with. Interestingly, the captain of the guard was very kind and gracious to many destitute Jews. Well, Jeremiah has a message from the Lord Jehovah for them, too. That message runs from this chapter, chapter forty, through chapter forty-two. As we read on in this chapter, we discover in verse two that even the enemy really knew the Lord – and why this was all happening....

1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, after that Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard had let him go from Ramah, when he had taken him being bound in chains among all that were carried away captive of Jerusalem and Judah, which were carried away captive unto Babylon.

2 And the captain of the guard took Jeremiah, and said unto him, The LORD thy God hath pronounced this evil upon this place.

3 Now the LORD hath brought it, and done according as he hath said: because ye have sinned against the LORD, and have not obeyed his voice, therefore this thing is come upon you.

4 And now, behold, I loose thee this day from the chains which were upon thine hand. If it seem good unto thee to come with me into Babylon, come; and I will look well unto thee: but if it seem ill unto thee to come with me into Babylon, forbear: behold, all the land is before thee: whither it seemeth good and convenient for thee to go, thither go.

~ Remember, Jeremiah had tried several times to advise King Zedekiah to bow to Nebuchadnezzar and just submit to his will. Unfortunately, Zedekiah

was literally pig-headed and refused to listen to Jeremiah. If Zedekiah had listened to the prophet of God, then all of the people would have been permitted to stay in the land, his sons would be alive, and he wouldn't have had his eyes gouged out. We know all of that because God told us that through Jeremiah at least fifteen times in previous chapters. Oh, my friends, how absurd it is not to listen to the man who truly knows God, walks with God, teaches sound doctrine from the Word of God to the entire world, is Spirit-filled and Spirit-led, and lives a life that validates his profession of faith. Well, that's just how pig-headed most self-professing believers are today – and they'll pay the price – you can just write that down. Jeremiah did....

XLI

1 Now it came to pass in the seventh month, that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah the son of Elishama, of the seed royal, and the princes of the king, even ten men with him, came unto Gedaliah the son of Ahikam to Mizpah; and there they did eat bread together in Mizpah.

2 Then arose Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and the ten men that were with him, and smote Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan with the sword, and slew him, whom the king of Babylon had made governor over the land.

3 Ishmael also slew all the Jews that were with him, even with Gedaliah, at Mizpah, and the Chaldeans that were found there, and the men of war.

~ So, do you remember someone named Ishmael? Ishmael was a son of Abraham by Hagar. Well, here is one of Ishmael's descendants – a man from Babylon also named Ishmael. Ishmael is the modern-day Arab Islamic Muslim. Mohammedanism and Shariah law govern their realm. This Ishmael, at the time in which we are studying, was a treacherous and treasonous leader who was trying to take over Nebuchadnezzar's conquered land. Well, today, Babylon is long gone; but guess who controls present-day Jerusalem and Temple Mount? – The Arab Islamic Muslim does. That big, black marble box in the middle of the Mosque of Omar supposedly contains the remains of Ishmael. There is so much I could point

out here that I could literally fill fifteen reports regarding this chapter; but I am just going to allow the Spirit of God to speak to your heart about the application, and let God Himself give you the interpretation He wants to give you. Make sure you read this whole chapter super-duper carefully – after praying for wisdom, judgment and discernment....

XLII

1 Then all the captains of the forces, and Johanan the son of Kareah, and Jezaniah the son of Hoshaiiah, and all the people from the least even unto the greatest, came near,

2 And said unto Jeremiah the prophet, Let, we beseech thee, our supplication be accepted before thee, and pray for us unto the LORD thy God, even for all this remnant; (for we are left but a few of many, as thine eyes do behold us:)

3 That the LORD thy God may shew us the way wherein we may walk, and the thing that we may do.

~ In this chapter, we see Jeremiah bring the Word of Jehovah to the remnant Nebuchadnezzar had left behind. These are some strange circumstances; and things are going to get *much* stranger in this book as we continue. Considering all that is happening at the time in which we are studying, the question they had was: do we stay or do we leave the land? If we leave, where would we go? Those are actually fair and legitimate questions. Jerusalem is a heaping pile of flames. The temple is a pile of crushed rock. Verses one through three all sounds great and wonderful. They sound as if they are ready to walk with God in His ways. They even promise to do so. Well, friends, if you are going to ask a man of God a question, then you had better be prepared to hear the answer, and heed his advice. You would think this remnant would have recognized Jeremiah's genuine authority. It would seem obvious they could depend on Jeremiah to speak the truth. They didn't.

The preacher in the pulpit today, or the Bible teacher on some "social media" platform, who is attempting to speak for God and represent the

Lord Jesus Christ according to the Word of God, is going to have to lay aside all of this business of being clever and subtle and intellectual in worldly academia, and abandon all pretense of being sophisticated by employing smooth and soothing words that try to please everyone all the time by saying what they want to hear at any particular moment. The power of positive thinking, and attempting to avoid being negative at all cost, isn't going to get anyone anywhere with God, my friends. When the pulpit becomes like that, it becomes just so much blah; it becomes a mere sounding board that fallaciously placates a bunch of spiritually dead people. Telling people what they want to hear will certainly make you friends; and it will influence people – but – it won't be a message from the Word of God; because that would be impossible. That's what's going on in the modern church; and it is the reason the church can easily reach the masses – but is saving no one.

On the other hand, when the man in the pulpit can give the message from God unreservedly and without hesitation, the Word of God becomes effective. It would sure be nice to see that again; because that is how *REAL* revival occurs. There is no other way for revival. It's just not going to happen any other way. You can hold meetings twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week – but until we start to give the unadulterated and undiluted Scriptural truth, without worrying about who might go away angry or crying, there is never going to be revival. So, in verses five and six, the people promise to do whatever they were told if Jeremiah would inquire of the Lord; so Jeremiah agreed. Alright, Jeremiah gave them the Word of the Lord, and he started with the leader in verse ten. It was a good word of encouragement he gave to those of the remnant. Well, do you think they listened for one minute as they had promised to do? Let's read on....

18 For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; As mine anger and my fury hath been poured forth upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem; so shall my fury be poured forth upon you, when ye shall enter into Egypt: and ye shall be an execration, and an astonishment, and a curse, and a reproach; and ye shall see this place no more.

19 The LORD hath said concerning you, O ye remnant of Judah; Go ye not into Egypt: know certainly that I have admonished you this day.

20 For ye dissembled in your hearts, when ye sent me unto the LORD your God, saying, Pray for us unto the LORD our God; and according unto all that the LORD our God shall say, so declare unto us, and we will do it.

21 And now I have this day declared it to you; but ye have not obeyed the voice of the LORD your God, nor any thing for the which he hath sent me unto you.

~ These people have learned a net gain sum total of zero from experience with Jeremiah. The remnant absolutely refuses to hear and obey the commandments of God as spoken through His prophet. They are hell-bent on disobedience, friends. God just told them not go down into Egypt; so, what did they do? – They went down into Egypt. Alright, beginning in the next chapter, and for the remainder of this book, we have prophecies of Jeremiah in his last days in Egypt; where he was forced to go by these shamefully disobedient and willfully stiff-necked people. However, before they leave for Egypt, Jeremiah gives them a stern warning....

22 Now therefore know certainly that ye shall die by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence, in the place whither ye desire to go and to sojourn.

XLIII

1 And it came to pass, that when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking unto all the people all the words of the LORD their God, for which the LORD their God had sent him to them, even all these words,

2 Then spake Azariah the son of Hoshaiah, and Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the proud men, saying unto Jeremiah, Thou speakest falsely: the LORD our God hath not sent thee to say, Go not into Egypt to sojourn there:

3 But Baruch the son of Neriah setteth thee on against us, for to deliver us into the hand of the Chaldeans, that they might put us to death, and carry us away captives into Babylon.

4 So Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the captains of the forces, and all the people, obeyed not the voice of the LORD, to dwell in the land of Judah.

~ These people have the unmitigated audacity to call Jeremiah a liar! They accuse Jeremiah of not giving the right message, because Jeremiah wouldn't tell them what they wanted to hear. They wanted confirmation that God would bless them down in Egypt. They weren't willing to listen to anything otherwise. So, they run off to Egypt in an attempt to escape Nebuchadnezzar; but God is sending Nebuchadnezzar to Egypt to take that land into captivity, too. That places them out of the will of God, and right back under Nebuchadnezzar's oppression, back to the same position they were in before their deliverance. We might want to think that through. That's how disobedience to the Lord works out in life, friends – every time – no exceptions. The difference is: this time Nebuchadnezzar doesn't leave them free – he enslaves them....

XLIV

~ So, as we conclude this leg of our Spiritual Safari through the entire Word of God, we leave the remnant of Judah, who had disobeyed God and fled Nebuchadnezzar by going to Egypt, thereby leaping from the frying pan into the fire. We also have another total and complete rejection of Jeremiah the prophet by the people he gave the Word of the Lord to. Well, that means there is nothing left for them now except judgment. As our safari continues in our next report, we'll see more historical facts about Jeremiah and his life as we examine Scriptural prophecy that has been wholly fulfilled – exactly as God said it would be. I hope you can continue along with us....

11 Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will set my face against you for evil, and to cut off all Judah.

12 And I will take the remnant of Judah, that have set their faces to go into the land of Egypt to sojourn there, and they shall all be consumed, and fall in the land of Egypt; they shall even be consumed by the sword and by the famine: they shall die, from the least even unto the greatest, by the sword and by the famine: and they shall be an execration, and an astonishment, and a curse, and a reproach.

13 For I will punish them that dwell in the land of Egypt, as I have punished Jerusalem, by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence:

14 So that none of the remnant of Judah, which are gone into the land of Egypt to sojourn there, shall escape or remain, that they should return into the land of Judah, to the which they have a desire to return to dwell there: for none shall return but such as shall escape.

15 Then all the men which knew that their wives had burned incense unto other gods, and all the women that stood by, a great multitude, even all the people that dwelt in the land of Egypt, in Pathros, answered Jeremiah, saying,

16 As for the word that thou hast spoken unto us in the name of the LORD, we will not hearken unto thee.

17 But we will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our own mouth ~

^ * ^ * ^ * ^ * ^ * ^ * ^