

Jeremiah Chapters Twenty-Nine and Thirty

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~ The human body can survive for about forty days without food, about three days without water – but not for a second without hope. Well, our Spiritual Safari has seen the prophet Jeremiah go from bad to worse in our last several reports; but, in this report, he is going to go from a difficult reality of worse to awful. Unfortunately, before we complete this prophetic leg of the Book of Jeremiah in our expedition through the entire Word of God, we're going to see this young prophet also go from awful to the depths of despair and utter meltdown; but he won't lose hope. What do you do when your hope is tested but fails? Is there any way to keep hope alive when all seems lost? If you have ever been to the desolate place of hopelessness, you will want to read this report very, very carefully.

Chapter twenty-nine will conclude the first major division of this book of the Bible; and, in this chapter, we actually see a small glimmer of hope in a section that has been macerated in judgment. In our last report, we saw Jeremiah behaving very strangely, acting out an extreme parody, making stocks and yokes of wood, placing them on his neck, and sending them out to each of the kings in the surrounding nations with a note telling them to bow and submit to King Nebuchadnezzar; who was on his way to dominate Judah and the entire world.

We also saw, in our previous report, the well-respected, educated, sophisticated but false prophets in Israel say, in response to Jeremiah's message, "... *Jeremiah is an angry, uneducated peasant who has no earthly idea what he is talking about.*" The false prophets told the people what they wanted to hear; that God would never allow His precious chosen people to be taken away in slavery — and that the prophecy of the destruction of the temple by Jeremiah was not only heresy and blaspheme — it made Jeremiah a national traitor.

Well, the children of Israel in Judah, at the time in which we are studying, and under the rule and reign of King Zedekiah, were already paying a tribute tax to Babylon; and it was becoming more and more to the point

where no one could afford the tribute any longer – not even King Zedekiah! The first delegation of captives had been carried away from Judah; although the city and temple had not yet been destroyed. The people believed – because they wanted to believe – that Jeremiah’s message was impossible and malicious. They simply could not and would not even consider that Jerusalem and Solomon’s temple could ever be destroyed.

Religion to these people at this time was a mere fetish. The book of the law of the Lord meant nothing more than a rabbit’s-foot-type good-luck charm to them. Many so-called Christians today carry a Bible around exactly that way. They erroneously think that their membership in a certain church or denomination – or keeping a particular set of rules and regulations – is the essence of their salvation. Well, when you stand in front of the Lord Jesus Christ and give an account for your life, friends, He won’t be asking you about your politics, or your church attendance record. No, it’s going to be a little deeper than that. He is going to examine our heart – and ask about our minute-to-minute glorification of and trust in Him – or in and of yourself; and I don’t care if you’re the sweetest little Sunday school boy or girl in the world who has never missed a Sunday morning worship service or had an evil thought in your life – it’s not going to be well. You can just write that down. Remember, when John saw Jesus, he fell at His feet as dead. Imagine what you’ll do.

So, Nebuchadnezzar actually relaxed his grip of domination a bit, and he wanted to let the people he had taken away captive return to the land. He would have returned the vessels for temple worship to resume, also; but they dug their heels in further rebellion — and Zedekiah called the other nations together to defy Nebuchadnezzar. The other nations were inclined to join Zedekiah, too; which was all a terrible mistake. That really made Nebuchadnezzar mad. So, now Jeremiah tells them that those yokes of wood will be broken, but they would be replaced by yokes of iron. Well, when we see Nebuchadnezzar come to Jerusalem next time, it will be frightful, terrifying, and unreservedly horrible. Every city of the land, including Jerusalem and the temple, will be destroyed at that time — and almost every man, woman and child will be taken away as slaves to Babylon....

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~ Chapter twenty-nine backs up in history, and covers those who had been deported in captivity under the rule of King Jehoiachin in Judah. Remember, Jeremiah had told them to go *willingly* and not resist Nebuchadnezzar at that time. God's message had been that His judgment had come to Israel through the hand of Nebuchadnezzar, and there was no way of deterring or mitigating it. Verse eleven may well be the single most well-known verse of the Old Testament – but it is *ALWAYS – ALWAYS – ALWAYS* used in a context that makes it perfectly meaningless — laughable to those citing it in a Christian cliché. To remove that verse from its setting of speaking to those who had been taken in captivity, and that Nebuchadnezzar had a mind to allow them to return to Israel, is pure nonsense. Frankly, I am convinced that most people have never even read a single verse from Jeremiah *except* for verse eleven of this chapter. They continue to recite it without regard for sound doctrine. I suggest we turn and read both of these chapters – chapters twenty-nine and thirty completely – in our own Bible right now – after praying for wisdom, judgment and discernment.

Verse twenty-three reveals why God allowed Judah to be taken away and destroyed. They had done villainy, were adulterers — every man with his neighbor's wife — and were pathological liars. The main reason for their corruption was misconduct and wrongdoing by the priesthood. The prophets had become Baal worshipping frauds for filthy lucre. The same religious liberalism today is absolutely wrecking the church on almost every level; from the satanic cult of Catholicism down to fundamental conservative theologians. The genuine church body of Christ has no influence whatsoever in this world. It has become unmoored entirely, and has lost sight of its main mission, which is to teach the entire Word of God to the entire world in sound doctrine. Any other motivation, objective or practice, outside of that truth, is a destructive force, my beloved. It simply cannot be otherwise.

~ Princes and lords may flourish or fade
A breath can make them as a breath has made ~
~ A bold peasantry is a country's pride

Once destroyed, it can never be re-supplied ~
~ A time there was when our griefs began
But every root of ground maintained its man ~
~ For them light labor spread a wholesome store
Giving that which life required, but nothing more ~

That is an excerpt from an English poem that describes the bedrock of English political science at one time. That foundation has been polluted and outright destroyed today. Frankly, my estimation is that the export of British music, beginning in the nineteen sixties, infected the whole world with a pandemic of societal cancer. Either way, England is a third rate – maybe a fourth rate – nation today; just as the United States is. When the middle-class becomes corrupt, chasing wealth and personal gain, the inevitable conclusion is religious apostasy, followed by moral awfulness, followed by political anarchy. When England began “*knighting*” homosexual perverts, drunks and drug addicts, they literally sealed their fate, and passed off of the world stage altogether. Jeremiah, in this chapter, is telling Israel they were going into captivity primarily for the sins of the middle-class; a society that had once been the backbone of a nation that was God’s chosen witness in the world.

So, this chapter ends with us saying goodbye to Israel as a nation; as they are deported to full-blown captivity and slavery in Babylon. God makes one seriously strange statement in verse twenty-three, when He says, “*even I know and am a Witness, saith the Lord.*” These United States of America have not had an outstanding commander-in-chief since prior to the end of World War Two. Governance that cannot perceive the historical horizon correctly has been the seriously flawed characteristic of every presidential administration since that time. Well, any credible statesman will know the direction God is going for at least the next fifty years! *ANY* political leader who asserts they will “*.... make a failed society great again*” is a liar, a hypocrite – and a man that does not know the Lord Jesus Christ; because that would be impossible.

Our country, the United States of America, as a whole, lacks any knowledge of Christ Jesus on *ANY* level — except that which relegates Him to an errand boy or a concierge. We think we can summons God like King Saul thought

he could demand Samuel speak at the witch of Endor's house in first Samuel chapter twenty-eight — and that God will just come running on demand to our beck and call. Well, God has a demand of His own that mankind is subject to. The overwhelming discouragement I have today is that, although I have been studying the Bible every day for years, I am just now arriving at the realization I don't know *ANYTHING* substantial about the Word of God. Those who *NEVER* study the Bible, but erroneously believe they are masters of Holy Writ, are fools. There's no other way to label the pseudo-peanut theologian who insists on his ignorance; and they're crawling like cockroaches in modern religious circles.

I think Jeremiah had the same problem. Either way, God speaks to nations today through men who sincerely seek Him in His Word — even if those men are basically Biblically illiterate — and personal failures — as was Jeremiah — and yours truly. If I am that which I admit to being, then the woeful and abject ignorance of the Word of God by the unbelieving world as a whole is appalling to contemplate. God hates the presumption of pride the average self-professing believer harbors — and which is beyond description by even the most articulate orator — and I'm sure God hates it, because He says He hates it.

Science and education face a similar dilemma. An educated man who truly knows anything about a particular subject is generally a humble man. Interestingly, when a man who has substantial academic credibility even mentions their credentials today, they are immediately insulted by the dumbest of characters. To be fair, *"knowledge"* and *"wisdom of understanding"* are two totally different things — I recognize that; but this world is in love with its sheer lack of understanding today. The man who is as ignorant as a goat grazing grass on a hillside has become altogether unteachable and unreachable by reason — and they're as happy in that state as a pig in a pigpen — because that's what they are.

Men and women who know very little about anything speak with great assumption of authority today and dismiss any factual truth as *"fake this"* or *"not true that."* It is the problem we learned about in Isaiah, where deception and suspicion will be the hallmark of the Great Tribulation period. Most of you already know my opinion is that the rapture is almost

complete – meaning *that day* is upon us. All that matters is what the Word of God says – but – to make that statement means you are going to have to actually learn the Bible properly, correctly and completely; even though that will yield us back at square one of my thesis from this report. What a paradox Jeremiah reveals by his own life! Well, God says, *“I know all about this problem.”*

The bad things that were happening in Jeremiah’s day were happening **BECAUSE OF S-I-N**; and God **ALWAYS** judges sin, my beloved. That has never changed; and it never will change. Be not deceived, God is not mocked; whatsoever a man shall sow, that shall he also reap. Most people seem to think the God of the Old Testament and the God of the New Testament are two different Gods. Not so – same God – same Person – He hasn’t changed a bit; He hasn’t even gotten old, or learned anything new from the advances of mankind.

So, God has now spoken to Israel in His Word through Jeremiah. Interestingly, in Peter’s second epistle, chapter one verse twenty, he makes a statement that is basic and primary — like a first grade lesson — to any serious student of Scripture. Peter says, *“... knowing this first: that no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation....”* Now, there are two ways I have seen this used that are both exactly wrong. One way is to assert that, in order to study prophecy, we put it all together and never take any of it to the exclusion of others. Well, that’s a true statement, but that’s not what Simon Peter meant. Second, there are those who say that we have no right to interpret prophecy in our own way. Again, that *is* a true statement, but, again, it’s not what Peter meant in that passage.

We all have a first amendment Biblical right and a God-given free will to listen and speak as the Holy Spirit speaks to our hearts. What God is saying through Simon Peter in chapter one verse twenty of Peter’s second epistle is that the end result of revelation is directly correlated to the origin of said revelation. It makes all the difference in the world, too, by the way. Let me explain: No writing in the Bible was secret in origin; these prophets that we are studying in the Word of God in our Spiritual Safari, who wrote and spoke in times past, didn’t give the result of mere observations of current

events or social norms. No, they were speaking what God had told them to speak.

Only when we are willing to lay down in the dust of factual recognition that we are nobody, and that we are sinners who need a Savior, and whose opinions and self-willed viewpoint of things that ignore what God has to say are wrong, will we ever be used in the Lord's work in *ANY* way, shape or form. Resisting that truth was the problem with the priest, prophet, prince and people in Jeremiah's day, in Isaiah's day, in Simon Peters' day – and today, too. Every man today has his own salacious scheme with a vile viewpoint; erroneously believing they can do their own thing and carry a small-minded placard announcing their a personal protest – and they're doing it out of a knowledge so limited it renders them not worthy of thoughtful consideration.

I see people giving presumptuous opinions of decisions that political leaders make today — as if they are even remotely qualified to comment on those things. First of all, who cares? What difference does it make what you opine? You and I don't have all the top-secret, classified facts they have access to. Even if we did have those facts, there is almost *NO* chance that you have the academic background to fully comprehend their implications. To sit in judgment on God, as most people are doing – whether they realize what they are doing or not – is absurd and farcical. Frankly, to me, it's *unbelievable* what I see going on in the name of "*Scripture*." It's like an ant climbing up on my leg as I type this report and saying to me, "*.... Andrew, I think you're wrong in this report; and, by the way, I don't like the way you built this house or the way you are dressed, either.*" Do you know what I would do to that ant before he even got the first word out? I'd squish him so fast he would never even know what hit him. Why don't we get real, friends? ~

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~ Alright, chapter thirty begins a new section of the Book of Jeremiah, and concludes this report from our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God. In this upcoming section, the prophecies are not arranged chronologically. They haven't been entirely chronological in the first

twenty-nine chapters, but here, they are altogether random and unsystematic. Chapters thirty-one, thirty-two and thirty-three are one message, constituting Jeremiah's first known writing; as he summarizes Israel in the Great Tribulation period – similar to what we saw in Psalms – and in *the last days*. The days of the time in which we are studying in Israel were dark, indeed, friends. I suggest you read chapters thirty through thirty-three in one sitting from your own Bible in preparation for our next report, after praying for wisdom, judgment and discernment, of course. We're going to hear a solemn, striking message from the man and prophet Jeremiah. But even in the black of night, he manages to bring a ray of light with a note of encouragement.

The army of Nebuchadnezzar has surrounded the city of Jerusalem. Nebuchadnezzar means business. He is going to reduce the city to rubble, and crush and burn the temple to the ground. Jeremiah has been arrested and imprisoned in the courtyard by the rebellious spirit of a sinning nation. They refused to hear the Word of the Lord. Seven years have passed since Jeremiah ran afoul of the false prophets in previous chapters. Every passing day is revealing the perfect accuracy of Jeremiah's message. Remember, Hananiah had said that within seven years the bondage of Babylon would be broken. Well, seven years has gone by, and there's Nebuchadnezzar waiting to pounce upon Judah. Instead of being broken, he is about to break *THEM*. The offer of Nebuchadnezzar to restore the vessels of the temple is off the table. Things in Judah are in total and complete chaos. The life of the nation Israel is grasping for its final breath. Circumstances have been calculated by the Lord to fill their hearts with despair and discouragement — because they refuse to hear His prophet. We'll continue in our safari from here in our next report....

~ I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore, with lovingkindness have I drawn thee - God ~

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