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SERIES: Jeremiah, Part 2 (God's Certain Judgment)

TITLE: Program 2 – You Have Not Listened!

TUESDAY

OPEN

God has spoken. It is very clear. It's written down so that you and I cannot miss it. The question is: What if we don't pay attention? What if we turn our back on it? What if we say, "Who cares?" Or "I'm sorry, but it doesn't pertain to me." You've got to know this, Beloved, God duly warns us there is a consequence for not listening to His Word. There's a consequence for disobedience. We'll talk about it today.

PART ONE

God has spoken. He has spoken and He has told us what is going to come to pass. He has spoken and He has laid down His will. He has spoken and He has let us know over and over again throughout the course of history what He is like and what He expects, and what we can expect from Him. And now in Jeremiah chapter 25, and this is what we're studying this week, along with Jeremiah chapter 26, God calls Jeremiah. It is the "...**fourth year of**

Jehoiakim....” (Jeremiah 25:1) Josiah died. He was killed by Pharaoh Neco. After Josiah died Jehoahaz reigned for three months and then he was taken away. And then you have Jehoiakim. It is the reign of Jehoiakim, **“...the fourth year of Jehoiakim...(the first year of Nebuchadnezzar...)” (Jeremiah 25:1)** God is telling us that because He wants us to see the setting. He wants us to understand the context of the words that He is giving them. They are on the eve of destruction. God has appointed Babylon to come down from the north and to be His hammer; His rod of judgment. And God wants us to understand what He’s been doing. And so Jeremiah says, **“...[For] these [past] twenty-three years...I have spoken to you again and again [and again], [and] you have not listened.” (Jeremiah 25:3)** God has spoken to you through all the prophets, the prophets that preceded me, the prophets that are prophesying now, Zephaniah and Nahum, they have already prophesied. Habakkuk has prophesied. And he says, **“...[and] you have not listened....” (Jeremiah 25:4)** What are the consequences of not listening to God? We need to listen carefully to this because you know what? We’re not listening. The United States of America is not listening to the Word of God. As a matter of fact, they are trying to silence God. Just before I got ready to come down and to teach this, there was an announcement on the news that a teacher had been fired from her school, because she does dance classes and she used a Christian song as the background for this dancing. You could stand up and you could teach about the Muslims, you can teach the little children in school about homosexuality and try and indoctrinate them. And you can teach all these things, but don’t you open your mouth with anything to do about God or about Jesus. Listen, when people will not listen to God, when they want to push away the Word of God, when they want to take the Word of God and put it behind their back, or bury it and say, “Don’t give me any of that,” you’ve got to know judgment’s on its way. And in Jeremiah chapter 25, this is a chapter that ought to get our attention and it just ought to bring

us face to face with God. Listen to it. Let me read you what He says in verse 7. He says, **“...You have not listened....” (Jeremiah 25:7)** He says it two times before this. He says, **“Yet, you have not listened to Me...,”** verse 7 **“...in order that you might provoke Me to anger with the work of your hands to [do you]...harm.” (Jeremiah 25:7)** He says, **“Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts....” (Jeremiah 25:8)** In other words, “I’m Jehovah Sabboath. I am over all the hosts, all the armies of heaven. I’m over all the inhabitants of the earth. I’m God!” And He says, **“...Because you have not obeyed My words, behold, I will send and take all the families of the north...and I will send...Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon....” (Jeremiah 25:8-9)** Now listen to what He says. **“...My servant....” (Jeremiah 25:9)** Oh, did Nebuchadnezzar worship God? Did he honor God? Did he know the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob? No! What does it mean, “My servant”? It means this: That God so commands the affairs of man, He’s so sovereign, that He can take a nation and turn that nation and make it to do His will. And so He says, **“...I will send to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land and against its inhabitants and....,” (Jeremiah 25:9)** and this is what you want to underline. We’re teaching you to double underline, remember, every geographical location so that you know the “where” of something. **“...And against all these nations round about; and I will...destroy them and make them a horror and a hissing, and an everlasting desolation.” (Jeremiah 25:9)** Now He’s telling what He’s going to do, not only to Judah, but He’s telling what He is going to do to the nations. Now those of you listening on radio, get your map out, and look at Mediterranean over here in the east. Look at Israel. And then as you look at that map, just beyond that Jordan River go east until you hit another river, the Euphrates. The Euphrates is the river of Babylon. It is present day Iraq. Now what He’s going to do is, He’s going to bring the king of Babylon. But he can’t come across that desert. He can’t come straight across to the Jordan River, because

there's no water. All right now, any time you want to come in to Israel you have to come into it either directly from the north on the western side of the Jordan River, or you have to come up from the south. This is very key territory. And so, when Babylon comes, he's going to have to go north. He's going to have to go the way that Abraham did, up to Horan, and then he's going to drop down. Imagine in your mind Lebanon and Syria above Israel. That's the way he's going to come in. Babylon is going to conquer all this territory. Babylon is going to bring the Assyrians down. Babylon is going to take over Egypt and put Egypt under its thumb. And what He's saying is this: "I am going to take the king of Babylon. I'm going to take Nebuchadnezzar and I am going to bring Nebuchadnezzar against you." (See Jeremiah 25:9) Now up until this time, up until this time it's Pharaoh Neco that has been playing with Israel. And so Babylon is going to take care of Egypt. There's going to be a significant battle in 609 B.C., the battle of Carchemish, or Carchemish, however you want to say it. And there's going to be this strategic battle and this battle, in essence, is going to give Babylon the rule over this area. He's calling Babylon. He's calling Nebuchadnezzar His servant because He is going to use Nebuchadnezzar as a rod of judgment, as a hammer to punish His people. Why is He going to punish His people? You've always got to understand this. He is going to punish His people because they have not listened, because they have refused to listen, because as we saw they have turned their back to Him. And He has called to them over and over and over again through the prophets saying, "Turn back to Me, turn back to Me". You're going to see this again in chapter 26. But let me go on. This is what He says in verse 11: **"This whole land [the land of Israel] will be a desolation and a horror, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon [for] seventy years."** (Jeremiah 25:11) And so what he's telling them is: "You are going to come under the reign of Babylon for seventy years." Now listen, he's telling them this before it ever started. Ding, ding, ding! I mean something ought to go off in our head, and we

ought to understand God is saying what the future holds. God is saying how long they're going to be in captivity. And if you go from 605 B.C. you can just stretch it out to seventy years, and you can see even in Daniel chapter 9 where he picks up what Jeremiah has written and he reads about the seventy years, and he realizes that they need to get ready to go back in the land. And are they ready? Have they really confessed their sins? Have they really, really and truly repented? So God is laying out the future. But He takes them all the way to our days. Now watch what He says, verse 12: **"Then it will be when seventy years are completed I [God] will punish the king of Babylon and that nation...."** (Jeremiah 25:12) I'm going to punish the one that is ruling because the shepherds are accountable to God. Our president of the United States of America is accountable to God. He will stand before God some day and the books will be opened and all that he has done will be laid before him. Did he listen? Did he obey? Every congressman, every senator, where it's all about money, money, money, money, money, our decisions are being made on the basis of greed, not on the basis of the fear of God. And all of that will be brought into judgment. And God says to them, **"...I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation,' declares the LORD, 'for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans...."** (Jeremiah 25:12) And this kingdom that thought they were impenetrable is all of a sudden taken over by the Medes and the Persians after the seventy years. Oh, there is a God and we better listen to Him. God is going to take His servant Babylon. He is going to use him as a rod of judgment against Israel because Israel would not listen to God. Israel, the Northern Kingdom, Israel, the nation as a whole and the kingdom of Judah.

PART TWO

Welcome back, Beloved. Thank you for studying with me. Thank you for communicating with me. Thank you for getting on the Internet. Those of you that have found me on Facebook, thank you very, very much. And thank you

for supporting this Ministry. How we need it. We want to reach the whole world. Well, speaking of the world, going back to Jeremiah chapter 25, God is going to take His servant Babylon. He is going to use him as a rod of judgment against Israel because Israel would not listen to God. Israel, the Northern Kingdom, Israel, the nation as a whole and the kingdom of Judah. And so He has just let them know that they are going to be in captivity for seventy years. But now listen, this nation, Babylon is coming against God's people. God is using them as His rod of judgment and yet, listen to what He says. Verse 12: **“Then it will be when seventy years are completed I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation,’ declares the LORD, ‘for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans; and I will make it an everlasting desolation.”** (Jeremiah 25:12) Think about this now. “I’m gonna make this land, Babylon, **‘...an everlasting desolation.’**” (Jeremiah 25:12) Now did that happen? I mean when Babylon was conquered by the Medes and the Persians, and I mean all of a sudden it happens, you can read about in the book of Daniel. It’s when the handwriting is on the wall, **“...MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.”** (Daniel 5:25) And all of a sudden this big party is brought to an end because the Medes and the Persians have dug in under the waterway and come in and surprised the king and taken over the empire. But was Babylon made a total everlasting desolation? No. Why? The United States of America has been in modern-day Iraq. So that is still to come. You can read about it in the book of Revelation, in chapter 17 and chapter 18, and you can hear them rejoicing at the beginning of Revelation 19 over the total destruction of Babylon. So watch what God does in prophecy. Many times in prophecy God will take two events that might be millennia apart and He will put them right up next to each other without a break in between. So that’s why you have to study the Word of God. That’s why you have to build precept upon precept with the truth that you’re getting, and that’s why we’re here and that’s why we love you, and that’s why we have a free study guide for you. And you

need to go to “preceptsforlife.com” “preceptsforlife.com”. Get connected with us. Find out that there’s so much more than just this program. We’re in Chattanooga. Come to Chattanooga and visit us and go to the studies. We have conferences for men and teens and women. We have training workshops. We train all over this country. We train in a 150 countries in 70 languages. We’re in all those languages. And if God has brought the world to your doorstep we have the materials so that you reach the world with the Word. And this is what He says, **“I will bring upon that land all...”** (Jeremiah 25:13) Now this is very important that you get this. **“...All My words which I have pronounced against it...”** (Jeremiah 25:13) He’s talking about Babylon. **“...All that is written in this book which Jeremiah has prophesied against all the nations.”** (Jeremiah 25:13) Now if you’ve been studying Jeremiah with us that ought to take you back to Jeremiah chapter 1. In Jeremiah chapter 1, remember, Jeremiah is commissioned by God. He is to be a prophet. And in verse 10 He says this: **“See, I have appointed you [Jeremiah] this day over the nations....”** (Jeremiah 1:10) Now I color-code every reference to “the nations” in my Bible. I color it a dark green and I underline it in brown. He says, **“...I have appointed you this day over the nations and over the kingdoms...,”** (Jeremiah 1:10) and then listen to what He’s going to do. He’s going to pronounce judgments on them. **“...To pluck up...,”** He says, **“...to break down, to destroy and to overthrow....”** (Jeremiah 1:10) That’s what He’s saying about Babylon. He’s going to pluck you up. He’s going to break you down. He’s gonna destroy you. He’s going to overthrow you. You say, “How can that be?” Because God is God. Because God is over the nations. You see God says in Deuteronomy chapter 32, verse 8 He says, [I’ve set the boundaries for the nations]. (PARAPHRASE Deuteronomy 32:8) In Acts chapter 17, Paul says, on Mars Hill, “I [God set the boundaries for the nations].” (PARAPHRASE Acts 17:26) God is the God over the nations. In Psalm 2 He tells the nations [to kiss the Son, unless God be angry with them]. (PARAPHRASE Psalm

2:12) And if He's angry with them then He's going to judge them. Beloved, it is has not gotten through our thick skulls. It's getting through your skull and it's getting through my skull because we're reading the Word of God and because we see that it is the very bread by which we live. It is absolute truth. But the world is oblivious to it. But the world is going to get its comeuppance when God does what He says He's going to do to the nations. So Jeremiah was to go to Babylon, the land of the Chaldeans, which was the surrounding area and the Babylonian Empire, and he was to pluck up. He was to break down. He was to destroy and overthrow and to other nations He would build and He would plant. And see when He gets through, when God gets through tearing down Jerusalem, eventually, He will build it and He will plant it. So we go back to Jeremiah chapter 25 and this is what He says, verse 14 He says, **“(For many nations and great kings will make slaves of then, even them [the Babylonians]; and I will recompense them according to their deeds and according to the work[s] of their hands.)”** (Jeremiah 25:14) Precious Ones, you and I need to know and understand this that what we do shows what we are. The way that we live shows where our values are. The way that we live shows us where God is, on a scale of one to ten in our lives, and listen, He wants to be at the top. And if He's not at the top there are consequences for you and for me. But there are not only consequences for you and me and for Israel, because God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, but God is the God of all the nations of the earth. And so this is what He says in verse 15, **“For thus [says] the LORD, the God of Israel...[Take this cup of the wine of wrath from My hand and cause all the nations to drink from it] Take the cup of the wine of wrath from My hand and cause all the nations to whom I send you to drink [from] it. They will drink and stagger and go mad because of the sword...I will send among them.”** (Jeremiah 25:15-16) In other words, it's war and it's war against God. And Precious Ones, we want you to be

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prepared for the day of battle so that you can stand as more than a conqueror. Keep studying with us.