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P.O. Box 182218, Chattanooga, TN 37422-7218
1-888-734-7707/ www.preceptsforlife.com

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

TITLE: Program 8 – Buying The Lie

WEDNESDAY

OPEN

Have you ever bought a lie? I mean, someone sold you a lie and you bought it. You went to them for advice. You went to them for counsel. You wanted to know: Is this true? Should I do this? They looked at you, and they were so nice, and they convinced you: “Yes, you should.” And later on you found out you shouldn't have done it. They told you a lie and the consequences were horrible.

PART ONE

It is a terrible thing to trust in a lie because a lie leads you, in a sense, to death. It leads you to destruction. It leads you to some sort of damage in your life. A lie comes from the “father of lies.” That's what we are going to see. (See John 8:44) Well, we're in Jeremiah chapter 27, 28, 29, and in these chapters, if you have been studying along with us, you know that what we are doing is we are going through the text, observing the text to discover for ourselves: What does it say? You've gone online to preceptsforlife.com and

you have downloaded a study guide. You say, “Oh no, I haven’t.” Well then do it! It is right there for you and you can study along with us. We want you not to believe, not to believe what I say. I want you to check it out. I want you to check it out with the whole counsel of God. I want you to go to the Word of God and discover truth for yourself. So one of the things that we are marking, as we go through Jeremiah 27, 28, and 29 is, we’re marking all the references to “prophecy” and “prophesying.” And I make, like, a green megaphone and if it’s a false prophet, I color it brown. If it is a true prophecy from God,” then I color the inside of it yellow. So yellow is my color for God. Well, as we go through, one of the other things that you want to mark is, “listen.” I put a green ear over it. If they did not listen (which is usually the case in the book of Jeremiah), I put a slash through it. So we are marking “listening” and listening implies obedience. We are marking “prophesying” and then you are going to come to a word called a “lie.” So when you come to a lie, I just take a black pen and just make a light kind of staggering around it, and then I color it brown because it leads you into darkness. Well, we want to pick up in Jeremiah chapter 27 where Jeremiah has been instructed to go to the messengers that are there from Moab, Edom and Ammon and Tyre and Sidon, to seek King Zedekiah and he’s to tell them that God is the creator. [“God has made the earth, through His power and His outstretched arm, and He gives it to whomever He wants.”] (PARAPHRASE, Jeremiah 27:5) And He has given it to Nebuchadnezzar and they are to bring themselves under the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar. (See Jeremiah 27:6) He’s telling them: “When you get home and give this message, if your prophets come along and those prophets prophecy a lie don't listen to them.” (See Jeremiah 27:10) Listen to what he says, because it’s the first place that I want you to mark “prophecy a lie,” okay? **“For they prophecy a lie to you in order to remove you...from your land...,”** he says, **“...and I will drive you out and you will perish. But the [kingdom] which will bring its neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon and serve him, I will let remain on its land,’ declares the LORD, ‘and they**

will till it and dwell in it.” (Jeremiah 27:10-11) Now think about it. They are prophesying. “If you go home and they say: ‘Oh no, oh no. Fight Babylon. Bring that Nebuchadnezzar down. Make an allegiance. Get them all together, all the countries; he’s not gonna serve us.’” And those prophets are saying to you, or those diviners, or those sorcerers, “That’s right, that’s right, that’s what you’re to do. I know. I’ve got divine wisdom on this.” “Don’t listen to them! They prophesy a lie. If you listen to them, then you are going to be hurt by sword and famine and pestilence and you are going to be kicked off your land. Don’t listen!” (See Jeremiah 27:13) So if they listen to the false prophets, if they listen to God, they are gonna be all right. If they don’t, they have believed a lie; has serious consequences. And so then he says, **“I spoke words like...these to Zedekiah king of Judah....”** (Jeremiah 27:12) Now watch what he’s saying. He is saying this, he says, “All right, I talked to the messengers of the kings. Now, I’m talking to my own king. Now I’m talking to Zedekiah.” We know from chapter 28 that it is the fourth year of the reign of Zedekiah. We looked at that. (See Jeremiah 28:1) We know that it is 593 B.C.; we know that God has already shown Nebuchadnezzar that he is going to rule. He’s going to rule and the beasts of the field are going to come under his tree and he is going to be a power just as God said. (See Daniel 4:20–22) Now Nebuchadnezzar discovered this about 603 B.C. Remember, the calendar’s going down. So now here is Jeremiah, he’s talking to Zedekiah, and this is what he says, **“...Bring your necks under the yoke of the king of Babylon and serve him and his people....,”** now listen very carefully, **“...and live [live]!” (Jeremiah 27:12)** “If you want to live, you better listen to what I’m saying.” He says, **“Why will you die....”** And I always mark “die” and “death” in my Bible in, with a little black tombstone. He says, **“[Why will you die], you and your people....” (Jeremiah 27:13)** Oh, it is not only Zedekiah that will die if he buys a lie, but it’s the people. In other words, it’s ramifications. Some of you have believed a lie and you have walked away from your mate. You haven’t honored marriage. Some of you have had sex outside of marriage. Some of

you, a great portion of our society is suffering from STDs (Sexually Transmitted Diseases). Do you know why? Simply because they disobeyed God. God says sex is only for marriage. And he says, "If you do not believe that and obey it, I am going to judge you." And the STDs are part of the judgment of God because you broke His laws. Homosexuals are dying of AIDS, others are dying of AIDS, but it started in the homosexual community and they're dying of AIDS. And my heart goes out to them and my heart aches for them because it's a terrible way to die. But they knew that they could get AIDS by doing this and they still did it. There is a consequence to believing a lie. And we need to share with those people that God can forgive them and that God can turn them around. And that there is truth and you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free. So he says, **"Why will you die...and your people, by...sword, famine and pestilence...."**

(Jeremiah 27:13) Now those are like God's three big missiles that he sends against a country. You say, "Are you telling me that God's behind war?" Un-hmm. "You are not telling me that God is behind famine have you seen anybody that is dying of famine?" Un-hmm. Yeah, He's behind that.

"Pestilence? Plague?" Yes. God says, "If you don't believe Me, if you don't do what I tell you to do, if you trust a lie, then I'm going to send sword. I'm going to send famine. I'm going to send pestilence." **"...As the LORD has spoken to that nation [who] will not serve the king of Babylon?"**

(Jeremiah 27:13) You may be God's elect people, but you are under the judgment of God. And you are under the judgment of God because you have not believed. You are under the judgment of God because you have listened to false prophets. You are under the judgment of God because you have not obeyed me. So listen to what he says in verse 14: **"So do not listen..,"** a green ear with the slash through it, **"...[do not listen] to the words of the prophets [which speak to you] who speak to you, saying, 'You shall not serve the king of Babylon,' for they prophesy a lie to you;"** **(Jeremiah 27:14)** There's that phrase again, **"they prophesy a lie."** You want to mark it. And he's saying, "Don't you listen to them, they are prophesying a lie." **"...I**

have not sent them [I didn't send them]....” He says, “**...declares the LORD, ‘but they prophesy falsely in My name....’**” (Jeremiah 27:15) In other words, they’re saying “Thus says the Lord” when the Lord hasn't said anything. They’re saying, “I’m telling you in the name of God.” You know, I picked up one of the Christian magazines and there’s ad after ad after ad in that Christian magazine: “Prophet so and so,” and “Prophetess so and so,” “Prophet so and so,” and “Prophetess so and so.” And I think: Why are we declaring ourselves prophets? And what are you prophesying? Are you prophesying the Word of God? And if you just teach the Word of God, isn't that enough? But people want to hear something new. They want to hear something unusual. They want to hear the dreams. They want to hear the visions and they don't even know the Word of God so they can judge it. He says, “**Then I spoke....**” (Jeremiah 27:16) Well let me say this, “**...I have not sent them...but they prophesy falsely in My name, in order that I may drive you out and that you may perish....**” Put a tombstone over it. “**...And the prophets who prophesy to you.**” (Jeremiah 27:15) Not only are you going to perish, but the prophets who are prophesying a lie to you are going to perish. Why? Because God is truth and God has to judge the lies. We’ll talk about it more as we move through these vital chapters. Just know, Dear One, you've got to be careful who you listen to, and know this: that if you’re giving advice in the name of God you better make sure it is truth and not a lie.

PART TWO

When somebody lies to you, you may enjoy it. And you may enjoy it because it is exactly what you dreamed. It is exactly what you want. You've gone to them for advice, you’re a little hesitant: Are you right? Are you wrong? And they say, "Oh, you’re fine. It is okay. Go ahead and do it. God loves you. God doesn't expect you to suffer. God doesn't want you to be poor. God—,” you know, whatever. And they are prophesying to you in the name of God. Prophecy simply means “to speak.” And so they are speaking

in the name of God, and this is what they are saying to you, and hey! It's what you dreamed and you like it, and so you do it. And then afterwards what do you find out, Precious One? You find out, "Hey! This is a lie. I should have listened to the truth. I just bought a lie." And the consequences are terrible. Now Jeremiah has gone to the messengers from these countries, he's brought this message: "Submit to Babylon." He's gone to King Zedekiah, he's brought the same message: "Submit to Babylon." Now he's coming and each time he warns them: "Watch the prophets that are prophesying a lie." Now he goes to the priest and to the people, and watch what it says: **"Then I spoke to the priests and all this people, saying, 'Thus says the LORD: Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, saying, 'Behold, the vessels of the LORD'S house will now shortly be brought again from Babylon...they...,'''"** and you want to write this down, you want to mark it, **"...[They] are prophesying a lie to you."** (Jeremiah 27:16) What are they saying? Hey, they're saying, "The vessels. The vessels from the Temple that were taken away in 597 B.C., taken away, they are going to come back to you." So you know, this is what you dreamed. You don't want to be kicked out of the land, you don't want Babylon having all the treasures of the house of the Lord. "Hey, this is good news. They're gonna to bring it back to you. They're going to do it in two years," or that's what we find out later. They're going to bring it back. And he says, "Don't you listen to those prophets." **"Do not listen to them...."** Verse 17, **"...Serve the king of Babylon, and live! Why should this city become a ruin?"** (Jeremiah 27:17) "Listen, don't fight against Babylon; submit to him. Let him take over this city. Why should this city become a ruin? What those prophets are telling you are wrong." Now what I did was, I went through in this segment in chapter 28, and I marked every reference to the "vessels of the Lord." I drew a little purple diagram over it because it's a keyword. And it's a key issue. So now watch what it says. It says: **"But if they are prophets, and if the word of the LORD is with them, let them now entreat the LORD of hosts that the vessels which are left in the**

house of the LORD, in the house of the king of Judah and in Jerusalem may not go to Babylon.” (Jeremiah 27:18) Ooh! What is he saying? He’s saying, “Listen, this captivity is not over.” Hah! “There’s another one coming. There’s going to be a destruction of the city if you listen to these false prophets. If you don’t come under Babylon, this is what’s going to happen.” And you know what? It’s not the vessels are going to come back, it’s more vessels are going to leave if you don’t listen, if you buy a lie.” See we dream, we think this is what we want and we buy a lie, and we find out it’s a lie. And the consequences are destructive. It says, “**...Thus says the LORD of hosts concerning the pillars....**” (Jeremiah 27:19) Those are the two huge wonderful, bronze pillars that have names that are outside of the Temple. It says, “**...concerning the pillars, concerning the sea....**” The sea was the bath where the priest would wash, “**...concerning the stands and...the rest of the vessels that are left in this city....**” (Jeremiah 27:19) Some of them were bronze. Others of them were gold. It says: “**Which Nebuchadnezzar [the] king of Babylon did not take when he carried into exile Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, from Jerusalem to Babylon, and all the nobles...[in] Jerusalem.**” (Jeremiah 27: 20) He’s talking about the second siege 597. Jehoiakim who only serves 3 months, goes into captivity. And when he goes into captivity most of the city goes into captivity. Ten thousand people go into captivity, and the Babylonians are carrying off all the treasures, but they couldn’t carry them all. And he’s saying, “Those that he could not carry, they’re gonna to come back and get.” And he says, verse 21, “**Yes, thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel....**” (Jeremiah 27:21) Now the Lord of Hosts means: “He rules.” It’s like Nebuchadnezzar said in Daniel chapter 4. “**...[God does] according to His will in the army of heaven.**” (Daniel 4:35, KJV) “**...In the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth.**” (Daniel 4:35) “**Yes, thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, concerning the vessels that are left in the house of...[God] and in the house of the king of Judah and in Jerusalem, ‘They will be carried to Babylon...they will be**

there until the day I visit them....” (Jeremiah 27:21-22) “They’re going to be there until I decide that they are coming home.” **“...Declares the LORD. ‘Then I will bring them back...,’”** them what? Them vessels. **“...And restore them to this place.” (Jeremiah 27:22)** To what place? To the Temple. Now I color code **“to the house of the Lord,” “to the temple”** in dark blue. Now chapter 28 verse 1: **“Now in the same year, in the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the fourth year, in the fifth month....”** So it's the same year. It's the same year. **“...Hananiah the son of Azzur, the prophet, who was from Gibeon, spoke to me in the house of the LORD in the presence of the priests and...the people....” (Jeremiah 28:1)** Now remember, Jeremiah has just spoken to them. He says, **“Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, ‘I have broken the yoke of the king of Babylon. Within two years I am going to bring back to this place all the vessels of the [house of the LORD], which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon took away from this place and carried to Babylon. I am also going to bring back to this place Jeconiah [your king that was taken from you] the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, and [I’m going to bring back] all the exiles...who went to Babylon,’ declares the LORD, ‘for I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon.’” (Jeremiah 28: 2-4)** “Hey, that is awesome news! That’s wonderful! They are all coming back. The vessels are coming back. Jeconiah our king is coming back (because Zedekiah wasn't the one that should be sitting on the throne), he’s coming back. And all the exiles are coming back. We’re all going to be back in our land. All we have to do is wait two years.” It was a lie. And we’re gonna see that. It was a lie and the people believed the lie. And you know what? It ended up with God judging them with sword and famine and pestilence. It ended up with their city being destroyed, it ended up with the temple being laid in absolute ruins, it ended up that it was so bad that the women were cooking and eating their children. They trusted in a lie. You better know truth, Beloved, and separate it from the lie.