

ISRAEL
PROGRAM 20 (#911180)
WEEK 4 (#911336)
©2011 PRECEPT MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL



PRECEPTS FOR LIFE
a Production of
Precept Ministries International
P.O. Box 182218, Chattanooga, TN 37422-7218
1-888-734-7707/ www.preceptsforlife.com

The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

SERIES: Israel

TITLE: Program 20 – Who Has Rightful Ownership Of Jerusalem?

FRIDAY

OPEN

I'm in the city of Jerusalem, also called the city of David. Where some day the Lord Jesus Christ, the Mashiach haMashiach will rule as King of kings and Lord of lords. Until that time you can know this that a controversy will rage over who this city belongs to. Someday all the nations are going to come against Jerusalem. Someday as the prophet Zechariah says, ["They will besiege this city. They will ravish the women. They will tear down the houses and then all of a sudden the deliverer will come from that heavenly Zion to this earthly Zion and set up His throne in the city of David forever and ever."] (Paraphrase of Zechariah Ch. 12)

PART ONE

Whenever there's a controversy a wise person will look at all the things that are being said and then seek out, search out, the truth because when we believe a lie we're so deceived that it can change the course of our lives. It

can cause great destruction to come upon us and upon our loved ones. And that's exactly what's happened in this city of Jerusalem. There has been strife. There has been pain. There has been controversy. All stirred up because men do not know or they do not believe what the Word of God has to say. And yet if you'll listen carefully today you're going to see that truth will always triumph. Let's go back to the story of David and let's go back to 2 Samuel chapter 24. Remember David is the king of Jerusalem. He's ruling now over the 12 tribes of Israel. This is the holy city. This is the earthly Zion. David makes a mistake. We all make mistakes. David knows though when he makes a mistake where he's to run. David makes this mistake as a king of numbering the children of Israel. And as a result of that God sends His prophet to David and says, ["I'm going to judge you. I have to judge sin."] Sin always must be judged, Beloved. But just because God judges sin doesn't mean that He's finished with you. So He gives David three choices. He says, "...Thus the Lord says, 'I am offering you three things; choose for yourself one of them, which I [may] do to you.' So Gad came to David and told him, and said to him, 'Shall seven years of famine come to...your land? Or will you flee three months before your foes while they pursue you? Or shall there be three days' of pestilence in your land? Now consider and see what answer I shall return to Him..., 'to God, "...who sent me.' [And] David said to Gad, '[I'm] in great distress. Let us now fall into the hand of the Lord for His mercies are great, but do not let me fall into the hand of man.' So the Lord sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning until the appointed time, and seventy thousand..., 'seventy thousand, "...men of the people from Dan to Beersheba died. When the angel stretched out his hand towards Jerusalem to destroy it, the Lord relented from the calamity and said to the angel who destroyed the people, 'It is enough! Now relax your hand!' And the angel of the Lord..., 'now listen carefully, "...was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.'" (2 Samuel 24:12b-16) Where was that threshing floor? It's on that Temple Mount. "...David [speaks] to the Lord when he [sees] the angel...and he [says]...'it is I who have sinned...it is I who have done wrong; but these sheep, what have they done? Please let

[Thy] hand be against me and against my father's house.' So Gad...said to [David], 'Go...erect an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.' [So] David went up according to the word of Gad, just as the Lord had commanded." (24:17-19) Now why does David go to that place? Because the Lord commanded him to go there. Why does David erect an altar there and offer a sacrifice? Because this is what is pleasing to God. Just remember this. With sin there has to be a sacrifice. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins. And so David goes to Araunah and he talks to them and he says, "...[I've come] to buy the threshing floor...in order to build an altar to the Lord...' [And] Araunah [says], 'Let the lord [my] king take and offer...what is good in his sight. Look, [there's] the oxen...[there's] the threshing sledge...[there's] the yokes of the oxen[']s for the wood. Everything, O king, Araunah gives to [you].'" And he says, "'May the Lord...accept you.'" (24:21b-23) "[And] the King [David says] to Araunah, 'No, but I will surely buy it from you for a price, for I will not offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God which cost me nothing.'..." (24:24a) Now listen to the rest of 2 Samuel 24, verse 24 because it's so crucial to understanding whom that Temple Mount belongs to. "...So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. [And there he] built...an altar to the Lord...." (24:24b-25a) Who purchased that piece of property? Who told him to purchase that piece of property? Who told him to build an altar there? It was God, the creator of the heavens and the earth, the possessor of the heavens and the earth. The One who says the earth is mine and the fullness thereof. The One who gives it to those that He deigns to give it to. Well the next thing I want you to see is what happens in 2 Chronicles chapter 3. David builds himself a house and David is distressed because the Lord has no house. The Lord is in the tent, in the tabernacle. And so what David wants to do is he wants to build the Lord a house but God won't let David do that because David has bloody hands because he's been a man of war. He conquered this city. Many people died at David's hand under the direction and the protection and the salvation of the Lord as God delivered David's enemies into his hand. But David's not

allowed to build the temple. He gathers everything. And then his son Solomon gets to build the temple. Now where does he build the temple? Well 2 Chronicles chapter 3, verse 1 says, “Then Solomon began to build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem...,” now watch, “...on Mount Moriah...,” On Mount Moriah. It says, “...at the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.”(2 Chronicles 3:1) The temple was to be built on the exact place that David purchased at the direction of God Almighty. And it says that, “[Solomon] began to build on the second day in the second month [in] the fourth year of his reign.”(3:2) Solomon’s temple stayed on that temple mount until Israel continually turned their back on God. God sent to this city prophet after prophet. He sent Jeremiah the prophet to tell the people that they had committed two sins. That they had forsaken the living God and they had hewn out cisterns, broken cisterns, which could not hold water. Jeremiah the prophet reminded his people that they had been engaged to God. That they had been espoused to God. That they had followed God through the wilderness and that God had brought them to this city. And then they began to forget God. Then they began to erect idols to other gods. And God sent prophet after prophet. He gave them Ezekiel. He gave them Joel. He gave them Amos. He gave them all these prophets that you read about in the Old Testament. All these prophets came and preached to the people but the people stopped up their ears. They didn’t want to hear it. They wanted to listen to the false prophets that said, “Peace, peace.” And that’s what we want, isn’t it? But do we want peace at the cost of truth? Do we want peace that is temporal or do we want peace that is eternal? Do we want peace that comes from the arm of flesh that can change at any moment or anytime? Or do you want peace that comes from the Word of God, from God’s throne in heaven? A Word that will never change and never be altered. What happens? Well, if we go to 2 Chronicles 36 we listen to what God tells us about the last king before this city is conquered by the Babylonians. In 2 Chronicles chapter 36, verse 11 it says, “Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. [And] he did evil in the sight of the Lord his God; [for] he did not

humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet who spoke for the Lord. [And] he also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar....”(2 Chronicles 36:11-13a) What do you mean he rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar? Well you have to remember that God raised up the Chaldeans. He raised up the Babylonians. That’s one and the same. A fierce and impetuous people, an ungodly people. A people that worshipped idols and He brought them over from Babylon to this land. And Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem in 605 BC and Daniel and some of the other nobles of the king’s house were taken into captivity in Babylon. In 597 BC he came again and he besieged the city and this time he took ten thousand captive and among them was Ezekiel the prophet. Then what he did was he besieged the city a third time. Why? He had put up his puppet king Zedekiah. He was going to allow the Jews to rule themselves. “[But Zedekiah] rebelled against...Nebuchadnezzar who had made him swear allegiance [to] God.”(36:13a) In other words that he would obey this king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, and he broke that. You don’t break what you swear before God. And it says, “And he also rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar who made him swear allegiance [to] God. But he stiffened his neck and hardened his heart against turning to the Lord God of Israel.”(36:13) And what happened? I’ll tell you when I come back in just a minute.

PART TWO

I want to remind you again that there were three sieges on this city by the Babylonians. The third siege began when Zedekiah was king. And it says, “...all the officials...and [all] the people were...unfaithful following all the abominations of the nations; and they defiled...,” now listen carefully, “...they defiled the house of the Lord....”(36:14) They defiled the house of the Lord and defiling the house of the Lord they brought the wrath of God upon them. It says, “[And] the Lord...God of their fathers, sent word to them again and again by His messengers, because He had compassion on His people...,” listen, “...and...His dwelling place.”(36:15) that’s God’s

dwelling place. I love it. Do you see the heart of God? Do you see how God is patient? How He's long suffering? How He tries to bring us back to Himself? O, Beloved, if you will let the Word of God be the messenger from God, if you will spend time in His Word everyday then God will keep you close to His side as long as you listen and obey. But if you don't then God has to deal with you even as a child of God you're not exempt from His dealing with sin in your life. And it says, "[And] the Lord, the God of their fathers, sent word to them again and again by His messengers...but they continually mocked the messengers of God, despised His words..."(36:15-16a) Do you despise His Words? If you don't agree with what God says about this city, if you move and want to be politically correct, PC instead of BC, biblically correct then you are going to despise the words of God. So, "...[they] despise [God's] words...[they] scoffed at His prophets until the wrath of the Lord arose against His people, until there was no remedy."(36:16b) Now next to verse 17, excuse me, you want to write 586 BC. "Therefore He...", God, "...brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young men or virgin, or old man [and] infirmed; He gave them all into his hand. [And] all the articles of the house of God, [both small and great], and the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the [house of] the king...of his officers, he brought them...to Babylon."(36:17-18) Now listen. It happened on Tish-b'Av. "Then they burned the house of God...[they] broke down the wall of Jerusalem, and burned all of its fortified buildings with fire, and destroyed all of its valuable articles."(36:19) And it says ["that they did this]...to fulfill the word of the Lord by the [prophet] Jeremiah, until the land...enjoyed its Sabbaths."(36:20-21a) They owed God seventy years of Sabbaths. And so for seventy years they were going to go into captivity. And it says, "All the days of its desolation...kept Sabbath until seventy years were complete."(36:21b) Now listen to what it says. "Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia-in order to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah-the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he

sent a proclamation throughout his kingdom, and...put it in writing, saying, ‘Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, “The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth...He has appointed me to build...a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah...”’”(36:22-23a) So Cyrus then gives the decree [“after the seventy years are up for them to return and rebuild the house of the Lord in Jerusalem.”](PARAPHRASE 36:23b) So then we go from there to the book of Ezra. The book of Ezra tells us about the rebuilding of the temple. So this would be the second temple. The first temple was Solomon’s temple destroyed by the king of Babylon in 586 BC. Now after seventy years of captivity they’re ready to rebuild. And it says in verse 3 of Ezra 6, “In the first year of King Cyrus, Cyrus the king issued a decree: ‘Concerning the house of God at Jerusalem, let the temple, the place where sacrifices are offered, be rebuilt...,’” rebuilt in the same place, ““...and let its foundations be retained...””(Ezra 6:3a) And then it says, “[And] let the gold and [the] silver [vessels] of the [temple] of God, which Nebuchadnezzar took from the temple in Jerusalem...[be] brought [back from] Babylon, be returned and brought to their place...in the temple in Jerusalem; and you shall put them in the house of God.”(6:5) And then we drop down to verse 15 of Ezra chapter 6, “[And the] temple was completed on the third day of the month Adar; it was the sixth year of the reign of King Darius.”(6:15) That temple, Beloved, was the very temple that Jesus talked about, that Jesus worshipped in. And in Luke chapter 21 Jesus tells what’s going to happen to that temple. Jesus told His disciples, “...when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is [at hand]. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and [let] those who are in the midst of the city [depart], and [let not] those who are in the country...enter the city...,” He says, “...in those days...there will be great distress upon [this] land and wrath [upon] this people; and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and...be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the time of the Gentiles are fulfilled.”(Luke 21:20-24) In 70 AD Titus, the Roman general, was used to fulfill the words of Jesus Christ and the temple was destroyed.

There's no temple now, as I said, because it's the times of the Gentiles but there is another temple coming. There is a third temple coming. Let me take you to the prophecy about that in Ezekiel chapter 37. And it's so important, God tells Ezekiel to get two sticks to represent the twelve tribes. The northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. And this is what He says, "...and make them one stick, and they will be one in My hand. [And] the sticks on which you write will be in your hand before their eyes."(37:19b-20) In other words, I want you to take two sticks. I want you to know that they are going to be a united kingdom again. Now this is when they're divided. The northern kingdom went into captivity under Assyria in 722 BC. The southern kingdom is about to go into captivity in 586 BC. But God wants Israel to know and understand their future. He wants them to know yes, I'm going to judge you but I am not going to forsake you. I am not going to abandon you because I am a God of covenant. I am a covenant keeping God. And so He says take these two sticks and present them before the people, ["And say to them...,"] 'Behold, I will take the sons of Israel from among the nations where they have gone, I will gather them from every side and bring them into their own land;...I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel; and one king will be king for all of them; and they will no longer be two nations...[and] they will no longer defile themselves with their idols...' He says, "...but I will deliver them from all their dwelling places in which they have sinned, and I will cleanse them...they will be My people, and I will be their God. [And] My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd; and they will walk in My ordinances and keep My statutes and observe them."(Ezekiel 37:21-24) "'And I will make a covenant of peace with them. And...My dwelling place...will be with them; and I will be their God, and they will be My people. And the nations will know that I am the Lord who sanctifies Israel, when My sanctuary is in their midst forever.'"(37:26-28) This is what God says about Jerusalem and about the Temple Mount. Will you believe it or not?