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SERIES: Jeremiah, Part 2 (God's Certain Judgment)
TITLE: Program 4 – Compassion And Justified Anger

THURSDAY

OPEN

Have you ever had someone say to you: "I'm sorry, but I don't want a God of wrath, that's all I heard about when I was growing up in church—about an angry God"? Precious One, He is an angry God, but it is a justified anger. But He is also a God of loving-kindness. He is a God of compassion and His anger only comes on those who refuse His love in the person of Jesus Christ.

PART ONE

When you study Jeremiah chapter 25, it is very clear God is going to give the nations the cup of the wine of His wrath. (See Jeremiah 25:15) But it is not something that He is eager to do. And you see in Jeremiah chapter 26 even during those beginning years of Jehoiakim, as God gets ready to bring Nebuchadnezzar down against Jerusalem in three sieges, God is still, He has the cup of the wrath in one hand and He has the other hand stretched out to them saying, "Repent! Return! Turn from your ways! And I won't have to

give you the cup of the wine of My wrath.” (See Jeremiah 25:4-6) Will they listen? Will they listen? Think today. You are telling people about God. You are telling them about His love, you’re warning them about His judgment. They look at what is happening in the nations of the world; we look at what's happening in the United States of America and it is very obvious to me that God has written Ichabod over our nation. I really believe that. I don't want to believe it. I've been trying to say, “Oh no. Oh no!” But it is time to wake up and listen to what God says. Well, as we bring Jeremiah chapter 25 to a close, we move into Jeremiah 26. And I want to show you: Jeremiah 25 opens up with Jeremiah saying, [I have been speaking to you for 23 years]. (PARAPHRASE, Jeremiah 25:3) He will speak for another approximately 20 years. For another 20 years he is going to warn these people—40 years of warning God's people, of telling them to listen to His Word, to believe what God says and they don't do it. And so He has told them in Jeremiah chapter 25, [If you do not listen then God is going to send Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon to destroy this city. You are going to become a horror you are going to become a hissing]. (PARAPHRASE, Jeremiah 25:7-9) And then God is going to judge the nations. Not just the nations surrounding you—Oh, He will judge those! And this is what Jeremiah is doing. He is carrying out his mission from God, his commission from God to speak to the nations, to pluck up, to tear down, to destroy, to overthrow; and then to build, and to plant. And so he is fulfilling his ministry. But he also said you didn’t, just not listen to me. You haven't been listening to the other prophets. He says in verse 31 of Jeremiah 25. **“A clamor has come to the end of the earth, because the LORD has a controversy with the nations....”** (Jeremiah 25:31) He is entering into judgment and when you mark “the nations,” you have to mark this the same way with “all flesh.” It says, **“...As for the wicked, He has given them to the sword,’ declares the LORD. Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘Behold, evil is going forth from nation to nation [to nation]....”** (Jeremiah 25:31-32) And that’s what you see happening now.

You see the nations of this world thinking they can build a united nations, that they can bring peace on earth, that they are so smart, and all they want to do is shut up the Christians and get rid of them; put them to death. And you see this in so many Muslim countries; you see it in Hindu countries, etc. And then he says this, **“...A great storm is being stirred up from the remotest parts of the earth. Those slain by the LORD on that day will be from one end of the earth to the other. They will not be lamented, gathered or buried; they will be like dung [manure] on the face of the ground.”** (Jeremiah 25:32-33) And then he says, **“Wail, you shepherds, and cry...wallow *in ashes*, you masters of the flock; for the day of your slaughter and your dispersions ha[s] come....”** (Jeremiah 25:34) Now when you mark verse 34 all the way down through verse 36, what you want to do is, you want to make sure that you mark every reference to the “shepherd.” And this is what I do, I draw like a crook just like a shepherds staff and I do that in my Bible. You can see him talking to the shepherds of Israel in Jeremiah 23. (See Jeremiah 23:1-2) Here he is talking to all the rulers. He is talking to all the political leaders and this is what he says: **“Wail, you shepherds, and cry...wallow *in ashes*, you masters of the flock....”** To “wallow in ashes” means you are in mourning, you are in grieving. He says, **“...For the days of your slaughter and your dispersions ha[s] come...you will fall like a choice vessel.”** (Jeremiah 25:34) So many times in the politics and the political arenas is, you have these men that are horrible and vicious and self-serving, and they're heads of countries and they imprison and they murder and they slaughter. You look at Idi Amin, you look at the history of Russia, you look at, at Mussolini, you look at Hitler, you look at all these people and all the deaths that happened at their hands and you think: “and they're living in luxury.” And they're spared of all this pain.” Oh no! God says there is a day coming when the shepherds will wail. They will not escape is what He is saying. **“Flight will perish from the shepherds...,”** you won't get away, **“and escape from the**

masters of the flock. **Hear the sound of the cry of the shepherds, and the wailing of the masters of the flock!**" It says, **"...For the LORD is destroying their pasture,"** (Jeremiah 25:35-36) This is where they ruled, but God is going to come in, and He is going to sweep across where they rule and He is going to deal with those shepherds. It says, **"And the peaceful folds are made silent..."**, now watch, **"...because of the fierce anger of the LORD."** (Jeremiah 25:37) I mark "anger" by taking a fine point micro pen in my Bible and I just put my hand back and forth and back and forth, and put almost like the shape of a sea around anger. And sometimes I color it yellow so then I know that it is the anger of God because yellow is my color for God because He's the light of the world and He's the light of life. It says, **"He has left His hiding place like the lion; for their land has become a horror..."** (Jeremiah 25:38) In other words, [the lion has roared who can but fear]. (PARAPHRASE, Amos 3:8) So "[He has left His...place like the lion; for their land]...", the shepherds land—another crook there, "...[has become a horror] **because of the fierceness of the oppressing sword and....**", once again a red slash through "sword," **"...and because of His fierce anger."** (Jeremiah 25:38) And the message ends. But what I want you to see, and what I want to do is, I want to take a quick run with you. If you have your Chart of all the Kings and the Prophets, the historical context, the setting of the book of Jeremiah, you know that Nahum the prophet was the prophet that came to Nineveh. And He brought this prophecy. And listen to what he says because I want you to see that it wasn't just Jeremiah. You know, when I talk to people around the country and I happen to be on a prayer meeting with Christian leaders for two hours, praying for our nation, crying out on behalf of our nation before God. People are burdened and you see this all over. You turn on the news and you see the alarm, and some people think, "Oh, it's ridiculous." You better hear the alarm you all. And so, in Nahum the prophet, this is what he says in verses 2 and 3: **"A jealous and avenging God is the LORD; the LORD is**

avenging and wrathful. The LORD takes vengeance on His adversaries...He reserves wrath for His enemies.” (Nahum 1:2) There is a protection or there is the grace to take a believer through trials. **“The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, and the LORD will by no means leave *the guilty* unpunished....” (Nahum 1:3)** You can escape the wrath of God by running into the arms of Jesus Christ. By claiming that He is God, by believing that He is the Son of God, by believing that He is the Savior, by receiving Him, by turning from your sins, repenting and having a change of mind, and saying, “You are God not me! And I confess my sins and I need a Savior.” Then He will come to your rescue. But if you are guilty, if you receive to do that, “...[He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished]. **In whirlwind and storm is His way, and [the] clouds are the dust...[of] His feet.” (Nahum 1:3)** The next time, look up at the clouds and just know that they are the “dust of His feet.” Look at verse 6: **“Who can stand before His indignation? Who can endure the burning of His anger? His wrath is poured out like fire and the rocks are broken up by Him.” (Nahum 1:6)** You see, all hell really breaks loose on the earth with the seven bowls of wrath that are poured out on the earth. They are poured out in rapid succession. They are poured out three and a half years before Jesus Christ subdues all the kingdoms of this earth and becomes King of kings and Lord of lords. But listen to the contrast: **“The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble, and He knows those who take refuge in Him.” (Nahum 1:7)** The Lord is good. He’s your stronghold so you can choose either the goodness of God or the wrath of God. We’ll talk about it when we come back.

PART TWO

Welcome back, Beloved. Well, we saw that when Jeremiah was prophesying, Nahum had also been prophesying. Nahum prophesied from 650 to 620 B.C., and then Zephaniah followed him. And what I want you to

see is, that God is bringing this message from all directions. He's doing the same thing in the United States of America. He's trying to wake us up to the reality of what is going on. In Zephaniah, Zephaniah comes along in 636 to 623 B.C. He's a minor prophet and Zephaniah comes and he says, in verse 2 speaking for God, **"I will completely remove all *things* from the face of the earth,' declares the LORD."** (Zephaniah 1:2) In verse 14 it says, **"Near is the...day of the LORD, near and coming...quickly; listen, [in] the day of the LORD! In it the warrior cries out bitterly. A day of wrath is that day, a day of trouble and distress...[and] destruction and desolation...."** (Zephaniah 1:14-15) And then he says, **"...All the earth will be devoured in the fire of His jealousy...."** in verse 18. (Zephaniah 1:18) And so God is going to bring distress on men, on all those that have sinned, and this is the message of Zephaniah. You come to the second chapter and in this message of "the wrath of God coming," he makes this appeal in verse 3 of chapter 2. It says: **"Seek the LORD, all you humble of the earth who have carried out His ordinances, seek righteousness, seek humility, perhaps you will be hidden in the day of the LORD'S anger."** (Zephaniah 2:3) And then in chapter 3 in verse 8 it says, **"Therefore wait for Me,' declares the LORD, 'For the day when I rise up as a witness. Indeed, My decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out My indignation, [for] all My burning anger; for all the earth will be devoured....'"** (Zephaniah 3:8) All these other prophets are saying the same thing, in essence, as He was saying. And then you come to Habakkuk the prophet. And when you go to Habakkuk, you find (Habakkuk prophecies from 621 to 609); 609 is when Carchemish falls, and here he is naming the kingdom of the north is Babylon. He says in verse 5, as he's complaining to God because of the injustice because the law is not upheld, because destruction and violence; that their society is so messed up just like America. Then God speaks and He says, **"Look among the nations! Observe! Be astonished! Wonder! Because *I am* doing something in your days**

[that]—you would not believe if you were told. For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans...,” the Babylonians, “...that fierce and impetuous people who march throughout the earth to seize dwelling places which are not theirs.” (Habakkuk 1:5-6) And so Habakkuk goes to the Lord and he says, Okay, “I will stand at my guard post...station myself on the rampart...I will...watch to see what He will speak to me, and how I may [answer] Him....” (Habakkuk 2:1) And the Lord says to him, listen carefully, because this is for you: “...‘Record the vision...inscribe *it* on tablets, that the one who reads it may run.’” (Habakkuk 2:2) Just as Luther in those days took his thesis and nailed it against the door of the church, and the people came and they spread the word. It was a reformation word: “The just will live by faith.” So God is saying to Habbakuk, “Habakkuk in the midst of all this that is coming, in the midst of the fact that I am bringing the Babylonians against you, a fierce and impetuous people in the midst that I am going to judge you. This is what you do: you write down the vision so that people can read that vision and reading that vision they can take that message and they can run with it.” That is the purpose, Beloved, of this program. I want you to know truth. I want you to read it. I want you to take it and I want you to share it with others. And this is what they were to do. And what was the word? It says, “[But], **as for the proud one, his soul is not right within him; but the righteous will live by his faith.**” (Habakkuk 2:4) “I want you to take the vision. I want you to know ‘...though it hastens toward[s] the goal it will not fail. Though it tarries wait for it....” (Habakkuk 2:3) In other words, “...I am watching over My word to perform it,” as God says to Jeremiah in chapter 1. (Jeremiah 1:12) Even though it tarries it will come to pass. And that is God's word to us, Beloved, and this was God's word through Habakkuk. Then He comes along with Daniel and what does He do with Daniel? He gives Daniel this vision of this statue standing there that shows the times of the gentiles from Babylon all the way down to the toes of the statue, when the stone comes

and crushes the statue. (See Daniel 2:31-35) It's a picture of God judging all the earth and Jesus Christ coming as the Son of Man and receiving a kingdom, and becoming King of kings and Lord of lords, and all the nations of the earth are no more because His is the only kingdom; His is the only nation. This is where we are headed for and this is what He wants them to understand. And that's why the shepherds are to wail because their kingdoms are coming to an end, because their power, the right arm of their power, is going to be broken. He is King of kings; He is Lord of lords. And you either bow the knee and you submit to Him or you receive His judgment. Yes, He's a loving God and His love has been extended to you and He has expressed it in a way that is beyond comprehension: [God so loved you, Precious One that He gave His only begotten son that if you would believe in Him you would not perish.] (PARAPHRASE, John 3:16) You will die unless He comes in your life time. You will die, but the minute that you die because Christ is in you, you are **"...absent from the body, and [you are] present with the Lord."** (2 Corinthians 5:8, KJV) You see Jesus, and you then are clothed in robes of righteousness and you are going to come with Him when He comes as King of kings and Lord of lords when He comes to rule over the face of the earth. And **"...Every knee...bow[s]...and every tongue...confess[es]...."** that Jesus Christ is Lord. (Romans 14:11, KJV) God loved you so much that [He had His son who knew no sin to be made sin for you that you in turn might have forgiveness of sins and a righteousness that comes through faith in Jesus Christ.] (PARAPHRASE, 2 Corinthians 5:21) So that [all your debt of your sin might be wiped out and you might be totally and absolutely forgiven]. (PARAPHRASE, Colossians 2:14) [And you might move from a kingdom of darkness to a kingdom of light, from the power of Satan to the kingdom of God.] (PARAPHRASE, Colossians 1:13) That you might move from death to life, to the gift of eternal life. Beloved, this is the message and you have a choice: righteousness or wrath? You make the decision.