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

TITLE: Program 7 – The Battle Between Truth And Lie

TUESDAY

OPEN

Do you feel like there's a contest going on, or would you even call it a conflict, or a war between people over truth and a lie? Some are saying, "That's a lie!" Others are saying, "No, it's not." And others are saying "Why did you call him liar? It's not a lie." "Yes it is a lie." And you're standing there in the midst of the lies and the truth. Which way do you go? We'll talk about it today.

PART ONE

When you come to Jeremiah chapter 27, 28 and 29, what you see is you see this conflict; you see a contest. And in a sense it's a battle, a battle between truth and lies, a battle between false prophets and true prophets—that's what you're seeing. And it is a battle that is raging today. And so God knew it, and so He recorded this in His Word so that you and I would have His precepts for life, so that we would know what He says, so that we would

know who He is, and so that we would know how to behave in the midst of this conflict. And who to listen to, and who not to listen to, because in essence, as you will see in this chapter, it is a matter of life and death; it is a matter of your future. It is a matter of making decisions that will either take you off the path and take you through a battle zone or a decision that will take you in peace and in purpose and in a sense of well-being, because no matter what's going on you know that you know that you're right. Well, I want us to look at Jeremiah chapter 27. And what I was doing in the last lesson was I was putting you into context. Now remember Jeremiah has been instructed by God to put a yoke around his neck, a yoke of captivity with chains on it. He is to go to these messengers that have come from Edom and Moab and Ammon and Tyre and Sidon from the area of Jordan and from the area of Lebanon (modern day). They have come to Zedekiah and they are representing their kings and they are messengers. And God has told Jeremiah you're to go in and say: ["I am the One that created the earth, man and beasts on it, and this is what I'm telling you to do. I did it by My power. I did it, that creation, by My outstretched hand, and now this is what I'm telling you to do. I want you to put on the yoke, so to speak, and come under the authority of the king of Babylon because I have appointed him as My servant to execute My will. And you are to stay under his power and under his authority, and if you do and you don't war against him and you don't fight against him you'll dwell in your own land. Now when you get home and you tell the king this, false prophets are gonna come and diviners and sorcerers and dreamers and they're going to say, 'Oh no, no, no, that's not true. That's a lie.' So I'm warning you that you are going to go into a conflict, a conflict between truth and a lie, and you better not listen to the people that are lying to you, because God is God and this is what He has ordained."] (PARAPHRASED Jeremiah 27:1-15) ["Now I'm going to take care of Babylon. There's going to be a day when Babylon's going to come to an end and the nations then are going to, in a sense, get even with the king of Babylon."] (Jeremiah 25:12) So what he has done is, he has laid it out. Now

what year is this? Well we know from Jeremiah chapter 27 that it is in the reign of Zedekiah. (See Jeremiah 27:1) We know from Jeremiah chapter 28 that it is in the same year that chapter 28 happens, and it is the fourth year of the reign of Zedekiah. (See Jeremiah 28:1) If it's the fourth year of the reign of Zedekiah then the year is 593 B.C. I want you to get that, 593 B.C. And I want you to remember that the calendar goes down until you get to the time of Christ. So B.C. starts off in the thousands and goes down to the hundreds and then the, eventually down to 4 A.D. and then it starts going up to 33 A.D. 29— 33 A.D. when Jesus Christ is crucified. Okay, now what is happening in 597 B.C.? Well this little scene that I just described is taking place. But what has happened to Nebuchadnezzar? We know from Daniel chapter 1; as a matter of fact let's look at it. Let's open our Bibles to Daniel chapter 1. And Daniel is a contemporary of Jeremiah. Daniel was taken captive in 605 B.C., the same year that Nebuchadnezzar is coming to power. And so that's Daniel chapter 1, and it's telling you about the reign of Jehoiakim. And Daniel and other nobles from the royal household are taken out of Israel. (See Daniel 1:2-3) They go north up to Haran and over and then they follow the river down, the Euphrates River and they come to Babylon. Babylon is modern day Iraq. All right now look at Daniel chapter 2. **"...In the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar...." (Daniel 2:1)** Now that would be, and sometimes there was a year when they were ruling, but it was called the "year of succession". So it is either 604 B.C., or it's 603 B.C. So this is happening. This chapter is happening before—now catch this, this is so important—it is happening before the fourth year of Zedekiah. It is happening after the siege of Jerusalem when 10,000 are taken captive and so that's when it's happening. So it's preceding all this. And I want you to see what's happening with Nebuchadnezzar. It says, **"Now in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was troubled and his sleep left him." (Daniel 2:1)** He has this dream and he goes to his diviners, to his sorcerers, to his wise men of the Chaldeans, and he says, ["I had a dream, can't remember what it

was, but it is really troubling me and I want you to tell me about the dream.”] (PARAPHRASE Daniel 2:2-3) They say, “Hey, tell us the dream we’ll tell you the interpretation.” He says, “No way. You’re supposed to be the wise men. You’re supposed to know these things. (See Daniel 2:4-5) You’re putting me on,” so to speak. And so he gets really upset with them because they have nothing to interpret because they don’t know what the dream was. Now Daniel and three other guys that we’re usually familiar with, if we’ve studied the Bible or if we’ve heard Bible stories as a child: Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. And those are their names given to them when they are taken captive into Babylon along with Daniel. (See Daniel 1:7) So a man comes to Daniel that’s in charge of all these slaves and he says, “You’re gonna die.” (See Daniel 2:13) And he says, “Well, why am I gonna die?” He says “You’re gonna die because the king is very upset and no one can interpret his dream and no one can tell him what he dreamed, but he’s really upset. You’re all gonna die.” (See Daniel 2:13-15) Okay, so what happens is, Daniel says, “Hey, there is a God in heaven. And He can reveal that dream to me. So let me go and ask God.” And so God reveals the mystery to Daniel in a night vision. (See Daniel 2:16-19) **“...Then Daniel blessed the god of heaven;” (Daniel 2:19)** and said, and I’m reading this to you because I want you to grasp who God is. He says, **“...‘Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever, for wisdom and power belong to Him.’” (Daniel 2:20)** Now once I know, “Hey, He’s the God of heaven.” I’ve seen that He’s the God of earth in Jeremiah. (See Jeremiah 27:5) I’ve seen that wisdom and power belong to Him. And He’s created the earth by His power and His outstretched arm. So if I know that and I submit to that God, I submit to God Almighty, I become His child because I believe in His Son Jesus Christ, and I receive Him as my God, as my Lord, as my Savior, and I begin to follow Him, then what do I know? I know that any time there is a conflict going on between truth and a lie and what you believe and what you don’t believe, and “You’re stupid,” and “You’re an idiot,” and I don’t think that we should be calling people that. I don’t think God likes that.

Matthew 5 tells us that we're not to say "Raca! You fool, you empty-headed worthless person; you don't even belong on this earth." (See Matthew 5:22, KJV) That grieves God 'cause God created them. So when I know that He's a God of wisdom and He's a God of power, then if I need wisdom where do I go? I go to Him. If I need power where do I go? I go to Him. Now listen to what it says. **"It is He [God] who changes the times and the epochs...."** **(Daniel 2:21)** In other words, He moves from one season or one thing going on in history to another. It says, **"...He removes kings and [He] establishes kings...."** **(Daniel 2:21)** and this is what he just told us He was going to do. I put Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon in as My servant. There's coming a time when I will remove him. I've appointed him. I'm going to remove him. He's going to speak. His son is going to reign. His grandson is going to reign and then I'm through with him. ((See Jeremiah 25:12; Jeremiah 27:6-7) And so then he goes on to say **"...He gives wisdom to...men and knowledge to men of understanding."** **(Daniel 2:21)** In other words, listen, Precious One, if you need knowledge, if you want to know, you've got to be a person that's understanding. You've got to be a person that can listen. You've got to be a person that can reason, not a hot-head, not a know-it-all, because if you are then He's not going to give you knowledge. **"It is He who reveals the profound and [the] hidden things; [who] knows what[']s in the darkness, and the light dwells with Him."** **(Daniel 2:22)** And then he thanks God because God has given him insight into the dream. (See Daniel 2:23) What is the dream? We'll be right back and we'll look at it.

PART TWO

Welcome back, Beloved. Let's get right into what we have read here in Daniel chapter 2. We are about to see what Nebuchadnezzar dreamed, and we're about to see what it means, and we're about to see what it means in Israel's history. It's a very significant, significant dream. Now as we look at it in Daniel chapter 2, I would suggest that you go back and that you read

this chapter and you mark every reference to the “statue.” If you are studying along with us you know we have a study guide we want you not to just believe what I say. We want you to study the Word of God for yourself to discover truth for yourself. So we want you to go to “preceptsforlife.com” and you can get this study guide right online and you are going to be blown away by all that you learn. Now let’s go to the dream. He sees the dream. All right he sees a statue that is a head of gold, a chest with two arms on it, obviously, that is of silver, a belly that is bronze, and then legs that are iron, and at the feet it’s a mingle of iron and clay. (See Daniel 2:31-33) The emphasis is on the ten toes. And we are told in the days of those ten toes, in the days of those kings, God will take a stone cut without hands and He will bring it down on the statue, hit it on its feet and it will crumble and all the statue will come down and then this is what he says, and “**...the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will [not] be destroyed....**” (Daniel 2:44) It says, “**Inasmuch....**,” verse 45 of Daniel 2, “**...[that] you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands...that it crushed the iron, [and] the bronze, [and] the clay, [and] the silver and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy.**” (Daniel 2:45) Do you know what God did? At that point God gave a vision to Nebuchadnezzar in that dream of the times of the Gentiles, of the times of the kingdoms that were going to rule over Israel, over that nation that God raised up. He says the head is gold. (See Daniel 2:32) And when he said that you can read it in Daniel chapter 2, he says, “**You, O [Nebuchadnezzar] are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven [the God of heaven] has given the kingdom, the power, the strength and the glory; and wherever the sons of men dwell, or the beasts of the field....**” (Daniel 2:37-38) Now remember he talked about the beasts of the field in Jeremiah chapter 27. (See Jeremiah 27:5) It says “**...[Or the beasts of the field]...He....**,” God, the God of the heaven and the God of earth, “**...has given them into your hand and...caused you....**” He is the One that “**...[has caused you] to rule**

over them all. You are the head of gold.” (Daniel 2:38) I mean, he tells it. He lays it down. It’s the only kingdom that he names in that statue, and yet you know what? As you go through the book of Daniel, and many of you have studied it with me, but as you go through the book of Daniel you see that the next empire are the Medes and the Persians. Following that is Greece. Following that is Rome and what are those ten toes and those feet of iron and clay? It is yet to come. It is yet to come. It is the final power and it is a world alliance of ten kings and it is detailed and we don’t have time. But that is when God is going to set up His throne. So he told Nebuchadnezzar [“You’re the king of gold.”] (PARAPHRASE Daniel 2:38) Hey, he likes that. He likes that. **“...You[’re] the head of gold.” (Daniel 2:38)** Except, if he’s the head of gold and then silver is coming, he doesn’t want that. So what do you see in Daniel chapter 3? He builds a statue. He builds this huge, huge statue out on the plain and he makes everybody in his kingdom, all the satraps from all these different places where he has conquered, he makes them come and bow down before that statue. (See Daniel 3:1-7) Well Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego can’t do that. Neither can Daniel, but Daniel’s not around at the time. And so they refuse to bow. Now remember this for later. And if you’ve done your homework you know the significance of it. He builds a furnace of fire and he says, “Okay, throw them into the fire. If you won’t bow, if you won’t bend, you’re gonna burn baby.” And so he takes them and throws them into the fire. They go into the fire bound. They come out of the fire and they’re not bound. They come out of the fire and their clothes don’t even smell like smoke. Why? Because as Nebuchadnezzar looks; he throws three of them in the fire. The fire devours the men that threw them in. He sees three of them in the fire. He comes, “No, there’s not three. There are four. There’s a fourth man in the fire. Who’s the fourth man in the fire?” I believe the fourth man in the fire is Jesus Christ. (See Daniel 3:16-27) You say, but He hasn’t shown up yet. He’s always been. **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.**

All things came into being [by] Him....” (John 1:1-3) “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we [beheld] His glory...as of the only begotten [of] the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14) His name is Jesus. He’s the Son of God. Daniel chapter 4 we have the final words recorded in the Word of God straight from Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel’s writing. Nebuchadnezzar picks up the quill and begins to write, and he says I want to declare to you what God has done. And he tells how he has a dream. And in this dream there is a great tree and God tells him through Daniel, “You’re the tree.” But the tree is cut down and almost destroyed. And he tells, Daniel tells, “O king, I wish this were for someone else. I’m so sorry it’s for you. But God wants you to know,” listen carefully, “that He’s the sovereign ruler of all the universe. He wants you to know that He’s the one that puts down kings and puts them up. And He’s going to bring you low and for seven years you’re gonna be like an animal.” Twelve months later Nebuchadnezzar walks out on his balcony. He looks at all of Babylon and he says, “Look at what I have gained by my great power.” And at that moment he becomes that animal. For seven years he lives on the ground in this horrible, horrible status. (See Daniel 4:10-27) At the end of that he comes to his senses and this is what he says, he says, “I have learned, this is what I have seen.” He said, “**...I blessed the Most High...His dominion is an everlasting dominion...His kingdom endures from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing...no one can ward off His hand [and no one can] say to Him, ‘What have You done?’” (Daniel 4:34-35)** In other words, God is sovereign. Beloved, there’s no contest between truth and a lie. Truth always wins. He’s Truth. Jesus said, [“I’m the way, I’m the truth, I’m the life;”] and no man comes to the Father but by Him. (PARAPHRASE John 14:6) If you want to know the Word of God learn about the Son of God and believe in Him.