

**JEREMIAH, PART 2 (GOD'S CERTAIN JUDGMENT)
PROGRAM 21 (#912066)
WEEK 5 (912314)
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a Production of
Precept Ministries International
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SERIES: Jeremiah, Part 2 (God's Certain Judgment)

TITLE: Program 21 – Living By His Word

MONDAY

OPEN

Are you feeling absolutely confused, maybe even desperate? You don't know what to do. You don't know where to turn so you turn to a friend and you say, "Will you pray for me? Please pray for me. I don't know what to do." What if your friend would turn to you and say, "I will pray for you, but I want to know: Will you do whatever God says?" What would you do? Would you say, "No, I just want prayer"? We'll talk about it today.

PART ONE

Have you ever noticed Beloved, that many, many times when people get in absolutely desperate situations, when they cannot fix the problem themselves, when they cannot figure out how to handle it or how to get out of it then they want prayer? They want prayer. But if you talk to them about studying the Word of God, if you talk to them about walking in obedience to God, if you even suggest that maybe they're taking a path that God doesn't

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want them to take and they better turn around, they don't like that. They want help from God. They want prayer, but they don't want interference. And that's what we're going to see today. So often when we get in a situation where we cannot figure out what to do, and there's, there's no, no, no light on the path at all and everything seems dark, then who are we gonna turn to? Well we turn to this, to this person that we know is God or that we think is God, and, and who seems to be our only hope. We turn to Him then, but the problem is, is we're not turning to Him day by day. We're not listening to what He says. And when He says something that we don't like we want to disobey. Well this week we're going to study a chapter of Jeremiah a day. We're going to look at chapter 35 through 39. And as we look at it we're going to see not only this attitude that I want prayer, but not interference, but we're also going to look at leadership. Later on in the week we're going to see the importance of leadership and how the leadership of a nation, the leadership of a government of a local government can literally change the course of people's lives. And then we're going to see the importance of you and I sticking with God no matter the cost, no matter the pain, no matter the suffering, because there is a future and there is a hope. And this is what we've seen as we've looked at Jeremiah, when He says, ["I know the plans that I have for you, the thoughts that I have for you. They're thoughts of good. They're not thoughts of evil. I want to give you a future. I want to give you hope."] (PARAPHRASE, Jeremiah 29:11) But who does that future belong to? Who does that hope belong to? Well, as we go to Jeremiah chapter 35, we have to understand that Jeremiah is not put together chronologically, but it's put together thematically by God. There is a purpose in His writing, because although he was living in history and in time and in space, so to speak, and in a chronology of life, this book was written so that you and I might understand the heart of God, the mind of God, and that we might have His precepts for life so that we might know how to live. So when we come to Jeremiah chapter 35 we come to a story, a story of the

Rechabites. And you think well, why is this story here? Well, let's look at it and ah, we're going to start at Jeremiah chapter 35, verse 1, and as we do, it's during the days of Jehoiakim. Now he's just been talking in Jeremiah about the days of Zedekiah. Remember Zedekiah is the last king of Israel to sit on the throne and he is deposed from the throne, taken into exile as we're going to see at the end of this week, because he did not listen to God. So he goes from Zedekiah, the last king in the Babylonian captivity, which happens in 586 and now he backs us up to the reign of Jehoiakim. Jehoiakim is going to be taken captive in 597 B.C. when 10,000 are taken into captivity by the Babylonians. So it's **“The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, saying, ‘Go to the house of the Rechabites...speak to them, and bring them to the house of the LORD, into one of the chambers, and give them wine to drink.’” (Jeremiah 35:1-2)** Now this is a very specific instruction. “Then I took,” and you're gonna have to watch 'cause I don't know how to pronounce these things. All right, **“Then I took Jaazaniah the son of Jeremiah, [the] son of...,”** I can't pronounce it, **“...and his brothers and all [of] his sons and the whole house of the Rechabites, and I brought them to the house of the LORD....” (Jeremiah 35:3-4)** Now one of the things that we teach you when you study the Bible is mark key repeated words. And whenever you go through the Old Testament one of the things you always want to mark is the “house of the LORD”. It's referring to the temple, the temple that was built by Solomon in Jerusalem, the temple where they worshiped. I always just color it a dark blue. And if you want to know how to do this and you want to go deeper with us and you want to study, you can go to “preceptsforlife.com” and you can download a study guide that will help you discover truth for yourself. By the way, I love hearing from you. And when you tell me what God's doing and how you and your wife are studying together and how you're bringing your children in and I love it, because you're studying the Word of God. So mark the “house of the

LORD”. “...Into the chamber of the sons of Hanan...the man of God, which was near the chamber of the officials, which was above the chamber of Maaseiah the son of Shallum, the doorkeeper.” (Jeremiah 35:4) All right now, he’s bringing them into this special place in the temple and it was special rooms where the priests and the others that took care of the temple would meet. “Then I set before the men of the house of the Rechabites pitchers full of wine and cups; and I said to them, ‘Drink wine!’ But they said, ‘We will not drink wine, for Jonadab the son of Rechab, our father, commanded us, saying, “You shall not drink wine, [nor] your sons, forever.”’” (Jeremiah 35:5-6) Here’s where, if you’re marking the text, you want to mark “forever” because that’s very key. This was a command that this father gave to these people to be passed down from generation to generation. “Listen we are Rechabites. And because we are Rechabites we will never drink wine. Teach that to your children. Have your children teach it to their children, forever. And they also said, “**You shall not build a house...you shall not sow seed...you shall not plant a vineyard or own one; but in tents you will dwell all your days, that you may live many days in the land where you sojourn.**” (Jeremiah 35:7) We read about different sects of people that live separate lives, the Mennonites and others that drive buggies, that do not use electricity and that. This is because this is something that has been passed down from generation to generation. Well this is what happened with the Rechabites. They were not to build houses. They were to dwell in tents. They were not to sow, because they were going to be a nomadic people. Now we know that in Baal worship there was a lot of drinking of wine. So it could have come from that fact that they’re not going to even get close to the things of the enemy. But what is the point here? Well watch. They say “**We have obeyed the voice of Jonadab the son of Rechab, our father, in all that he commanded us, not to drink wine all our days, we, our wives, our sons or our daughters, nor to build...houses to dwell in; and we do not have vineyard or field**

or seed. We have only dwelt in tents, and have obeyed....” (Jeremiah 35:8-10) Do you see that word “obeyed”? All right, what do you do. Well, this word is key to understanding this chapter. And “obeyed” and “observed” is going to be used about six times. So when you’re reading the Word and you see a word pop up in a chapter or pop up in a segment of Scripture and it’s used over and over and over again it’s a key word. God is repeating Himself because He wants you to get the point, ’cause He doesn’t want you to miss it. So it says, **“We have obeyed and...done according to all that Jonadab our father commanded us. But when Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against the land, we said, “Come and let us go to Jerusalem before the army of the Chaldeans and before the army of the Arameans.” So we have dwelt in Jerusalem.”** (Jeremiah 35:10-11) Now the reason that they moved in Jerusalem, that they, they left the fields and they came into Jerusalem, was simply because they couldn’t live out there because the enemy was out there. But although they had to move into the city, they were not going to disobey their father. And he says, **“Then [came] the word of the LORD...to Jeremiah saying, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, “Go and say to the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, ‘Will you not receive instruction by listening to My words...?’”** (Jeremiah 35:12-13) What is He saying? “Listen, I’m God. And I am talking to you.” So many times we’ll get the advice of a friend, but we won’t go to God to get His advice. We go to those that are impotent to do anything instead of going to the One that is omnipotent who can do all things. We go to people that have limited wisdom and limited knowledge and limited resources when we could go to God who is omnipresent, omnipotent, and who has all knowledge and all wisdom and has the power and the might to do whatever He says. And so this is what He’s saying. God is saying, “Hey, you’re not listening to Me.” He says, **“...‘Will you not receive instruction by listening to My words...?’”** (Jeremiah 35:13) Think on that for a minute and we’ll be right back.

PART TWO

Welcome back to the Rechabites. The Rechabites that say, “Hey, I’m not going to drink that wine. Take away the cup.” The Rechabites become an illustration that God wants to you use with His people. And when I left off before the break we said, “...**Will you not receive instruction by listening to My words...?**” (Jeremiah 35:13) This was what God wanted Jeremiah to say to the people of Judah and Jerusalem. Now watch what he says. “**The words of Jonadab the son of Rechab, which he commanded his sons not to drink wine, are observed. So [that] they [don’t] drink wine to this day, for they have obeyed their father’s command....**” (Jeremiah 35:14) Put another blue circle over “obeyed”. Here it is used for a third time. He says, “...**But I have spoken to you again and again; yet you have not listened to Me.**” (Jeremiah 35:14) They were listening to their father, to their grandfather, to their great-grandfather, and they were obeying, because he said “...**You shall not [do it] forever.**” (Jeremiah 35:6) And yet, here was God Almighty, the Creator the former of the nation of Israel and they were not listening to God. He goes on to say, “**Also I have sent to you all My servants the prophets, sending them again and again, saying: [now] ‘Turn now every [one of you from your evil deeds] from [your] evil way...amend your deeds...do not go after other gods to worship them. Then you will dwell in the land which I have given to you and to your forefathers; but you have not inclined [to Me nor] listened to [My words].’**” (Jeremiah 35:15) Now “listened” is a key word in the book of Jeremiah. And I draw a little green ear over it and if it says “you have not listened” then I put a slash through it just like you see on signs these days, because everybody’s not reading the same language. So there’s an ear if you’ve listened; if you have not listened, there is an ear with a slash. And what He’s saying is, “I have sent you one prophet after another prophet after another prophet. I have been speaking to you over and over and over again and you have not even inclined yourself to Me. You have not even listened

to My words.” Isn’t that sad? Now what is God saying to you today? God didn’t write this just to have it for them. He wrote it for every generation to have it until He shows up in person and rules over all the nations of this earth. The question is: Are you inclining your heart towards God or do you just want prayer? Do you just want deliverance without knowing and hearing the heart of God and obeying Him? Are you listening to His words, not hearing them? You sit in church, you hear them, and maybe you’re texting in church or you hear them and maybe you’re flipping through something else or maybe you’re looking at your watch to see if he’s gone overtime. But are you listening? Are you hanging on His every word? This is the purpose of this Ministry. The purpose of Precept Ministries International is to teach you how to discover truth for yourself, how to hang on His every word, and then to go deeper with others and to get into small group Bible studies and discuss these things. And we provide you the materials to do this. I mean if you like this program you can know hey, you can go even deeper and you can go deeper with others. Just get on our website and we’ll show you where there’s a class closest to you. Or the other thing that we want you to do, we want you to disciple others. We want you to take these truths and to pass them on to others. Now listen to what He says. **““Indeed, the sons of Jonadab the son of Rechab have observed....** “ There’s the word **“observed”**. **“...[They] have observed the command of their father which he commanded them....””** (Jeremiah 35:16) Well if they’ve observed it they’ve obeyed it, so I put a blue “O” over it. **“...“But this people has not listened to Me.””** (Jeremiah 35:16) In other words, do you see the comparison? “Here are people that are obeying an ordinary forefather and living by what he said and here I am: the eternal God, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, (See Revelation 1:8) the Creator of the heavens and the earth, (see Genesis 1:1) the One that holds your breath in My hands; I’m the One that gives life. I’m the One that wounds. I’m the One that heals. I’m the One that kills. (See 1 Samuel 2:6) I’m the One that makes

alive and you're not listening to Me." You know, how stupid! He says in verse 17, **"Therefore thus says the LORD...God of hosts, the God of Israel,...."** (Jeremiah 35:17) **"Therefore....,"** (Jeremiah 35:19) when you see a "therefore" what's the "therefore" there for? And I put three red dots in the shape of a triangle so that I see the "therefore" because it's a term of conclusion. He says, "... **"Behold, I am bringing on Judah and...all the inhabitants of Jerusalem all the disaster...I have pronounced against them...."**" I have said it over and over again. "... **"Because I spoke to them but they did not listen...."**" Mark "listen". **"...I have called to them but they did not answer."** (Jeremiah 35:17) And **"Then Jeremiah said to the house of the Rechabites, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel....,'"** now listen, **"...Because you have obeyed....,"** another blue circle, **"...the command of Jonadab your father, kept all of his commands and done according to all that [is] commanded you; therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, 'Jonadab the son of Rechab shall not lack a man to stand before Me always.'"** (Jeremiah 35:18-19) What is God saying? You obeyed your forefather. You made a deal and you obeyed and I noticed that. And I appreciate obedience. He's not telling anybody else not to drink wine. He's not telling anybody else that they have to dwell in tents. He's not telling them that they can't sow. He's just saying: Here are people that are people of their word. Here are people that listen. Here are people that obey. Here are people that when I offer them a cup of wine and they may want it, they're not going to take it because they're going to stand true to their promise. And He says [**"and yet you will not even listen to Me.**] (PARAPHRASE, Jeremiah 35:16) What you're going to see is that God honors obedience. God honors obedience. When you get to Jeremiah 37 it says King Zedekiah said **"...Please pray to the LORD our God on our behalf."** (Jeremiah 37:3) Zedekiah, who we are going to see, would not listen to God, who would not do what God said, who wanted to know: What's the word of the LORD? Oh, please pray for us;

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did not want the life of obedience that goes with listening to the Word of God. We're going to see it all this week and it's going to be very clear. What is God's message to you, Precious One? Do you simply want God there to get you what you need, to deliver you, to take care of you, but you do not want to obey Him? Precious One, let me ask you a question: do you know who He is? He is God. There is no other. He is the One that judges in righteousness and in holiness. He is the One who tells you that you are to live by His every word. (See Matthew 4:4) [His words are spirit. His words are life.] (PARAPHRASE, John 6:63) If you want to live a life not where you're desperately crying for prayer, but where you're walking so that you know and understand your God and His will, then you've got to be a man, a woman, a teenager, a child of the Book. Listen and obey.