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

TITLE: Program 1 – The Lord Roars From On High!

MONDAY

OPEN

“[The] lion has roared! Who will not fear? The Lord...has spoken! Who can but prophesy?” (Amos 3:8) These were the words of Amos. And as we look at Jeremiah chapter 25 and 26 we're going to look at the parallel words from the prophet Jeremiah. O Beloved, if there were ever a book for our time it is the book of Jeremiah as it speaks to the nations; your nation.

PART ONE

God speaks again to Jeremiah His prophet. And in Jeremiah 25, verse 30 He says, **“...You shall [say] to them, ‘The LORD will roar from on high and utter His voice from His holy [mountain]; He will roar mightily against His fold. He will shout like those who tread the grapes, [and] against all the inhabitants of the earth. A clamor has come to the end of the earth, because the LORD has a controversy...,’”** listen to this, **“...with [all] nations....” (Jeremiah 25:30-31).** I know that we have connected through

the media. The world is opened to us through the Internet. And I know that some of you are in India, some of you are in Austria and Hungary and others of you are in Ecuador; from all over the world we're hearing from you. And I just want you to know today, Beloved, and all this week that the Lord has roared, that He has opened His mouth, that He has spoken and that He has a controversy not just with Israel, but He has a controversy with all the nations. It says, **"...He is entering into judgment with all flesh; as for the wicked, He has given them to the sword...."** (Jeremiah 25:31) Judgment is coming. We are living in epochal times. And when God laid out for us the Old Testament, He laid out lessons for you and for me so that you and I might know how we are to live, so that we might be instructed for life, so that we might have hope, but also, so that we might be warned. Because what He does in Jeremiah chapter 25 is, He takes us from the days of Josiah and Jehoiakim, all the way through the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. and the destruction of the temple. He takes us all that distance, and then He leaps over the ages to a time which has not yet come, to a time which is yet future, to a time when He will destroy; He will bring judgment on all the inhabitants of the earth. Why? **"...Because the LORD has a controversy with the nations...."** (Jeremiah 25:31) Now whenever God speaks to the nations He never excludes the individual, and you and I need to see this. He has not excluded you as an individual. And so as we look at Jeremiah 25 and 26, Beloved, we need to ask the Lord, "Lord, do You have a controversy with me? Is there anything in my life that is displeasing You? Is there any way that I have gone astray? You're the Lion. You are Almighty God. Yes, You are compassionate. Yes, Your **"...lovingkindnesses...never cease....they are new every morning...."** (Lamentations 3:22-23) And yet You are just, and You are righteous in all Your ways. And You do not let the guilty go unpunished. (See Exodus 34:7; Nahum 1:3) So God, You've spoken. I want to know what You've said. You've spoken, and I want to examine my heart in the light of that word. I know that You have a

controversy against the nations. I just read it. You can only do so much as regards the nations, but you can do everything, Beloved, when it comes to you so that you can approach the Lord with clean hands and with a pure heart, and that's what we want. And so we have prayed for you and I want to pray for you right now so that you will understand that God is about to take the water of His Word and He is going to wash you with the water of His Word. Let's go to the Lord in prayer. *Father, I ask You now, as we have prayed before we even begin these programs, I ask You God to fill me with Your Spirit, to let Your Spirit be strong in the life of everyone that is listening. Father, You know the media to which they have tuned in. And I just ask You now that by the power of Your Holy Spirit You would wash them with the water of Your Word, that You would search their heart so that they can see if there's any wicked way in them and forsake that and turn from that, so that when Your judgment comes, Father, they will be able to stand firm and take action because they've known You, listened to You and obeyed You. Thank You Lord for what You're going to do now. In Jesus' precious, precious name we pray, amen.* I want us to go to Jeremiah chapter 25. Now if you'll remember; just a quick review. But if you'll remember, Jeremiah was appointed as a prophet to the nations when he was but a youth. (See Jeremiah 1:4-8) When you look at Jeremiah chapter 1, verses 1-3, and you can do that later, you see the time when Jeremiah prophesied. You see that Jeremiah's prophecy began **"...in the thirteenth year...of Josiah [who was the] king [a good king of the Southern Kingdom] of Judah..." (Jeremiah 1:2-3)** That prophecy ministry lasted all the way through Zedekiah who was an evil king, who was taken captive by the Babylonians when God sent the Babylonians down to destroy Jerusalem and destroy the temple. And then as we study in Jeremiah, 'cause we're gonna finish this book. I know you wonder are we ever gonna get it done? Yes we are, but thank you for all your e-mails. I love hearing from you. I love reading what you're doing. I love looking at you and saying, "Okay, now are they just discovering truth

for themselves, or have we linked them into a group so that they are going deeper with others, or have they so grown that now they are discipling?" If you look at Precept Ministries Inter—, International we're three "D's": "Discover," discover truth for yourself; "Go Deeper With Others". You need the body. You need the fellowship. And the third "D" is "Disciple." We are commanded by Jesus Christ to disciple all the nations, and that's what this Ministry is doing. And that's what your gifts enable us to do. Producing this is very, very expensive and it takes a lot of staff and it takes a lot of resources. And I want to thank you for not being just a taker, but for being a giver. And I know some of you have written me and you don't have much, but you're sending what you have, and that's what makes a difference. And I thank you so much for helping us do this. All right now, when Jeremiah 25 begins, it follows a chapter that deals with good figs and bad figs. And those good figs are representative of people that are going to go into captivity, that are going to go to Babylon. And there they are to settle down. They're to pray for Babylon. They're to be part of the community and in being part of the community what they are to do is, they are to pray for that country, which sounds very unusual. The bad figs are the ones that God leaves in the land when He takes the others into captivity. And those are the most stubborn of the lot, and they are really in a sense, what even the Babylonians don't want. So you're going to see all the way through Jeremiah the good figs, the bad figs. All right, now Jeremiah chapter 25, verse 1. **"The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah...."** (Jeremiah 25:1) Remember Judah is the Southern Kingdom. Remember Jerusalem is the capitol. Remember Jerusalem is where the temple is, where God has put His name, and where if they're ever in captivity they're to turn and they're to look towards Jerusalem, towards that place, towards the temple, and they are to pray. This is 2 Chronicles 7:14. And in the context you need to take the verses, but it was given to Israel, and they are to pray and ask God to heal their land and God will. (See 2 Chronicles 7:14) So that temple in

Jerusalem is very important. So Jeremiah is speaking concerning the people of Judah and Jerusalem, **“...In the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah (that was the first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon).” (Jeremiah 25:1)** Now what you have to understand is, when they did the numbering of the years there were two different ways to calculate the years. The first year could be the year that he's coming to power. The second year could be when he is actually made king. It's kind of like we elect the President of the United States of America in one year. We know who he's going to be, but his year doesn't start until he's inaugurated the next year. And so when you see some discrepancies you have to say, “Okay, which way were they numbering the years?” But this is the year of Jehoiakim. And it says, **“...(That was the first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon), which Jeremiah the prophet spoke to all the people of Judah and to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying.” (Jeremiah 25:1-2)** Saying what? **“From the thirteenth year of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, even to this day, these twenty-three years the word of the LORD has come to me, and I have spoken to you again and again, but you have not listened.” (Jeremiah 25:3)** Oh, it's bad not to listen to the Lord. We'll talk about it in just a minute.

PART TWO

Welcome back, Beloved. I want to put you into the historical context of this chapter. And the reason I want you to understand that is, because so often we hear judgment is coming. We hear about Armageddon. I remember when 9/11 happened and they wanted to know, “Is this the end of the world? Are we being attacked; is America being destroyed? Is this Armageddon?” And if you'll remember after 9/11 the churches were packed because they thought, “God is doing something; God is intervening in history.” And yet, eventually, those packed churches became unpacked because the people saw, “Oh, we're still all right.” This is what's happening now in the time of

Jeremiah's prophecy, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim. He has a very hard and very difficult message for these people. And you know what? He's going to tell them that judgment is here. It's not coming; it's here. He's speaking, he's prophesying on the very edge of time; they are about to fall over into the abyss. Their bodies are about to lie strewn in the streets of Jerusalem. Their temple that they thought would never be destroyed; earlier in Jeremiah they're saying, "The temple, the temple, the temple. Nothing will happen. We've got the temple." (See Jeremiah 7:4) It's about to be destroyed. He's telling them this. He's going to tell them again in Jeremiah chapter 26. And if you're studying along with us, if you're getting the notes, if you're keeping a pace ahead of me, which is where you ought to be so that I can come along after you discover truth for yourself, and establish you in the Word of God. But if you're staying ahead of me, you know what is coming. You see so often we think, "Oh, well, it won't happen in my lifetime." I truly honestly believe that the United States of America is in grave danger. I believe that we are about to see things happen in this nation that we never ever conceived of, or dreamed would happen. I believe that things are gonna change so radically. I believe God's hand of judgment is upon our nation. I believe, in a sense, that God has written "Ichabod" over America. The glory has departed. You say, "But I live in India. But I live in Ecuador." And yet you know when the economy tanked in America that it affected the economies of the world, not that we're so great, but the problem is, is that we are so international now, that what happens in one country can affect another country; another nation. So I want us to look and I want us to understand the setting. I want us to see that the key repeated word in Jeremiah chapter 25 in those first eight verses is: "you have not listened" "you have not listened." So let me read from verse 3 where he starts with that key repeated word and take you through verse 8. And then I want to put you in historical context. It says, **"From the thirteenth year of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, even to this day, these twenty-three years**

the word of the LORD has come to me, and I have spoken to you again and again, but you have not listened. And the LORD...sent to you all His servants the prophets again and again, but you have not listened nor inclined your ear[s] to hear.” (Jeremiah 25:3-4) “You haven’t even given me a chance to speak to you.” So many people go to church, and they’ll go through all the form and all the worship and all the music and all the excitement, or they’ll flip on TV and they’ll listen to the preachers on TV, one after another, but how many crack the Book? How many get in here and dig it out for themselves? I’ve heard people say, “Oh, I know Precept is so good, it’s so life-changing, but I hear it’s hard.” It isn’t hard; it takes time. It takes discipline. It takes thinking. But this is the Word of God and you have to incline our ear to hear it. We have to put ourselves in a position where we can hear God speak. And if you want to hear God speak and you know it’s absolute God, absolutely God, then you open the Book and you start studying the Book. That’s the whole purpose of this program to help you discover truth for yourself, and then to show you how to go deeper, and then to show you how to disciple others. And so he says, He sent his prophets, **“saying, ‘Turn now everyone from his evil way and from the evil of your deeds....’” (Jeremiah 25:4)** You’re over here; you’ve got your back against Me. You are not paying attention to Me. You have plugged up your ears. I want you to turn. I want you to turn away from the evil of your deeds. I want you to come back to Me. This is always God’s will. Don’t ever think, “Well, I’ve turned and I can’t turn back. God wouldn’t take me.” Listen, you don’t know God. You need to read the Book. You’re going to see that God says just before He gets ready to besiege Jerusalem the first time, He tells them that they can turn, that He will stay His hand of judgment. And so he says: **“‘Turn now everyone from his evil way and from the evil of your deeds, and dwell on the land which the LORD has given to you and your forefathers forever and ever.’” (Jeremiah 25:5)** Now listen again. What did he just say? To whom is he speaking? Israel. To

the Southern Kingdom of Judah, right now. Who is speaking? God, Almighty, the Creator of the heavens and the earth, the earth which is the fullness thereof that belongs to Him. He's speaking, and He's saying "I gave you this land forever and ever." Any of you that are politically pressuring anybody, even our President of the United States of America, pressuring Israel to give up their land, to give it to the PLO, to stop building settlements for the Jews on the land that God has ordained is against God. Do you understand that? They're against God. They're going against truth. You can't go against truth and get away with it. "Be ye sure," He says, "Your sins will find you out." (See Numbers 32:23) He says, **"And do not go after other gods to serve them and to worship them, and do not provoke Me to anger with the work of your hands, and I will do you no harm."** (Jeremiah 25:6) "[The] lion has roared...!" (Amos 3:8) The prophet has prophesied, he's saying "Get rid of your idols. Don't depend on the works of your hands. I want you to listen to Me. I want you to turn back to Me, and then I will do you no harm." He says, **"Yet..."** I brought you this message over and over again, not only through Jeremiah, but I have brought you this message through other prophets. We'll look at it as we go through this week. I brought you this message, but **"...you have not listened to Me," declares the LORD, 'in order that you might provoke Me to anger with the work of your own hands to [do you]...harm.'" (Jeremiah 25:7)** He says, "You know what? There is a limit with Me and you've reached your limit. You provoked Me to anger because you will not listen to Me, because you will not come back to Me, and I am going to have to do you harm." "[The] lion has roared...!" (Amos 3:8) The prophet has prophesied. The question is: Will you fear? Will you listen? Will you take heed? Will you escape the sword?