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

TITLE: Program 6 – Don't Listen To False Prophets!

MONDAY

OPEN

What does God say about people who tell you to ignore the Word of God, or not to pay attention to it, or; "It's all right, you can disobey it." "You don't need to worry." "A God that's going to judge you? Oh for heaven's sake, no! No way. That's not what God is really like." What about people like that, that give you counsel? Are you to listen to them, and what is their future?

PART ONE

We live in very interesting times, Beloved. I mean, very interesting times. We live in a time of communication that is so instant, and that is so broad that you think, "Hey, that could never have happened." And yet, it has happened. It's called the Internet. It's called "YouTube." It's called "Facebook". It's called "Twitter" and "tweeting" and all of a sudden we are able to garner the opinions of others whether we want them or not on the

Internet. And what you see as you look at the people on the internet, you see a wide variety. You see them coming from all different backgrounds. You see some that have no propriety. You see some that are using such foul, foul language. And you know, I don't think that they really know how foul their language is. It's just part of their vocabulary. As you listen to them what you get is, you get a variety of opinions. What is being said? Well I think that if you listen to it very carefully you can divide it between truth and a lie. We're looking at Jeremiah 27, 28, and 29 this week. That is our subject, and we're going to go through those chapters verse by verse. And as we go through them what you're going to note is, you're going to note a contrast, a contrast between the true and the false. And as you look at that contrast you need to ask God to show you where you are, and what kind of information are you dishing out to others? Does it line up with the plumb line of God's Word? Or is it your opinion or what you think, or is it what the world is saying? This is what we're going to look at. How adamant are you about truth? How adamant is God? That's a better question. How adamant is God about truth? How adamant is God about obedience to Him, because there's a whole world of people out there that are not walking in obedience to God? So let's go to Jeremiah chapter 27; Jeremiah chapter 27. And as you turn there I want you to know that I love you. I appreciate you. And whether you agree or not, I love it that you're listening, and I don't want you to believe what I say. I want you to know God's Word for yourself, because of that you can go online to "preceptsforlife.com" and you can download a study guide that will go along with this, a study guide that will help you discover truth for yourself, that will help you study the Bible. Jeremiah chapter 27. **"In the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD...thus says the LORD to me—...,**" to Jeremiah, **"...‘Make for yourself bonds and yokes and put them on your neck...."** (Jeremiah 27:1-2) Now what is He telling him to do? He's telling him to put on himself the attire, so to speak, the accessory, so to speak, of being a slave. When a nation would come and conquer another

nation in those days, and they got ready to take the people into captivity or exile, they put a yoke, a wooden yoke around their neck. It was like a big wooden collar. And attached to that was a chain so that they could pull them by the chain or fasten them to someone else, or fasten them in such a way that they wouldn't get away. So God's coming and speaking this to Jeremiah in the year of Zedekiah, during the reign of Zedekiah. Now if you have a King James Version of the Bible it's going to say **"In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim...."** (Jeremiah 27:1 KJV) And it's really not Jehoiakim. It's Zedekiah. There is a scribal error here. And when you go back to the previous chapter, chapter 26, it starts like that. If you look at the context in verse 12 he's speaking to King Zedekiah. In chapter 28 it says **"Now in the same year, in the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the fourth year, in the fifth month...."** (Jeremiah 28:1) So it's saying "in the year," so when it says "in the same year" you've got to say: "Okay, what year?" Well he told us in Jeremiah chapter 27, verse 1. So I just want you to know that if you have a King James, that you're not going to panic when I say "Zedekiah," and you think, it's Jehoiakim. All right now, this is what He's telling him to do: **"...Send word [put this yoke around your neck and send word] to the king of Edom, to the king of Moab, and to the...sons of Ammon...."** (Jeremiah 27:3) Now if you've downloaded your free study guide with us then you have a map and that map shows you where Edom and Moab and Ammon are. It's present day Jordan. I mean if, if you just go across the Jordan River it is present day Jordan. And that's what He's talking about. Then the king of Tyre and Sidon would be up on the coast and it would be north of Israel and that would be present day Lebanon. So He's saying, "This is what I want you to do. I want you to put that yoke around your neck along with those chains, and then what I want you to do is, I want you to send word," now you've got to read this whole verse so that you understand it. "I want you to **'...Send word to the king of Edom, to the king of Moab, to the king of the sons of Ammon, to the king of Tyre and to the king of Sidon by the messengers who come to Jerusalem to**

Zedekiah king of Judah.” (Jeremiah 27:3) Now something’s going on. Something’s going on that is causing those kings to come from the east and the north to see Zedekiah. And what’s going on and I want to put you in the historical context, what’s going on is, Babylon is taking over, Babylon has become a major power. Assyria’s out of the way and it’s no longer the enemy of Israel and Babylon has become a major power. Babylon is going to take over that whole region. Babylon is conquering Egypt and putting Egypt under its thumb, and so the kings have come to Zedekiah, and what you have to just logically assume is, “What are they doing there?” Well apparently what they want is they want an alliance. They want an agreement. They want a handshake, “Hey, let’s stand against the king of Babylon.” Now catch the scene. Here are the messengers from those kings, they’re with Zedekiah, and God is telling Jeremiah, “Put that wooden collar around your neck, and I want you to go and talk to these messengers.” So now watch what happens. What is he to say? He’s saying **“Command them to go to their masters saying....” (Jeremiah 27:4)** I don’t want you to say, you know, “Would you like to?” I want you to stand there and say, “Listen, you need to go to your masters.” This is a command. “You need to go to your masters and you need to say to them.” **“I have made the earth, [and] the men and the beasts which are on the face of [this] earth by My great power and by My outstretched arm, and I will give it to the one who is pleasing in My sight.” (Jeremiah 27:5)** Whoa! Is that Jeremiah speaking? No, it is God speaking. But this is the first words that are to come out of Jeremiah’s mouth. Now remember from Jeremiah chapter 1, God has told Jeremiah **“...I have [made] you a prophet to the nations....” (Jeremiah 1:5)** “And you are to go and you are to speak to them, and you are to tell them everything that I command you.” (See Jeremiah 1:7-8) You are not to be dismayed by their faces. So this is what He’s charging him to do. Now let me keep reading. **“Now I have given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon....” (Jeremiah 27:6)** “[I made the earth and I’ve given these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of

Babylon], **My servant**, [whom] **I have given him also the wild animals of the field to serve him. All the nations shall serve him and his son and his grandson until....**” time phrase. (**Jeremiah 27:6-7**) Draw a green circle around it if you’re studying with us. We teach you to mark time with a green circle. He says, **“...Until the time of his own land comes....”** His who? Nebuchadnezzar’s land comes. **“...Then many nations and great kings will make him....”** Him whom? Him, Nebuchadnezzar, **“...their servant.”** (**Jeremiah 27:7**) I mean this is incredible what he’s saying. And I want you to get this scene. I want you to get Jeremiah walking in to the presence of these guys and saying, [“I have made the earth. I have made the men and the beasts that dwell on it. I am giving it, the earth to Nebuchadnezzar.”] (PARAPHRASE Jeremiah 27:5-6) And then he goes on to say, **“All the nations [will] serve him...until [his] time...comes...[and] it will be, that the nation or the kingdom which will not serve him, Nebuchadnezzar [the] king of Babylon...,”** just want you to know who it is, **“...which will not put its neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, I will punish...with sword, with famine...with pestilence,’ declares the LORD, ‘until I have destroyed it [from] his hand.”** (**Jeremiah 27:7-8**) What on earth is he saying? We’ll talk about it in just a minute.

PART TWO

Welcome back, Beloved. I want to make sure that you get the full picture, the context, the setting of Jeremiah chapter 27 because it is so significant. You say, “But that happened thousands of years ago. What does it have to do with me?” It has everything to do with you, but listen to me very carefully. You need to know your biblical history. You need to know the setting. You need to know the events because all these things that are in the Old Testament were **“...written for [your] instruction, upon whom the end of the ages has come.”** (**1 Corinthians 10:11**) It was written for your encouragement. It was written to give you hope. It was written so that you,

in turn, might know God. And knowing God you might know truth, and knowing truth that you might stand firm for truth. So as we look at this just catch it. Jeremiah's got a yoke around his neck. He's got chains on. He's walked into where King Zedekiah is, and these messengers from these nations are standing and his first words out of his mouth are: **"I have made the earth...."** (Jeremiah 27:5) And I want you to know something, if we stepped into the marketplace of ideas, if we get on the Internet and we say, "Hey, God says He's made the earth. God says that He is over man and beasts on the earth. God has said He can give it to whatever kingdom He wants." (See Jeremiah 27:5-6) I'm telling you there would be an uproar. You're gonna believe that God created the earth? You're gonna believe that God moves nations around?" Frankly, excuse me, yes; I'm going to believe it! I'm going to believe it because I believe the Bible. You may not believe it or your friends may not believe it or those that you dialogue with, will not believe it. You know why? Because they don't believe the Bible is true. They believe that what they think, or what they know or what others believe is true. So what you have is, you have a conflicting of the worlds. You have a conflicting of ideologies. And you and I have to know that this conflict is not anything new. Hey, it didn't just happen. It's been going on since the beginning of time and you're going to see that this week as we move through the text, but you've got to be patient with me. So he's saying, n]"Now this is what's going to happen. You go home and you tell those kings that they better submit to the king of Babylon, to Nebuchadnezzar. Don't fight him. Don't go to war against him because if you do he's gonna come in and wipe you out." (See Jeremiah 27:6-8) If you just submit to him he's going to let you dwell in your own land. He's going to let you stay in your own land. He's just going to rule. So this is what he says. **"It will be, that [that] nation or...kingdom which will not serve him...,**" and then he wants to make sure you understand because it's a specific person, **"...Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and which will not put its neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, I will punish that nation with**

sword, with famine [hunger] and with pestilence....” (Jeremiah 27:8)

That’s like plagues and diseases and that comes when we don’t have the proper nourishment to be able to stand. So, do you want sword and famine and pestilence, or would you like to dwell in your land and be healthy? So he’s saying you have a choice. Then he says, “You are to stay under him **‘...until I have destroyed it by his hand.’” (Jeremiah 27:8)** And so “You are to do this, and if you don’t I will destroy you by My hand,” God’s saying that. You say, “I don’t like that. Are you saying that God would destroy people?” Yeah, God’s sovereign. He rules over all. You say, “Well I don’t believe that. That’s not the kind of God I want to believe in.” I understand. I understand. Because it is hard to believe in that kind of a God if you don’t have the full picture of God, if you don’t have an understanding. I understand. I want you to know I understand. But I also know that this is truth and that’s a lie. You say, “I don’t believe that.” That’s your prerogative. I’ve chosen truth and in choosing truth I’ve chosen life. You say, “You’re deluded.” We’ll see. We’ll see. Now watch what he says. **“But as for you, do not listen to your prophets....” (Jeremiah 27:9)** Now he’s talking to Gentile nations. He’s not talking to the Jewish nation that had the false prophets and the true prophets. He’s talking about these Gentile nations. He’s talking about nations that do not worship God. And this is God’s message to those that don’t worship Him. “I’m the One that created the earth. I’m the One that put man there. I’m the One that put the beasts there. And I am the One that put Nebuchadnezzar in charge right now. He’s going to rule, like it or not. When you get home and you give this message to the kings, prophets are going to come in, sorcerers, diviners, they’re going to do all sorts of things. And, and they’re gonna kill goats and they’re gonna pull out its liver and they’re gonna look at it and they’re gonna read it, and they’re gonna do all sorts of these things and they’re gonna say: ‘Don’t listen. The gods say this. This is what happens. This is the omen.’” (See Jeremiah 27:9) And this is what he says: **“...Do not listen to your prophets, your diviners, your dreamers, your soothsayers or your**

sorcerers who speak to you, saying, ‘You[’ll] not serve the king of Babylon.’” (Jeremiah 27:9) He says, “I’m warning you. This is what’s gonna happen. Don’t listen to them.” **“For they prophesy...,”** now listen carefully, **“...a lie to you....” (Jeremiah 27:10)** “They’re prophesying a lie to you.” **“...A lie to you in order to remove you...from your land; and I will drive you out...,”** God’s speaking, **“...and you will perish. But the nation which will bring its neck under the yoke of the king if Babylon and serve him, I will let remain on its land,’ declares the LORD, ‘and they will till it [the land] and [they] will dwell in it.’” (Jeremiah 27:10-11)** There it is. Here’s truth. This is what God’s saying. And God gives His credentials for being able to say that. His credential is: “I’m the Creator. I’m the Creator of man. I’m the Creator of beasts. I’m in charge and this is My message to you. And this is what I’ve done. I’ve chosen Nebuchadnezzar. He’s going to serve Me. He’s only going to serve Me for a certain while and then when I’m finished with him then I’m going to judge him. And when you get home and they tell you, ‘Hey, no, that’s not true,’ don’t listen to them because if you listen to them, if your king listens to them, then your king is going to be driven out of the land. If he listens he can stay in the land.” Don’t you wish? Don’t you wish that there were kings and rulers that would listen to God? I believe, Beloved, that God is judging America. I believe that God is bringing His judgment on this nation, and do you know why? Because our rulers, those in the presidency, those in the Congress, those in the Senate, people in places of authority think that they know more than God, and they are breaking God’s laws. And they are encouraging people to break God’s laws, the clear teaching of the Word of God. And where does this place you in all this? If they’re going against the Word of God and they’re going to be judged, if you go against the Word of God will God not judge you too? Because what are you doing? You’re taking truth and you’re distorting it. You’re twisting it and that truth is God’s truth.