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

TITLE: Program 30 – Ruin In Egypt

FRIDAY

OPEN

It's all about prosperity isn't it? If we're prosperous, it doesn't matter how we get there even if we have to compromise or even if we have to take the Word of God and twist it and say, "God wants you prosperous." Whatever helps to make us prosperous and to bring prosperity, surely, it has to be right. Surely prosperity is a sign of God's blessing. Beloved, surely it's not, if you compromise.

PART ONE

We've come to Jeremiah 44. We've come to the place where the people wanted to go. Not just Johanan, but the people wanted to go to Egypt also. And if that hasn't been clear before, God's going to let you see the hearts of these people. And, Precious One, as we look at this precious Word, you've got to ask God to search your heart and see if there be any way of pain in your life, any way that is causing you pain, any way that is going to lead you

into pain, any way that you can avoid pain; the pain of disobedience. (See Psalm 139:23-24, KJV) Now I opened this program talking about prosperity and you're going to see why as we get into Jeremiah chapter 44, the last chapter that we have to look at today and in this week. And as we've looked at it, remember we've talked about the fear of man and the fear of God. The fear of God results in obedience to God. Because to fear God means not to tremble, or afraid He's gonna strike you with lightning, or that He's gonna send you to some terrible place you don't want to go, or that He's gonna torment you for the rest of your life and make you miserable. The fear of God is trusting God. It's understanding God. You know, the Bible says **"...Perfect love casts out [all] fear..." (1 John 4:18)** So when you fear God it's because you know that He loves you with a perfect love, and therefore you don't fear anything else because you understand that He's God and He's in charge. Well, remember the children of Israel, the remnant that was left after the destruction of Israel has said, "No, we are going to Egypt!" (See Jeremiah 43:4-7) So they've gone to Egypt and Jeremiah's has gone with them. In Jeremiah chapter 44: **"The word [of the LORD] that came to Jeremiah...."** Now listen, and it is: **"...for all the Jews living in the land of Egypt, those who were living in Migdol, [in] Taphanhes, [in] Memphis, and [in] the land of Pathros, saying...." (Jeremiah 44:1)** So they have gone to Egypt. They are scattered. They are settled in Egypt. And **"Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, 'You yourselves have seen all the calamity....'" (Jeremiah 44:2)** Now that's a key word and we mark it. You say I don't understand that. We're teaching you how to study the Bible. We're taking you through a book of the Bible. We take you through one book and then another book, verse by verse, chapter by chapter, verse by verse and we give you a study guide that you can download. You just go to ["preceptsforlife.com"](http://preceptsforlife.com). You can start right now. You can start in Jeremiah where we are and you can go forward with us and learn how to study your Bible in a way that is revolutionary. He says, **"...You**

yourselves have seen all the calamity that I have brought on Jerusalem and all the cities of Judah; and behold, this day they are in ruins and no one lives in them, because of their wickedness....” (Jeremiah 44:2-3) Now I mark, I color “wickedness” and “sin” and “transgression” and “evil” all brown. “[Because of their wickedness] **which they** [have] **committed...to provoke Me to anger...**,” now listen carefully, “**...by continuing to burn sacrifices and to serve other gods whom they had not known, neither they...nor [their] fathers.**” (Jeremiah 44:3) I mean, here they are in Egypt. They’re making sacrifices and they’re burning these sacrifices to gods and incense to gods. He says, “**Yet I sent you all My servants the prophets, again and again, saying, ‘Oh, do not do this abominable thing which I hate.’**” (Jeremiah 44:4) Now He’s telling us all of this for a purpose and it’s going to lead to prosperity, okay. So hang on because what He’s saying is, “You are in idolatry. You are worshipping other idols.” And he said, “Your fathers got in trouble because they did this.” (See Jeremiah 44:5) “**Therefore...**,” verse 6, “**...My wrath and My anger were poured out and burned in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, so [that] they have become a ruin and a desolation as it is to this day.**” (Jeremiah 44:6) “I’ve told you over and over again. I told you in Exodus chapter 20 that [‘I am the LORD and there is no other. I’m a jealous God. And you shall not make to yourself any likeness of anything in the heaven above, in the earth beneath, or under the earth.’ You shall not worship nor bow down to them,’ for I’m God. I’m God. There’s only one.” (PARAPHRASE, Exodus 20:2-5) And He says: “**Now then thus says the LORD...of hosts, the God of Israel, ‘Why are you doing great harm to yourselves, so as to cut off from you man and woman, child and infant, from among Judah, leaving yourselves without [a] remnant.’**” (Jeremiah 44:7) Why are you doing this? He says, “**Provoking Me to anger with the works of your hands, burning sacrifices to other gods in the land of Egypt, where you are entering to reside, so that you might be**

cut off and become a curse and a reproach among all the nations of the earth?” (Jeremiah 44:8) Now I believe that America is going to become a curse and a reproach to all the nations. I believe that America’s greatness is gone. And America’s greatness is gone because we are changing the laws, because we are going against the clear teaching of the Word of God, because we have aborted babies, because we have laid ourselves on the altar of our lusts, and we have committed adultery, fornication, immorality, lesbianism, homosexuality, sodomy; all these things. All these things because we think that’s what makes us happy. Those are our idols. And the Bible says in Colossians chapter 3 that greed is idolatry. Greed is idolatry. (See Colossians 3:5) So remember that as I continue to read. He says: **“Have you forgotten the wickedness of your fathers, the wickedness of the kings of Judah...the wickedness of their wives, your own wickedness, and the wickedness of your wives, which they committed in the land of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem?” (Jeremiah 44:9)** Have you forgotten all that wickedness? Have you forgotten what happened as a result of it? **“But [you] have not become contrite even to this day, nor have they feared nor walked in My laws or My statutes, which I have set before you and before your fathers.” (Jeremiah 44:10)** Listen, it is one thing to sin, it is another thing to harden your heart. When you sin, if you go to God, as Psalm 51 says, (See Psalm 51:1-4) and you have **“...a broken and...contrite heart...God will not despise [that]....” (Psalms 51:17)** God will come to your rescue. If you see the awfulness of sin and you hate sin like God hates it, and you say, “My heart is broken. I am so sorry. I am so sorry.” Then God will heal. Read Psalm 51 and come to the end and see: **“...a broken and contrite heart...Thou wilt not despise.” (Psalm 51:17, KJV)** He says: [“But you have not feared Me. You have not walked in My ways. You have not been contrite.”] (PARAPHRASE Jeremiah 44:10) **“Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel...,”** verse 11 **“...Behold, I am going to set My face against you for woe....” (Jeremiah 44:11)** “You’re

gonna suffer. I am setting My face against you, and I am going to bring woe, pain, adversity into your life.” He says, “...**Even to cut off all [of] Judah. And I will take away the remnant of Judah....**” (Jeremiah 44:11-12) Now mark “remnant”. Remember it’s like a blue rectangle with squiggly lines and then a line cutting off a third of it. He says, “...**I will take away the remnant of Judah who have set their mind [their heart] on entering [in] the land of Egypt to reside there....**” (Jeremiah 44:12) They said, “God, tell us what to do. We’ll do it no matter what, whether it’s pleasant or unpleasant.” God says, “Don’t go into Egypt. Stay here.” (See Jeremiah 42:6-12) They said, “You’re lying to us.” And they were arrogant and they said, “We’re going into Egypt.” (See Jeremiah 43:2-6) So He says, “Okay.” He says, “...**they will all meet their end in the land of Egypt; they will fall by the sword and meet their end by famine....**” (Jeremiah 44:12) “You are saying, ‘We’re going to Egypt. We don’t want war anymore, and we don’t want famine anymore.’” He says, “Okay, you go to Egypt. You’re gonna get war and you’re gonna get famine.” Because He’s God. “...**And they will become a curse, an object of horror, an imprecation and a reproach. And I will punish those who live in the land of Egypt, as I have punished Jerusalem, with the sword, with famine and with pestilence,**” (Jeremiah 44:12-13) God’s three judgments. “You know you didn’t get it the first time. You didn’t get it the first time. You disobeyed Me. You didn’t listen and I punished you. Then I gave you an opportunity to have a broken and contrite heart. I gave you an opportunity to come back to Me. I gave you an opportunity for obedience, and I said, ‘I will relent concerning the calamity,’ and you didn’t respond.” Now watch what He says. He says, “**So there will be no refugees or survivors for the remnant of Judah who have entered the land of Egypt to reside there and then...return to the land of Judah, to which [you] are longing to return and live; for none will return except a few refugees.**” (Jeremiah 44:14) There’s just gonna be a handful. Why the handful? So that they can go back

and testify and say, “They got here in Egypt. They wanted to be here in Egypt and now it’s not what they longed for. And they longed to return.” But you know what? Because they were not broken and contrite of heart they could not return. Sin has its consequence. You cannot sin against God and not reap the harvest of the flesh. We’ll talk about it more in just a minute.

PART TWO

When you vote, when you vote for the president, when you vote for the senators and the House of Representatives, for the governors and everything, are you voting because you want prosperity? Are you compromising? Do you say, “Well, this man doesn’t hold to my standards, or to the standards of the Word of God, but he promises me prosperity? If I have that I’ll be all set.” Hang on. Let’s go. Jeremiah 44, verse 15. **“Then all the men who were aware that their wives were burning sacrifices to other gods, along with all the women who were standing by, as a large assembly, including all the people who were living in Pathros in the land of Egypt, responded to Jeremiah, saying....” (Jeremiah 44:15)** Now listen, he has just said, “You are suffering the consequences. You are not going back although you long to return, because you have not repented.” And this is what they say. **“As for the message that you have spoken to us in the name of the LORD, we are not going to listen to you!” (Jeremiah 44:16)** You can just see them putting the fingers in their ears. Now these are the wives that are offering these sacrifices. **“[But rather] we will certainly carry out every word that has proceeded from our mouths, by burning sacrifices to the queen of heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her, just as we ourselves, our forefathers, our kings...our princes did in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem; for then [then] we had plenty of food and...no misfortune [came upon us].” (Jeremiah 44:17)** “We were well and we saw no misfortune when we were worshipping the

queen of heaven. We are not going to listen to you, Jeremiah.” These women say, “[But since] **we stopped burning sacrifices to the queen of heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her, we have lacked everything and...met our end by the sword and...famine** [and pestilence].” (**Jeremiah 44:18**) “It’s because we stopped offering sacrifices to the queen of heaven.” Duh! They didn’t get it. They didn’t listen. They are totally and absolutely deceived. “When we worshiped her, we had prosperity.” See, this is why people elect others. This is why people give their money to a lot of preachers on TV who are twisting and distorting the Word of God and promising prosperity. There is something in us that drives us in the love of money, in the lust of the eyes, in the pride of life. (See 1 John 2:16) And it’s all wrapped up in prosperity. And God says: “...[Don’t be deceived, you can’t] **serve God and mammon.** (**Matthew 6:24**) So [“He spoke to them in their prosperity”]. (PARAPHRASE Jeremiah 22:21) And you can put it down in Jeremiah 22:21, in Jeremiah 20, verse 5. And He assured them that He was God. Now let’s go on and this is what it says. **“Then Jeremiah said to all the people, to the men...[the] women—even to all the people who were giving him such an answer—saying, ‘As for the smoking [sacrifice] that you burned in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, you and your forefathers, your kings...your princes, and the people of [this] land, did not the LORD remember [all of this] and did not all this come [to] His mind? So the LORD was no longer able to endure it....”** (**Jeremiah 44:20-22**) There is a time when God says, “It’s enough. I’ve had enough.” **“...Because of the evil of your deeds, because of the abominations which you have committed; thus your land has become a ruin, an object of horror...a curse, without...inhabitant, as it is this day.”** (**Jeremiah 44:22**) I wonder, Precious One, if that’s what’s going to happen to America. I kind of think so, that we are going to become an object of horror, that we are going to become a curse because we’ve walked away from God. Because what we

did is, we put on our money, “In God we trust” and we abandoned God and we just tried to trust in our money. He says, **“Because you have burned sacrifices and...sinned against the LORD and [have] not obeyed the voice of the LORD or walked in His law, His statutes...His testimonies, therefore [I want you to know] this calamity has befallen you, as it has today.’** Then Jeremiah said to all the people, including...the women, **‘Hear the word of the LORD, all Judah who are in the land of Egypt, [for] thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, as follows: “As for you and your wives, you have spoken with your mouths and fulfilled it with your hands, saying, ‘We will certainly perform our vows that we have vowed, to burn sacrifices to the queen of heaven and pour out drink offerings to her.’ Go ahead and confirm your vows, and...perform your vows! Nevertheless hear the word of the LORD....”’**” It’s the word of the Lord that’s stands, Beloved. **“...All Judah who are living in the land of Egypt, ‘Behold, I have sworn by My great name,’ [declares] the LORD, ‘never shall My name be invoked again by the mouth of any man of Judah in...the land of Egypt, saying, “As the LORD...lives.”’”** (Jeremiah 44:23-26) **“I will not listen anymore.”** **“Behold, I am watching over them for harm and not for good, and all the men of Judah who are in the land of Egypt will meet their end by the sword and...famine until they are completely gone. Those who escape the sword will return out of the land of Egypt to the land of Judah few in number....”** (Jeremiah 44:27-28) **“Just a small group to be My witness.”** **“...Then all the remnant of Judah who have gone into the land of Egypt to reside there will know whose word will stand, Mine or theirs.”** (Jeremiah 44:28) **“You’re gonna know. The end consequence is, My word stands, and you’re gonna realize that your word does not.”** And He says, **“I’m gonna give you a sign.”** **“This will be a sign to you,’ declares the LORD, ‘that I am going to punish you in this place, so that you may know...My words will surely stand against you for harm.’** Thus says the

LORD, ‘Behold, I am going to give over Pharaoh Hophra king of Egypt to the hand of his enemies, to the hand of those who seek his life, just as I gave over Zedekiah king of Judah to the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, who was his enemy and was seeking his life.’” (Jeremiah 44:29-30) “I’m gonna give you a sign. Pharaoh Hophra is ruling over you now. This man;” and it’s recorded in history. It’s written. He said, “Not even God can remove me from my throne.” What arrogance! So He says, “I’m gonna remove him from his throne. I’m gonna let his enemies kill him.” And his enemies did. He said, “Just as I pronounced judgment on Zedekiah, I’m pronouncing judgment on him, and I want you to see that I am the God of all flesh. (See Jeremiah 32:27) I want you to see that My word stands, not man’s.” (See Jeremiah 44:28) And if God’s word stands, Beloved, then you and I need to fear God. **“The fear of the Lord [that] is the beginning of [the] wisdom....” (Psalm 111:10)** The fear of Lord is to depart from evil. (See Job 28:28) The fear of the LORD is your shield. (See Genesis 15:1) And it protects you from sin. Not the fear and the love of riches, not trusting in riches which God can take away at any single time. Listen very carefully, very, very carefully. Seek holiness, not prosperity. Seek the fear of God and depart from the fear of man, because **“the fear of man brings a snare....” (Proverbs 29:25)** And know this: That your prosperity, your health, your security all depends on God. He is the sovereign ruler of all the universe. He creates good and He creates adversity. He is the LORD who does these things. (See Isaiah 45:7)