

JEREMIAH, PART 2 (GOD'S CERTAIN JUDGMENT)
PROGRAM 27 (#912072)
WEEK 6 (912315)
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SERIES: Jeremiah, Part 2 (God's Certain Judgment)

TITLE: Program 27 – Discerning Counsel In Good Times

TUESDAY

OPEN

Do you find yourself full of fear? I mean, are you panicked about the future? Precious One, know this that if you belong to God, God loves you. He loves you with a perfect love. (See 1 John 4:12, 18) The thoughts that He has for you are thoughts of good, just like He said to Israel: “...**To give you a future and [to give you] a hope.**” (**Jeremiah 29:11**) Because you are part of the new covenant, the new covenant in His blood. Because you're a child of God, God has a wonderful future. So He has a future for you. Your job is simply to fear Him not man.

PART ONE

As I sit here and do this program for you, I've got to tell you that my heart is filled with love for you. You say, “But you don't even know me. You don't know where I've been. You don't know what I've done.” Well, if you are new to the program, you don't know where I've been and what I've done

either. But I've been redeemed, and I am loved with a perfect love. And you know what? **"...Perfect love cast[s] out fear, because fear hath torment...."** (1 John 4:18, KJV) God does not want you and me to live in torment. He doesn't want you and me to live tossed to fro, and not knowing where we are going. (See Ephesians 4:14) He doesn't want you and I to live in slavery to, to the fear of man. God came to set us free from our sins. He came to set us free and to draw us to Himself. He came in the person of His son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to die for you and me. **"Greater love has no one than this, [to]...lay down his life for his friends."** (John 15:13) [And yet while we were enemies Christ died for us]. (PARAPHRASE Romans 5:8) He loves you with a perfect love, and **"...perfect love casts out fear...."** (1 John 4:18, KJV) Now we're looking at Jeremiah chapter 40 through 44 this week. And I left you in Jeremiah chapter 40 in verse 7 where Gedaliah now is ruling over the children of Israel that are left in the land. In Jeremiah chapter 39, Jerusalem has been conquered by Nebuchadnezzar. Decimated, destroyed, the temple destroyed, vessels from the temple taken away again, people in chains led into exile into Babylon, and yet they're the ones that are gonna have it good. They're the ones that are spared what is going to go on. But there is a remnant left in the land of Judah, and Jeremiah had a choice to either go with Nebuzaradan the captain of the bodyguard, and be protected by him and taken all the way to Babylon, or to stay in the land. Nebuchadnezzar the king had (of Babylon), had given that order. Well, Jeremiah chooses to stay in the land so he goes to Mizpah, verse 6 of Jeremiah 40: **"Then Jeremiah went to Mizpah to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam and stayed with him among the people who were left in the land. Now all the commanders of the forces that were in the field, they and their men, heard that the king of Babylon had appointed Gedaliah...over the land and that he had put him in charge of the men, women and children, those of the poorest of the land who had not been exiled to Babylon."** (Jeremiah 40:6-7) It's like he just looked at the

offscouring of society and said, “You stay here, I don’t even want you in Babylon. You’re so poor, you’re so,” whatever.” They were called “bad figs” in a description much earlier in the book of Jeremiah. (See Jeremiah 24:8) **“So they came to Gedaliah at Mizpah, along with Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and Johanan and Jonathan the sons of Kareah, and Seraiah the son of Tanhumeth....” (Jeremiah 40:8)** I hope you don’t imitate me in the reading of this; I never got “Hooked on Phonics.” **“...And the sons of Ephai [both] the Netophathite, and Jezaniah the son of Maacathite both they and their men.” (Jeremiah 40:8)** Now I’m going to skip over all those big words from now on. **“Then Gedaliah the son of...Shaphan...swore to them and...their men, saying, ‘Do not be afraid of serving the Chaldeans; stay in the land and serve the king of Babylon, that it may go well with you.’” (Jeremiah 40:9)** Now this is a very, very important verse because God has allowed Nebuchadnezzar to put Gedaliah over the people. Gedaliah is telling the people: “You’re left here, but I want you to know you are not to be afraid of the king of Babylon. You are to settle in your land.” Now, just remember they have been under siege for years. They have been eating their own children in the city of Jerusalem. I mean, it is absolutely awful. And watch what happens, he says, **“Now as for me, behold, I am going to stay at Mizpah to stand *for you* before the Chaldeans who come to us; but as for you, gather in wine and summer fruit and oil and put *them* in your *storage* vessels, and live in your cities [live in your cities] that you have taken over.” (Jeremiah 40:10)** Now they have walked out of Jerusalem and they have stepped out of those walls and here is a land where there are fruits, where there are vegetables, where there is oil, where there is wine, and they can have it! And they can have it. Now listen very carefully, as long as they’re not afraid. It says, **“Likewise, also all the Jews who were in Moab and among the sons of Ammon and in Edom....” (Jeremiah 40:11)** Moab and Edom and Ammon are present day Jordan so just think of the other side, the eastern side of the Jordan

River. He says, “...[Who] **heard that the king of Babylon had left a remnant...**” (**Jeremiah 40:11**) Now one of the things that you need to do is, every time we come to the word “remnant,” I would mark it, and I just put like a blue squiggly line over “remnant.” And then between the M and the N, I draw another blue squaggly line so that you can see that it’s like a remnant of a piece of cloth. It’s that which is left over. If you sew and you go to a store to have a remnant table where they come to the end of the bolt and there’s just maybe two yards or three yards or five yards, or a quarter of a yard left, and you can buy it very cheaply. So he said, “...[He] **had left a remnant for Judah, and that he had appointed over them Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan. Then all the Jews returned from all the places to which they had been driven away....**” (**Jeremiah 40:11-12**) So they’re coming back from all these places, and they’re gathering together “**...to Gedaliah at Mizpah, and gathered in wine and summer fruit in great abundance. Now Johanan the son Kareah and all the commanders of the [force] that were in the field came to Gedaliah at Mizpah and said to him, ‘Are you well aware that Baalis the king of the sons of Ammon has sent Ishmael the son of Nethaniah to take your life...?’**” (**Jeremiah 40:12-14**) “Did you know that? Did you know that someone’s after you? Do you know that they are out to get you?” Now listen, we need to not be paranoid, but we need to be wise. The Bible talks about being [as wise as a serpent and as harmless as a dove]. (PARAPHRASE, Matthew 10:16, KJV) And let me just tell you this, as a Christian if you are standing for Jesus Christ, if you are a person that is truly committed to God, who is going to honor the Word of God, who is going to take this word, as it says in 2 Timothy 4, and “**...preach [it] in season and out of season....**” (**2 Timothy 4:2**) If you’re gonna use it to reprove people, to show them where they are wrong, to rebuke them, to say, “This is wrong and there’s a consequences that go with it.” If you’re gonna reprove them and rebuke them, and if you’re gonna exhort them—“exhort them” means you’re gonna come along

side them and, and help them. And if you're going to do it with long-suffering; that means you don't yell, you don't *YELP* like that, but long-suffering and doctrine. (See 2 Timothy 4:2) Doctrine means that you're able to open the Word of God, and you are able to take this Book and you're able to explain it to others so that they understand. That is what this program is all about. That's what Precept Ministries International is all about: establishing you in God's word so that you can discover truth for yourself. So that you then, can take these principles and the other Bible studies that we have. We have no homework Bible studies, but it's all Bible. You do it together to 15 minutes a day to take you through the Word of God with the New Inductive Study series, book by book, so you know the whole counsel of God. And then we have our "Lord" series that is very, very practical on different topics on warfare, and the names of God, and grace, and all sorts of things, "Lord, Where Are You When Bad Things Happen?" Then we have the crème de la crème, the Rolls Royce of Bible studies and that is "Precept Upon Precept." We have these all over the country. You can go online to preceptsforlife.com. And you can find out where we are, and then you can connect with us. So you need to know the Word of God. When you know the Word of God and you stand for God, then you're gonna know that you are putting yourself up for attack. Gedaliah would not listen. He could not believe that Ishmael was going to come against him. It said, **"...Gedaliah...did not believe them. Then Johanan the son of Kareah spoke secretly to Gedaliah in Mizpah, saying, 'Let me go and kill Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and not a man will know! Why should he take your life, so that all the Jews who are gathered to you would be scattered and the remnant of Judah would perish?' But Gedaliah the son of Ahikam said to Johanan the son of Kareah, 'Do not do this thing, for you are telling a lie about Ishmael.'"** (Jeremiah 40:14-16) Was he telling a lie, or was he telling the truth? See it is your job and my job to discern. How do you discern? You go to the Lord and you check out what's

being said with the Word of God, and the Spirit of God will lead you and guide you into all truth. We will talk about it more in just a minute.

PART TWO

Should Gedaliah have listened to Johanan? Is he in danger? Well, that's where we left off. And what we are going to see is, yes, he should have listened. He was in danger and he didn't know it. Beloved, you need to wake up and see that if things don't change in the United States of America, Christians are in great danger. There are people that want to silence us. There are people that do not want to hear about our faith. There are people that do not want to hear the word of God. And with the hate crime legislation and other legislation that is coming to control the airwaves, to control the media, we're in trouble. You better know God. Now watch what happens, chapter 41 of Jeremiah: **"In the seventh month Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, the son of Elishama, of the royal family and one of the chief officers of the king..." (Jeremiah 41:1)** Hey! We now know who Ishmael is. We know that he is part of the royal family. We know that he was part of Zedekiah or Jehoiakim that royal family. We know that he held a position. He was an officer of the king. We know he has been living in Ammon. We have heard that Ballis, or Baális the king of the son of Ammon, had sent Ishmael down to kill Gedaliah. Now it says, **"...[He] came to Mizpah to Gedaliah the son Ahikam. [And when] they were eating bread together there in Mizpah, Ishmael...and the ten men who were with him arose and struck down Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, with the sword and put to death the one whom the king of Babylon had appointed over the land." (Jeremiah 41:1-2)** So what you have is, you have a political uprising, and when you have chaos is a good time for someone to move in and take over. There's an excellent, excellent film, but it's supposed to be historically accurate and it's called "Hitler: The Rise of Evil." And it goes back to Hitler's childhood and takes you through up until

the time that Hitler comes to power in Germany. And I'm telling you, it is an enlightening film to watch. You see how he tries to stop the media, you see how he creates chaos in order to get control, you see how he will not tolerate anyone who does not agree with him. He wants them out of the way, he disregards them. Well, this is what's happened now. Ishmael has killed Gedaliah. "...[And he] **struck down...the Jews [that] were with him....**," and it says, **"...and the Chaldeans who were found there, the men of war."** (Jeremiah 41:3) Verse 3 tells us that so he's come in and what he's done is, he's created chaos. And it says in verse 4: **"Now it happened on the next day after the killing of Gedaliah, when no one knew about it."** (Jeremiah 41:4) They haven't found the dead bodies yet. **"...That eighty men came from Shechem, from Shiloh, and from Samaria...."** (Jeremiah 41:5) So these are the outlying posts. You can look at your map on Israel and see where Shechem is and where Shiloh is, and where Samaria is 'cause Shiloh is up in Samaria. **"...With their beards shaved off and their clothes torn and their bodies gashed, having grain offerings and incense in their hands to bring to the house of the LORD."** (Jeremiah 41:5) A house that no longer exist. And it says: **"Then Ishmael...went out from Mizpah to meet them...."** now watch, **"...weeping as he went...."** He's just crying as he goes. I mean, it is a false cry. **"...And as he met them, he said to them, 'Come to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam!'"** (Jeremiah 41:6) "Come." Well, Gedaliah's dead, but he's gonna put them with Gedaliah. Gedaliah's dead, and yet he is weeping. You cannot trust the man. He says, **"Yet it turned out that as soon as they came inside the city, Ishmael...and the men that were with him slaughtered...and cast them into the cistern."** (Jeremiah 41:7) A cistern is a pit that is to, meant to hold water, or collect water. **"But ten men...were found among them said to Ishmael, '[Don't] put us to death; for we have stores of wheat, [and] barley, [and] oil and honey hidden in the field....'"** "Hey, we can buy you off." **"...[And] so he refrained and did not put them to death**

along with their companions.” (Jeremiah 41:8) Why? Because they were beneficial to him for what he could have. And so it says, **“Now as for the cistern where Ishmael had cast all the corpses of the men [who]...had struck [him] down because of Gedaliah, it was the one that King Asa had made on account of Baasha, king of Israel; Ishmael the son of Nethaniah filled [that cistern] with the slain.” (Jeremiah 41:9)** Now if you want to read about Asa and how he did this, Asa is a man that started off following God and then turned to the arm of flesh to help him. And you can read about it in 2 Chronicles chapter 16. There where that verse is that: **“...The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth...,”** throughout the whole earth looking for a man, looking for a woman, whose heart is fully His, that God might **“...shew himself strong [on] behalf of [that person]...” (2 Chronicles 16:9)** And this is what God says to Asa, He says, “But your heart was proud. You think that you can live the way you want to live and you forget that there is a God in heaven that holds us accountable.” (See 2 Chronicles 2:9-10) And so this is what it says, **“Then Ishmael took captive all the remnant of the people who were in Mizpah, [and] the king’s daughters...,”** so the king’s daughters were left in the land, not just the poor, **“...and all the people [that] were left in Mizpah, whom Nebuzaradan the captain of the bodyguard...put [in]...charge of Gedaliah the son of Ahikam; thus Ishmael the son of Nethaniah took them captive and proceeded to cross over to the sons of Ammon.” (Jeremiah 41:10)** Now watch, here are these people. They have come out of captivity. The city has been at siege they are left in the land they go out to Gedaliah, Gedaliah says, “Stay in the land. Do not be frightened by the Babylonians you are going to be safe.” (See Jeremiah 40:9) So here is a leader that is speaking from God. But here is a leader that is not wise, that does not listen to the warning, that cannot imagine someone trying to kill him; and he is killed. So here are the people told to stay in the land. Now along comes Ishmael and, I mean, he is the radical. He is, he is not going to

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leave them in the land. He is going to take them across the Jordan where they have come from in the first place when they entered the land. He is going to take 'em to the sons of Ammon, he's going to put them under an enemy that is a worshiper of false gods, under an enemy that hates Israel. He's going to put them under them. And yet another thing is going to happen to these people. And we're going to look at that in detail, because there is a point to all of this. And the point is that you and I are to know that the fear of God is our shield, that **"The fear of man [is] a snare...."** (Proverbs 29:25) We'll talk about it more in the days to come.