

JEREMIAH, PART 2 (GOD'S CERTAIN JUDGMENT)
PROGRAM 23 (#912068)
WEEK 5 (912314)
©2012 PRECEPT MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL



PRECEPTS FOR LIFE
a Production of
Precept Ministries International
P.O. Box 182218, Chattanooga, TN 37422-7218
1-888-734-7707/ www.preceptsforlife.com

The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

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

TITLE: Program 23 – Is There A Word From The Lord?

WEDNESDAY

OPEN

What do you think about leaders that stand up and profess to believe in God and even Jesus Christ; declare themselves as believers and followers of Jesus Christ, and yet they do not do what the Word of God says? It's all about them or it's all about political expediency. And then, what do you think about them when they call for prayer, but they will not walk according to the statutes of God? We'll talk about it today as we look at God's precepts for life.

PART ONE

As we began this week, one of the things I told you is that there are people that get in desperate situations that cry out for prayer. They want deliverance, but they do not want interference from God in their lives. They want to pick and choose what they can believe and what they can do. The other thing that I want you to see this week is that everything rises and falls

on leadership. One man can change the destiny of a nation. You look at Hitler in Germany, you look at other people down through the ages, and you see how one man in his ego, in his determination to have his way or to carry out his pet theory, or his pet project, can absolutely destroy a nation. Oh, it doesn't look like it at the beginning, and people run and they flock to him. And they gather around him and they support him. And they vote for them because there are certain things that they like about him or certain things that they are going to benefit from because they are the same nationality, or they're the same color, or they're the same belief, or whatever. And so they began to follow that person, but then things don't hold up. Well, Zedekiah is now our focus in Jeremiah chapter 37. In Jeremiah chapter 37, what we see is God turns from the time of Jehoiakim to the time of Zedekiah. But as I said, when you look at Jeremiah, it is not laid out chronologically. Rather it is laid out, in a sense, topically. It's laid out to pull truths together or events together, so it gets a great bang, so that it comes at this way and that way and that way. And finally, all these facets of light thrown on this truth, or this situation, illuminated. And so, what we saw when we started was the Rechabites; the Rechabites who had been told by their forefathers that they were not to drink wine, that they were to dwell in tents, and that they were not to plant seeds or crops, but they were to be a nomadic people. (See Jeremiah 35:6-7) They're invited to the Temple and they are offered wine. They are given this cup of wine, but they say, "Oh no, we'll never drink it because our forefathers said we are to keep this forever." (See Jeremiah 35:5-6) So God uses them, as an example of a group of people that listen to their forefather, another human being, and carry out his command. They make a pledge, they listen, they obey. They listen, they observe to do what their father has commanded them. And he says, ["Here I am (God is speaking) and I am speaking to you and you're not listening."] (PARAPHRASE, Jeremiah 35:14) So we saw that in chapter, chapter 35. Then we move to chapter 36. And when we move to chapter 36, we see that it is, **"...the**

fourth year of Jehoiakim...,” (Jeremiah 36:1) and [Jeremiah sits down and he writes in his scroll—he has Baruch do it—write in a scroll everything that he has been telling him since the days of Josiah.] (PARAPHRASE, Jeremiah 36:4) And so, he writes it down, and the next year, in the fifth year, in the ninth month, Jehoiakim gets a hold of it. He listens to it. He takes out a scribe’s knife and he just cuts it up. He throws it into the fire, where they’re keeping warm, until all the scroll is burned. (See Jeremiah 36:22-23) But God has Jeremiah and Baruch write another one with even more words of judgment. (See Jeremiah 36:28-32) Then we come to Jeremiah chapter 37. And you see this theme, this theme of not listening, this theme of not obeying, this theme of: these are the consequences. You see the Rechabites blessed because they do listen, because they do obey, then you see Jehoiakim not blessed. And you see that he’s not going to have anyone to sit on the throne because he did not listen to God. (See Jeremiah 36:30) There are consequences. And we think that because the consequence doesn’t come immediately, or because there is some sort of a judgment that we feel that has fallen on us, but then it’s like the judgment is taken away. Hey, the judgment’s gone! See that prophet didn’t know what he was talking about. We’re perfectly okay. Ahhhh, we’re perfectly okay. And they relax. Now watch what happens. Jeremiah 37 verse 1: **“Now Zedekiah the son of Josiah whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had made king in the land of Judah, reigned as king in place of Coniah...,”** or Jeconiah, **“...the son of Jehoiakim.” (Jeremiah 37:1)** And this is because he only reigned three months and God told him that he wouldn’t stay on the throne of David. (See Jeremiah 36:30) It says, **“But neither he [Zedekiah] nor his servants...,”** now catch this, **“...[neither Zedekiah] nor [the men that were serving him] nor the people of the land listened to the words of [God]....” (Jeremiah 37:2)** They “did not listen.” So you draw a green ear and put a slash through it. **“...Which He [had] spoke through Jeremiah the prophet. Yet [yet]....” (Jeremiah 37:2)** And you see the “yet” there is a

contrast. Here it is a very important contrast: **“Yet King Zedekiah sent Jehucal the son of Shelemiah, and Zephaniah the son of Maaseiah, the priest, to Jeremiah the prophet, saying, ‘Please pray to the LORD our God on our behalf.’” (Jeremiah 37:3)** I refuse to listen to God, but pray to God on my behalf. Pray to God on our behalf as a people. I won’t listen, but I want God to do my bidding. I want His mercy. I want His grace, but I do not want to listen. Can you do that? And boy, I would mark that. **“...‘Please pray to the LORD our God on our behalf.’” (Jeremiah 37:3)** And I would circle the “yet.” Verse 4: **“Now Jeremiah was still coming...and going out among the people....”** And you want to underline this in some way. I put a black squiggly line under it. **“...For they had not yet put him in the prison.” (Jeremiah 37:4)** He had not yet been incarcerated. He had not yet stood in that pit and sunk into the mud. It says: **“Meanwhile, Pharaoh’s army...,”** this is very important, **“...had set out from Egypt; and when the Chaldeans who had been besieging Jerusalem heard the report...they lifted the siege from Jerusalem.” (Jeremiah 37:5)** All right, so just imagine the city. Imagine around all the walls of the city you have the enemy camped. The enemy is laying siege to the city. No one can come out, no one can go in. Well, they can come out and surrender, but they’re laying siege to the city. No food is getting in, “nothing” is getting in. All right, so they’re laying siege. Jeremiah has been saying, “Babylon is going to take the city. The city is going to be burned with fire.” He’s said it before. He is saying it again. But then all of a sudden, hey, you hear the troops coming up from the south, from Egypt. Pharaoh’s sending up his army. And they think “Oh good, good we have been delivered.” And Babylon, you know, they get out of there. Babylon gets out of there and they go away. And when they go away the people in the city say, “Mm, see! See, no problem. I told you we would be all right.” Now watch what he says, **“Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD God of Israel, “Thus you are to say to the king of Judah, who sent you**

to Me to inquire of Me...:””” That is Zedekiah, “““ ...‘Behold, Pharaoh’s army which has come out for your assistance is going to return to its own land of Egypt.’””” (Jeremiah 37:6-7) Pharaoh’s army is not going to help you they are going home. “““‘The Chaldeans will also return....’””” (Jeremiah 37:8) Oh, the Babylonians that left, that went away, that disappeared, hey, they are going to come marching back. And when they come marching back, they’re gonna lay siege to the city again. He says, “‘The Chaldeans will...return and fight against this city...,’” now watch, “‘...they will capture it and burn it with fire.’” (Jeremiah 37:8) “Burn the city with fire” that is a key phrase you want to mark over and over and over again. Just put red on it, or or put a star of David over the city because it is Jerusalem. And mark it in someway that it is distinctive because God doesn’t say it once he says it over and over and over again. So it says, “‘Thus says the LORD...,’” listen carefully, “‘...“Do not deceive yourselves, saying, ‘The Chaldeans will surely go away from us,’ for they will not go.’””” (Jeremiah 37:9) Don’t deceive yourself. So many times we deceive ourselves when we think that we can go against the word of God and get away with it. And sometimes it looks like we got away with it. And sometimes it looks like hey, God is blessing us, but then the ax falls and then the head rolls. It says, “‘“For even if you had defeated the entire army of the Chaldeans who were fighting...you, and there were only wounded men left among them, each man in his tent, they would rise up...,””” those wounded Chaldeans, “‘“...and [they would] burn [the] city with fire.””” (Jeremiah 37:10) Now the question is, why: because God has said it; because God has said it; because God is behind the calamity. Remember we saw this in chapter 36 verse 3, “‘Perhaps the house of Judah will hear all the calamity...I plan to bring on them....’” (Jeremiah 36:3) Beloved, do you understand that there is judgment for disobedience, for not listening to God? We’ll look at it in just a minute.

PART TWO

Thank you, Beloved. Thank you so much for studying. Thank you for wanting to know the Word of God. Thank you for having a listening heart. And I can promise you, that if you will continue to listen, although life may get hard, although people may come against you for your stand, still God is watching and there is a reward. It says in Revelation 22:12, Jesus says, **“Behold, I am coming...and My reward is with Me...”** That’s when the rewards are coming. [To give to everyone according to their deeds.] **(Revelation 22:12)** Well, we come to verse 11 of Jeremiah 37. And remember now, the Chaldeans have withdrawn because Pharaoh is there, but he says they’re coming back. But not yet, watch what happens: **“Now it happened when the army of the Chaldeans had lifted the siege from Jerusalem because of Pharaoh’s army, that Jeremiah went out from Jerusalem to go to the land of Benjamin in order to take possession of some property....” (Jeremiah 37:11-12)** So he leaves the city. And he’s on his way out of the city, and one of the men recognizes him. Now watch what he says, **“While he was at the Gate of Benjamin, a captain of the guard whose name was Irijah, the son of Shelemiah the son of Hananiah was there; and he arrested Jeremiah the prophet, [and said], ‘You are going...to the Chaldeans!’” (Jeremiah 37:13)** In other words, you left the city. You are going out and you are going over to the Chaldeans. And Jeremiah looked at him—and you’re really going to appreciate this next week—and **“...[he] said, [That’s] a lie! [That is a lie!] I am not going over to the Chaldeans’; yet he would not listen to him....”** This man would not listen to him, **“...So Irijah arrested Jeremiah and brought him to the officials.” (Jeremiah 37: 14)** So they bring him back to these officials that are sitting there. And it says, **“...[And] the officials were angry at Jeremiah and [they] beat him, and they put him in jail in the house of Jonathan the scribe, which they had made into [a] prison.” (Jeremiah 37:15)** Here’s a man that stands for God. Here’s a man that speaks for God.

Here's a man that, as you've studied Jeremiah with us, is not allowed to marry. Here's a man that is not allowed to go to parties, that is not allowed to go to funerals, that is not allowed to go to weddings, because of the gravity of the times and the situation. Here is a man that has been faithful to God. [Here is a man that says "I'm gonna quit. I'm gonna quit, I'm not gonna talk anymore. But God's word is in him like a fire, burning like a fire, and he cannot keep silent.] (PARAPHRASE, Jeremiah 20:9) Now, he's beaten. Now, he's put in jail. And it says, **"For Jeremiah had come into the dungeon,...."** (Jeremiah 37:16) That is the house of the cistern pit. It's another way that you could describe it. **"...The vaulted cell; and Jeremiah stayed there many days."** (Jeremiah 37:16) So you want to take your green pen and circle "days". Or make a green clock there so that you know that this wasn't just an overnight stay. Now watch this king; you're gonna see more about him tomorrow. But, **"Now King Zedekiah sent and took him out; and in his palace the king...."** (Jeremiah 37:17) Leans over to Jeremiah, secretly and begins to talk to him because he wants to know, is there a word, is there a word from God. "[Then] **King Zedekiah sent...,**" verse 17, **"...took him out; and in his palace the king secretly asked him...,**" now I would mark "secretly," **"...[asked him] and said, 'Is there a word from the LORD?'...."** (Jeremiah 37:17) This is a man that won't listen to God. This is a man that wants prayer to get out of a situation. This is a man that is leaning against the prophet and secretly saying, "Is there a word from the Lord?" This is a man that wants a word from God. Now remember this is so key, wait until you see what we study next week. It'll blow your mind. But this is a man that wants a good word from God. This is a man that wants a word that is going to support what he wants to do. And watch what he says, **"... 'Is there a word from the LORD?' And Jeremiah said, 'There is!'...."** (Jeremiah 37:17) Now what does Jeremiah know? Jeremiah knows Zedekiah. Jeremiah could tell Zedekiah anything. Now remember, he's in prison. Remember, he is locked up. Remember, he is in a

vaulted cell. Remember that he is scared. He is a human being. God, yes, in Jeremiah chapter 1 said they will come against you. He says, [you don't be dismayed by their faces.] (PARAPHRASE, Jeremiah 1:17) I want to show you this verse because it's so important in Jeremiah chapter 1. And I have this in my office where I can keep it before me. He says, **"...Do not be dismayed before them, lest I dismay you...."** (Jeremiah 1:17) He's got to tell him the truth. **"...And Jeremiah [says], 'There is...you will be given into the hand of the king of Babylon!'"** (Jeremiah 37:17) It's not what Zedekiah wants to hear. **"Moreover Jeremiah said to King Zedekiah, 'In what way have I sinned against you, or against your servants, [and] against [your prophets], that you have put me in prison? Where then are your prophets who prophesied to you, saying, 'The king of Babylon will not come against you or against this land'?"**" (Jeremiah 37:18-20) The king of Babylon's been there. But he thinks the king of Babylon has gone away, but the king of Babylon is coming back. He says, **"But now, please listen, O [lord my]...king; please let my petition come before you...do not make me return to the house of Jonathan the scribe, that I [might] not die there."** (Jeremiah 37:19-20) Do you see his humanity? Do you see his humanity? You've got to see that we go through difficult situations and it doesn't mean that we are not afraid, doesn't mean that our knees don't knock, doesn't mean that it's a cool breeze because we know what God's saying. And yet, although Jeremiah does not want to die, although he doesn't want to be in that place where he is forgotten, where he has no food and they are sieging the city, Jeremiah speaks the truth. Would you speak the truth? Will you speak the truth? Will you stand for righteousness? Will you **"[Hold] forth the word of life...."** (Philippians 2:16, KJV) **"...in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation...."** (Philippians 2:15) **"Then King Zedekiah gave commandment, and...committed Jeremiah to the court of the guardhouse...."** He brought him out of the vaulted cell, put him in the court. **"...Gave him a loaf of bread daily from the bakers' street,**

until all the bread in the city was gone. So Jeremiah remained in the court of the guardhouse.” (Jeremiah 37:21) What is going to happen next? Why did I say “Everything rises and falls on leadership”? Oh Beloved, before the next program, I urge you to read Jeremiah 38 and 39. And you will see that [God watches over His word to perform it.] (PARAPHRASE, Jeremiah 1:12) We are called to be His light. (See Matthew 5:14) We are called to hold forth the word of life. (See Philippians 2:16) We are called to tell the truth. We are called not to fear the face of man. We are called to remember that it is given unto us to suffer. (See Philippians 1:29) All who, **“...live godly in Christ Jesus will [suffer persecution].”(2 Timothy 3:12)** Jeremiah suffered persecution. And yet, when Jesus said to His disciples, **“...In [this] world you...have tribulation...,”** he says, **“...be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33, KJV)**