

ROUGH 70 YEARS!

Jeremiah 25-29

Talk about a crisis! Judah's headed for destruction

ACCUSATION AND EXHORTATION 2-20

Eight Messages of Warning 2:1-19:13

Accusation of sin and idolatry

Exhortation to repent—to turn back to God.

These messages should produce repentance—return to God.

Israel's Response to the warnings 19:14-20:18

Why will God destroy them? They're "stiff-necked"

Israel refuses to submit to GOD's authority.

PREDICTION OF CAPTIVITY 21-39

2nd set of prophecies directed to Judah deals specifically with the captivity.

While there's still possibility of repentance, which would bring restoration, God's operating on **assumption they won't repent.**

Eight messages of judgment 21-29

ANSWER FOR ZEDEKIAH 21-22 1st message:

Zedekiah's question: *What should they do about Babylon?*

Jeremiah answers: Prediction of captivity

GOD's fighting against them!

Warning: Submit to Babylon

Those who submit will survive; those who fight will die.

Warning: Call to Repent 21:11-22:30

MESSAGE AGAINST SPIRITUAL LEADERS 23

2nd message: against spiritual leaders of God's people.

These leaders should model obedience to God

Rather than care for people and lead in God's ways,
they're false priests and prophets.

They promote sin among God's people.

Therefore they'll be judged.

TWO BASKETS OF FIGS 24

3rd message: illustration of two bunches of figs, one batch good; the other, rotten.

The good figs represent people taken captive.

The bad figs represent people who remain in the land.

People left behind think the opposite.

They think they're better because they're not taken captive.

God explains that workers gather good fruit; Bad are left to rot.

PROPHECY OF 70 YEARS 25:1-14 4th message:

Predicts 70 years of captivity in Babylon.

Cause: They are deaf.

Not because they can't hear; but because they refuse to listen.

"There's no man so blind, as the man who *will not* see!"

25:1-7 “The word came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, which was the first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon.² So Jeremiah the prophet said to all the people of Judah and to all those living in Jerusalem:³ For 23 years—from the 13th year of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah until this very day—the word of the Lord has come to me and I have spoken to you again and again, but **you have not listened**.⁴ And though the Lord has sent all his servants the prophets to you again and again, **you have not listened or paid any attention**.⁵ They said, “Turn now, each of you, from your evil ways and your evil practices, and you can stay in the land the Lord gave to you and your fathers for ever and ever.”⁶ Do not follow other gods to serve and worship them; do not provoke me to anger with what your hands have made. Then I will not harm you.”⁷ “But **you did not listen to me**,” declares the Lord, “and you have provoked me with what your hands have made, and you have brought harm to yourselves.”

Result of their deafness 25:8-14

Punishment by Babylon 25:8-11 “Therefore the Lord Almighty says this: “**Because you have not listened to my words**,⁹ I will summon all the peoples of the north and my servant Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon,” declares the Lord, “and I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants and against all the surrounding nations. I will completely destroy them and make them an object of horror and scorn, and an everlasting ruin....¹¹ This whole country will become a desolate wasteland, and these nations **will serve the king of Babylon seventy years**.”

Punishment against Babylon 25:12-14 “But when the seventy years are fulfilled, I will punish the king of Babylon and his nation, the land of the Babylonians, for their guilt,” declares the Lord, “and will make it desolate forever...¹⁴ They themselves will be enslaved by many nations and great kings; I will repay them according to their deeds and the work of their hands.”

Notice when message is proclaimed—1st year of Nebuchadnezzar

70 yr from 1st captivity—605 B.C.—become vassal state, subject to Babylon.

The fall of Babylon to Assyria, and decree to rebuild came in 536.

God judges Babylon for their treatment of His people.

CUP OF GOD’S WRATH 25:12-38 5th message:

Illustration of a cup of wine foretells God’s judgment of nations.

Builds on 12-14 and expands idea.

God’s judgment of Babylon 12-14

God’s judgment on all the pagan nations 15-38

Judgment against the nations because of their injustice

Expanded in Ch. 46-51 Here presented as overview.

25:15-17 “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, said to me: “Take from my hand this cup filled with the wine of my wrath and make all the nations to whom I send you drink it. ¹⁶ When they drink it, they will stagger and go mad because of the sword I will send among them.” ¹⁷ So I took the cup from the Lord’s hand and made all the nations to whom he sent me drink it.”

25:27-29 *"Then tell them, 'This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Drink, get drunk and vomit, and fall to rise no more because of the sword I will send among you.' ... 29 See, I am beginning to bring disaster on the city that bears my Name, and will you indeed go unpunished? You will not go unpunished, for I am calling down a sword upon all who live on the earth, declares the Lord Almighty."*

25:31 *"The tumult will resound to the ends of the earth, for the Lord will bring charges against the nations; he will bring judgment on all mankind and put the wicked to the sword," declares the Lord."*

God is going to judge His own people.

If He doesn't spare His own people, how can the rest escape His wrath?

In the end, all mankind will be judged.

IN THE TEMPLE COURT 26 6th message:

In the court he warns them of danger of refusing to hear God.

26:1-6 *"Early in the reign of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, this word came from the Lord:² 'This is what the Lord says: Stand in the courtyard of the Lord's house and speak to all the people of the towns of Judah who come to worship in the house of the Lord. Tell them everything I command you; do not omit a word.'³ Perhaps they will listen and each will turn from his evil way. Then I will relent and not bring on them the disaster I was planning because of the evil they have done.⁴ Say to them, 'This is what the Lord says: If you do not listen to me and follow my law, which I have set before you,⁵ and if you do not listen to the words of my servants the prophets, whom I have sent to you again and again (though you have not listened),⁶ then I will make this house like Shiloh and this city an object of cursing among all the nations of the earth.'"*

They refuse to listen to the voice of the Lord.

If they listen, they will be saved. If they don't listen, they will be destroyed.

What lessons are there in this message for us?

26:8 How do they respond to the message?

"But as soon as Jeremiah finished telling all the people everything the Lord had commanded him to say, the priests, the prophets and all the people seized him and said, 'You must die!'"

Jeremiah is tried and spared **26:10-19** *"When the officials of Judah heard about these things, they went up from the royal palace to the house of the Lord and took their places at the entrance of the New Gate of the Lord's house. 11 Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and all the people, 'This man should be sentenced to death because he has prophesied against this city. You have heard it with your own ears!'" 12 Then Jeremiah said to all the officials and all the people: "The Lord sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the things you have heard. 13 Now reform your ways and your actions and obey the Lord your God. Then the Lord will relent and not bring the disaster he has pronounced against you. 14 As for me, I am in your hands; do with me whatever you think is good and right. 15 Be assured, however, that if you put me to death, you will bring the guilt of innocent blood on yourselves and on this city and on those who live in it, for in truth the Lord has sent me to you"*

to speak all these words in your hearing.” 16 Then the officials and all the people said to the priests and the prophets, “This man should not be sentenced to death! He has spoken to us in the name of the Lord our God.” 17 Some of the elders of the land stepped forward and said to the entire assembly of people, 18 “Micah of Moresheth prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah. He told all the people of Judah, ‘This is what the Lord Almighty says: “ ‘Zion will be plowed like a field, Jerusalem will become a heap of rubble, the temple hill a mound overgrown with thickets.’” 19 “Did Hezekiah king of Judah or anyone else in Judah put him to death? Did not Hezekiah fear the Lord and seek his favor? And did not the Lord relent, so that he did not bring the disaster he pronounced against them? We are about to bring a terrible disaster on ourselves!”

Uriah dies for preaching the same message 26:20-24

Ahikam is instrumental in protecting Jeremiah God blesses him later.

What is Jeremiah’s message? Do they listen?

They’re afraid to kill Jeremiah—but they don’t obey God.

What can they expect to happen then?

SIGN OF THE YOKES 27-28 7th message:

Illustration of yokes: God will send Israel and allies to captivity.

Sign to the nations: all should submit to Babylon

27:1-11 “Early in the reign of Zedekiah son of Josiah king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the Lord: 2 This is what the Lord said to me: “**Make a yoke out of straps and crossbars and put it on your neck.** 3 Then send word to the kings ... 5 **With my great power and outstretched arm I made the earth and its people and the animals that are on it, and I give it to anyone I please.** 6 Now I will hand all your countries over to my servant **Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; I will make even the wild animals subject to him.** 7 All nations will serve him and his son and his grandson until the time for his land comes; then many nations and great kings will subjugate him. 8 “ ‘If, however, any nation or kingdom will not serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon or bow its neck under his yoke, I will punish that nation with the sword, famine and plague, declares the Lord, until I destroy it by his hand. ... 11 **But if any nation will bow its neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon and serve him, I will let that nation remain in its own land to till it and to live there,** declares the Lord.”

Sign to Israel 27:12-22 I gave the same message to Zedekiah king of Judah. I said, “Bow your neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon; serve him and his people, and you will live. 13 Why will you and your people die by the sword, famine and plague with which the Lord has threatened any nation that will not serve the king of Babylon? 14 Do not listen to the words of the prophets who say to you, ‘You will not serve the king of Babylon,’ for they are prophesying lies to you. 15 ‘I have not sent them,’ declares the Lord. ‘They are prophesying lies in my name. Therefore, I will banish you and you will perish, both you and the prophets who prophesy to you.’” ... 17 Do not listen to them. Serve the king of Babylon, and you will live. Why should this city become a ruin?...

Hananiah's opposition 28

Hananiah, contradicts Jeremiah's message, promising restoration in 2 years:

28:2-4 *"This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: 'I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon. 3 Within two years I will bring back to this place all the articles of the Lord's house that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon removed from here and took to Babylon. 4 I will also bring back to this place Jehoiachin son of Jehoiakim king of Judah and all the other exiles from Judah who went to Babylon,' declares the Lord, 'for I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon.*

Jeremiah joins him in wishing it were so.

28:6 *He said, "Amen! May the Lord do so! May the Lord fulfill the words you have prophesied by bringing the articles of the Lord's house and all the exiles back to this place from Babylon.*

God's Word is what matters. The fulfillment is more important than the words.

28:7-9 *Nevertheless, listen to what I have to say in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people: 8 From early times the prophets who preceded you and me have prophesied war, disaster and plague against many countries and great kingdoms. 9 But the prophet who prophesies peace will be recognized as one truly sent by the Lord only if his prediction comes true."*

Hananiah again reacts: **28:10-14** *Then the prophet Hananiah took the yoke off the neck of the prophet Jeremiah and broke it, 11 and he said before all the people, "This is what the Lord says: 'In the same way will I break the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon off the neck of all the nations within two years.' "* At this, the prophet Jeremiah went on his way. 12 Shortly after the prophet Hananiah had broken the yoke off the neck of the prophet Jeremiah, the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: 13 *"Go and tell Hananiah, 'This is what the Lord says: You have broken a wooden yoke, but in its place you will get a yoke of iron. 14 This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: I will put an iron yoke on the necks of all these nations to make them serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and they will serve him. I will even give him control over the wild animals.' "*

Hananiah created a false hope.

He broke the wooden yoke, but God will replace it with an "iron" one.

Jeremiah declares judgment for Hananiah's false message

and reaffirms the message that God is sending the Babylonians.

Those who submit to God should submit to Babylon. Otherwise, they will die.

28:15-17 *The prophet Jeremiah said to Hananiah the prophet, "Listen, Hananiah! The Lord has not sent you, yet you have persuaded this nation to trust in lies. 16 Therefore, this is what the Lord says: 'I am about to remove you from the face of the earth. This very year you are going to die, because you have preached rebellion against the Lord.' "* 17 *In the seventh month of that same year, Hananiah the prophet died.*

LETTER TO BABYLON 29 8th message of judgment:

Letter sent to Babylon advises captives to settle down a while.

29:1, 4-9 *This is the text of the letter the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets and all the other people*

Nebuchadnezzar carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon... 4 This is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. 6 Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. 7 Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." 8 Yes, this is what the Lord Almighty, the God of Israel, says: "Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have. 9 They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them," declares the Lord.

God will restore them but not until 70 years are completed.

29:10-14 *This is what the Lord says: "When 70 years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. 11 **For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you," declares the Lord, "and will bring you back from captivity.***

He concludes this message with pronouncement of judgment against those who remain in Jerusalem because they won't listen. 15-19

He also announces judgment against the false prophets 20-23

Semaïas opposed Jeremiah and preached rebellion.

Therefore he will not see the restoration. 24-29

8 messages of judgment combine to demonstrate that because of sin and rebellion, God's going to judge Judah.

Jerusalem will be destroyed.

In spite of false assurances by prophets, captives will remain in Babylon 70 yrs.

They might as well settle in Babylon and wait to see restoration God promised.

after 70 years are over.

APPLICATION—What do we learn from these messages?

What should Israel have learned from these 8 messages?

What should we learn about Israel?

What should we learn about ourselves?