

MESSAGE TO BARUCH

Jeremiah 45

Jer. 1 **Jeremiah's call**

Jer. 2-45 **Message concerning Judah**

2-39 Preparation for the fall of Jerusalem

2-20 Call for repentance

21-38 Announcement of judgment

39 Jerusalem falls

Jer. 40-44 **Ministry to remnant**

40:1-6 Jeremiah freed

40:7-12 Gedaliah rules

40:13-41:18 Gedaliah killed

42-43:7 Escape to Egypt

43:8-44:30 Judgment in Egypt

Jer. 45 **Message to Baruch**

Who is Baruch?

Is he a good guy or a bad guy?

What has he done?

Jeremiah's assistant

Travels with Jeremiah

Writes by hand the messages Jeremiah preached (Jer. 36-37)

Delivers scrolls to the leaders of Israel for Jeremiah (36)

The people identify him with Jeremiah (NOT exactly popular!)

Following fall of Jerusalem and judgment in Egypt,

Jeremiah includes brief story from life of Baruch.

While brief, it contains an important lesson for our lives today.

Special message addressed to Baruch, Jeremiah's assistant,
is appended to the prophecy concerning Judah.

While it contains a message for Baruch and other servants of God concerning
the desire for personal gain,

it also reveals to Judah how deeply God feels sense of personal loss
because of the judgment He sent.

He still cares for them.

The Circumstances 45:1-2 *"This is what Jeremiah the prophet told Baruch son of Neriah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, after Baruch had written on a scroll the words Jeremiah was then dictating: 2 "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says to you, Baruch:*

Baruch copies Jeremiah's messages in a scroll,

in order to read them in the temple 36:1-8

Some of the leaders take the scroll to the king 36:14-20

When the king hears it, he throws the scroll in the fire,
and orders their arrest. 36:26

Remember, Jer. isn't recorded in chronological order.

When did Jer. 36 occur? (36:1–4th year of Jehoiakim)

When is this message given? (45:1– “)

What relationship might there be between these two events?

Baruch just passed through this time of affliction.

He's undoubtedly discouraged; perhaps afraid.

(4th year = 604 –year Daniel and others taken captive.

Nation is now subject to Babylon as a vassal state.)

The complaint 45:3 *“You said, ‘Woe to me! The Lord has added sorrow to my pain; I am worn out with groaning and find no rest.’”*

Observe carefully what Baruch says. What is his attitude?

He's feeling sorry for himself.

He's tired, sad, hurt.

Why do you suppose he feels that way?

v.5 suggests one reason. *“Should you then seek great things for yourself? Seek them not. For I will bring disaster on all people, declares the Lord, but wherever you go I will let you escape with your life.”*

What does that suggest to you?

Baruch's expectation

It appears that when he identifies with Jer., God's great spokesman,

Baruch expects some side benefits (perks)

What might he expect? (At least some respect, prosperity (??))

After all, this is GOD's spokesman!

However, his leader is not well-received. He became unpopular.

Instead of being honored, he's looked down upon, criticized, attacked.

They accuse him of being a traitor—he supports the enemy.

Instead of gaining a few financial benefits, he's left broke!

Therefore, he feels disillusioned and discouraged.

Jeremiah knows the feeling. He, too, has been there (15:16-21)

There's no mention of desire for material gain,

But at least he wants to be respected and liked!

God calls him to repentance also!

The Plan 45:4 God's answer:

“The Lord said, “Say this to him: ‘This is what the Lord says: I will overthrow what I have built and uproot what I have planted, throughout the land.

What's the point of God's answer?

He mentions the judgment God's about to send.

The people and the land are His.

He established the nation, and loves her.

Yet He must judge her.

God's suffering more than Baruch!

Baruch is only thinking about himself!

God's concerned about his people.

[Cp. Parallel in Jonah 4 (esp. vv. 10-11)

What's God's attitude?

What's Jonah's attitude?]

Alongside the love of God for His creation,

our self-centered attitudes seem pretty petty!

The Warning 45:5 *"Should you then seek great things for yourself? Seek them not. For I will bring disaster on all people, declares the Lord, but wherever you go I will let you escape with your life."*

The question God asks Baruch reveals the real motive behind Baruch's complaint: He's seeking personal gain!

God gently warns Baruch concerning his condition.

He's seeking personal gain.

God warns him not to seek personal gain!

Earthly treasures are always temporary—they don't last!

This isn't the time to put savings in Jerusalem Savings & Loan!

Why? What will happen to his wealth?

How could Baruch be seeking personal gain,

in light of what's about to happen to his people?!!

Instead of complaining about what he doesn't have,

he should be praising the Lord for His grace

which is about to save his life!

The nation will be destroyed but Baruch will be protected.

Conclusion: What does God's Word teach us about wealth?

Are riches wrong? Let's check out some key passages.

What does Jer. 45 teach US about wealth?

What does Num. 22:5-23:12 (the way of Balaam) teach us?

Cp. 2 Pet. 2:15, 16; Jud. 11; Rev. 2:14

What does Luke 18:18-30 (the rich young ruler) teach us?

What does Matt. 6:19-34 (serving two masters) teach us?

What does Acts 4:32-5:11 (Ananias & Sapphira) teach us?

Perhaps the key passage on this theme is 1 Tim. 6:13-19.

What principles are taught here?

What should our attitude be toward wealth?

Is wealth wrong?

How should we use it?

Summary: Matt. 6:19-21; 6:33

What is OUR attitude toward wealth?
Have we fallen in Baruch's trap?
Is our attitude one with God's attitude?