

# Jeremiah Study

Chapters 20 - 23 (~53 min) Give Me a Break!

- The people aren't liking what Jeremiah is saying
  - They've been plotting against him
  - The religious leaders are feeling threatened

## Chapter 20

(20:1) Pashhur is the priest & governor in "the house of the Lord"

- This isn't a pagan priest, this is supposed to be a priest of God.

(20:2) He punches Jeremiah in the face, and then puts him in the stocks. (humiliation)

(20:3) God gives Pashhur a new name "Magor-Missabib" which literally means "terror on every side"

- This new name is prophetic of Pashhur's fate, BECAUSE he has "prophesied lies" (20:3-6)

(20:7-10) Jeremiah tried to give up. But God's word was "in his heart like a burning fire". He could not hold it back.

(20:11-13) Jeremiah has faith in the Lord

(20:14-18) Another Pity Party - Jeremiah gets discouraged.

- We see an internal conflict within Jeremiah that I think we can all relate to:
  - His "head" knows and fully believes that God has his back
  - But he's struggling to "feel" that realization in his mind & flesh.
    - He knows he *shouldn't* worry, but he does
    - He knows he shouldn't *care* that everyone hates him, but it bothers him
    - He is exhausted, frustrated & weary.
- Understandably so. From Jeremiah's perspective he probably felt like a failure. He has likely been prophesying for ~18 years at this point and seen ZERO change in the people. He is hated, mocked, punched, put in the stocks for humiliation.
- BUT - from this point he can't see the full picture. He doesn't know that Jesus (the promised Messiah) will quote him more than any other prophet. He likely can't fathom that we would be reading his words today & shaping our lives through his wisdom and experience.



### Examine:

Take a note from Jeremiah that nothing is "too small" to matter. While we may not see the fruit in our lifetime, when working with God the smallest act can grow into a monumental harvest.

# Chapter 21

## A little background context:

- Likely around or shortly after the time of Chapter 20, Daniel is serving King Nebuchadnezzar (Nebby) in Babylon when King Nebby gets a dream & Daniel interprets that dream. (see Daniel 2)
  - Daniel was taken captive from Isreal in 609BC, spent 3 years training to be in service to Babylon & now serves in the king's palace.
- Daniel 2:36-38:
  - 36 "This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king. 37 Your Majesty, you are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; 38 in your hands he has placed all mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds in the sky. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. You are that head of gold."
- So, at the same time that God is telling Isreal of the calamity that will befall them "from the north", he has also told King Nebby (Through Daniel, a Jewish prophet) that God has given Nebby authority.
  - This might explain the boldness & persistence of Babylon toward Judah.



### Cultural Context

The "Chaldeans" were a sect of Babylonians, like wise men. They were known for science & mathematics.

Some scholars believe this may be an early start or form from where the New Testament "wise men" may have derived.

**Fun Fact:** The wise men in the new testament that were searching for Jesus were extremely well studied in the prophesies of the coming messiah, however, they were not Jewish. Some scholars speculate that it could have been the captivity in Babylon where this sect was introduced to Jewish prophesies, perhaps, even though Daniel.

(21:1-7) Jeremiah has been telling them this would happen & they would not listen. Now they see it start to happen.

- Pashhur (the guy that punched Jeremiah in the face & put him in stinks for speaking God's words) is now coming to Jeremiah & asking him to inquire God about this Babylonian attack.
  - He even tries flattery "Lord.. according to His wonderful works..."
  - NOTE: God likes praise, but flattery doesn't work.

NOTE: Perhaps at this point God has already given Nebby the dream & in telling Nebby that He has delivered authority and dominion over this land, people & beast, God will not go back on His word. So even though the people now *believe* it may be past the point of "changing directly".

(21:8-10) But God makes a way out. "Surrender". This is where the remnant will be saved through captivity.

(21:11-14) Message to the house of David

## Chapter 22

(22:1-5) Direct to the king of Judah

- Execute judgment (justice)
- Execute righteousness
- Take plunder from the oppressor
- Do no wrong
- Do no wrong nor violence to:
  - The stranger
  - The fatherless
  - The widow
- Do not shed innocent blood

(22:6-10) Judah's punishment will be a testament of God to the world. (the what & the why)

(22:11-14) Those that seek after their own desires harm those around them & they end up with a mirage of victory.

(22:15-16) When we *know* God, we do good things.

(22:17-23) The mirage of victory will be broken & the prize for refusing God's voice is to be cast out into the world that they chose over God.



**Cultural Context:** Cedar & Lebanon

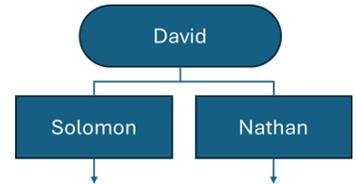
Jerusalem at this time loved the cedar from Lebanon & they used it so much that people started to nickname Jerusalem "Lebanon".

The reference in vs. 15 about "enclose yourself in cedar" seems symbolic of surrounding or wrapping one's life with the world. Perhaps even, the "vanity of the world".

(22:22-30) The Messianic Branch

- "Coniah" was also called "Jeconiah" & "Jehoiachin". (3 names)
- God professes a curse here on this bloodline. "For none of his descendants shall prosper, sitting on the throne of David and ruling anymore in Judah".
  - Jehoiachin ruled for 3 months before Jerusalem fell to Babylon & he was taken captive.

- King Nebby appointed Jechoachin's uncle (Zedekiah) to rule over Jerusalem.
    - (see 2 Kings 25:17)
- Flip to Matthew 1 & look at the genealogy of Jesus... we see "" (a.k.a Jehoiachin) there.
  - This is Joseph's lineage (Mary's husband). The was the *legal* lineage of that time. But Jesus wasn't born from Joseph's blood.
- Flip to Luke 3:23: This is Mary's Lineage. This is the bloodline from which Jesus was born.
  - Notice the difference? The two bloodlines fork at David, completing bypassing the cursed branch.
    - Matthew (Joseph's Line) flows from Solomon
    - Luke (Mary's Line) flows from his brother Nathan



That leads us into Chapter 23 where God told them this would happen.

## Chapter 23

(23:1-4) This is a warning to Pastors. They have a responsibility to speak & walk in God's truth whether the people (or society) want to hear it.

(23:5) Notice God specifically says "raise to David a Branch", because that is exactly what we see when we compare Joseph & Mary's bloodlines. God split the branch at David.

- The Fame & Focus followed Solomon's branch through history (the legal branch) & it was messy!
- But God raised a branch that, perhaps, no one was expecting. To the world this lineage likely looked like the "lesser". Solomon ruled as very famous king. Nathan was a prophet.

(23:5-8) Likely has multiple layers of fulfillment, all the way up to the Millennial Kingdom

- In 537 BC (after the 70 year captivity) a small % of Jews returned, but most decided to stay where they were. (They had assimilated into societies)
- In 1948 Ireal was declared a Nation again ("in a day") and many from all over the world did come back "into their own land", but they have never really "dwelled in safety".
  - They certainly have never had a King or Ruler worthy to be called "YHWH Tsidkenu". They rejected Jesus.
- And likely their rejection of Jesus suggests that, perhaps, "will be saved" hasn't happened yet.

(23: 9-28) God sees and calls out false prophets

- V20: Makes reference to "latter days" (End Times)
- V23-24: God is near to us

(23:29) God's word is a weapon & the ONLY defense against lies & false-prophesies.

- We must KNOW God's word so that we are not deceived.

(23: 30-40) Examples of false-prophecy

- (v30) "steal My words"
- (v32) "cause My people to err by their lies" & "by their recklessness"
- (v36) "perverted the words of the living God"



### Examine

A good modern-day example of false prophecy is when scripture is used out of context to make a claim that "God says", when the context does not support what God actually said.

We are blessed to have the Bible so that we, unlike the Jews in Jeremiah's day, can search God's word without subjectivity. With this, we have a responsibility to *not* be deceived by those that misuse this word.

This is especially dangerous with social media where a single verse is shared to support a societal or political point. The words by themselves *appear* to represent God's opinion, however, when put into the context of God's word (cover to cover) often these completely contradict what God actually said on the topic. (Or, attempt to make a statement that God never explicitly addressed).

When this happens:

- ✓ It "steals God's words" (cutting them out from scripture)
- ✓ Is "reckless"
- ✓ Causes others to "err by the lie"
- ✓ "Perverts God's Word"