

Jeremiah Study

Chapters 24 - 26 (~35 min) 70 Years Backwards

- We're going to study these chapters backwards by DATE
 - Chapter 26 ~ 609 BC
 - Chapter 25 ~606 BC
 - Chapter 24 ~ 597 BC

Chapter 26

~609 BC :Beginning of Jehoikim's reign

(26:2) Speak God's Word, do NOT "*diminish* a word"

(26:3) "Perhaps" they will listen & turn (and God will *relent*)

NOTE: We've gone back in time from our study of Chapter 21 where it was "too late"(Ch 21 was ~588 BC during Zedekiah's reign).

- If you remember, we pointed to Daniel 2 where God gave King Nebby a dream & authority over this people, land, etc. That dream occurred ~ 604 BC.
- So, at this point in Jeremiah 26 (~609 BC), God is still giving His people time to change.

(26:4-16) Flippant Outrage

- Jeremiah speaks God's words in God's house
- Everyone is FURIOUS. (the priests, prophets & all the people seize him"
 - Get the princes, Jeremiah MUST DIE!
- Jeremiah's subtle sting: "do with me as you must, but know that you will bring innocent blood on your hands for I speak the words from God".
- Everyone is SCARED. "WAIT! Jeremiah must NOT die!"
 - NOTE: Clearly, on some level, they believe Jeremiah.

(26:17-18) Bring forth the Elders! (Reason)

- They do something right here, they consult God's word to test Jeremiah's word. (Citing prophesy from Micah & Urijah)
 - v17-18: Evidence to NOT to kill Jeremiah
 - v19-23: Historical precedent TO kill Jeremiah
- Ahikam intervenes to save Jeremiah.

THOUGHT: The reaction here seems to shadow or parallel that of the reaction that Jesus faced. God's word spoken, everyone outraged, "Kill Him!" then "WAIT, can we get someone else to kill him for us?" Seems very similar/familiar.

Chapter 25

- ~607/606 BC (approx. 3 years since chapter 26)
- Jeremiah has been prophesying 23 years at this point
- 1st Year of King Nebby in Babylon:
 - ~2 years *before* God will give Nebby a dream in 604 BC
 - 1-2 years from this point (605BC) will be the 1st Wave where Babylon takes the area of the North (which was Northern Israel defeated by Assyria). That is the point where Daniel will be taken captive to Babylon.
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(25:1-11) The “families of the north” will be given to Nebby

- Note, Nebby is a pagan and yet God calls him “His servant”.

(25:12-38) God’s people will be in captivity for 70 years, then He will punish the nations that oppressed Israel (including Babylon).

- This likely makes references to the curses & prophecies that God gives in Jeremiah 46-51 regarding other nations

Why 70 Years?

1. Free them from idolatry (Jeremiah 16:10)
2. To witness/evangelize.
 - a. This wasn’t something that they did. Judaism was founded on the idea of “inheritance” rather than recruitment.
 - i. However, they lived as an example & we see in Daniel how their influence will bring Nebby around from a Pagan to a Believer.
 - ii. And as mentioned in a previous study, they may have also introduced the scholars of those days to God’s prophetic accuracy. (Chaldeans & “wise men”)
3. To restore the land physically
 - a. Per God’s Law, they were supposed to let the land rest every 7th year (Sabbath Year).
 - i. See Leviticus 25:2-4
 - b. But they had gone 490 years without observing this.
 - c. So, the land was “owed” 70 years of Sabbath. (see 2 Chronicles 36:21)

Chapter 24

- ~597 BC : 2nd Wave of Attack from Babylon (~ 9 years later)
- Jehoiachin ruled for 3 months
- Babylon has captured Jerusalem & take Jehoiachin into captivity

King Nebby has appointed Zedekiah to rule Jerusalem

- V5: We see that God is sending them out as captives “for their own good”.

- At the time, it probably didn't *feel* or *seem* like this was a good thing to these people.
- V6: God makes a promise to "set his eyes" on these captives. To "bring them back" and to "build them up".
 - In their captivity, God is going to do a work on them.
- V7: Powerful Verse. (Read it again)
 - God gives them a heart to "know Him"
 - They shall "be His people"
 - He will "be their God"
 - They will "return to God with their WHOLE heart".
- V8-10: God gives us Zedekiah & his line. (seems to reiterate Branch of Righteousness from Chapter 23)



Symbolism: Figs

Figs & Fig Trees are often used to Symbolize Isreal or Jerusalem.