

## Jeremiah 21-22 – 27 Apr 2014

Two hunters came across a bear so big that they dropped their rifles and ran for cover. One man climbed a tree while the other hid in a nearby cave. The bear was in no hurry to eat, so he sat down between the tree and the cave to reflect upon his good fortune. Suddenly, and for no apparent reason, the hunter in the cave came rushing out, almost ran into the waiting bear, hesitated, and then dashed back in again. The same thing happened a second time. When he emerged for the third time, his companion in the tree frantically called out, "Woody, are you crazy? Stay in the cave till he leaves!" "Can't," panted Woody, "there's another bear in there."

**4 lessons to learn while living in the intersection of trouble and danger.**

### Prophecy toward Zedekiah

#### **Read 21:1-6**

- Why would the King even ask Jeremiah to pray the Lord for them that He would help against Babylon?
  - Desperation – try everything
- That's a clear answer: "I will be fighting against you."

## Read 21:7-10

**The 1<sup>st</sup> lesson to learn when in constant danger is that humility is always right.**

- This judgment would be fulfilled in 586 BC
- God having declared judgment on the king of Judah now turns to the masses: surrender & live; or defend your way of life & die.
  - The people have a clear choice
  - This logic seems completely backward to what it should be. This is way Jeremiah was called a traitor.
    - Seemed like backward logic when:
      - Peter was told to rise, kill and eat in Acts 10.
      - We're told to humble ourselves and not seek self-promotion.

## Read 21:11-14

- He tells them here exactly what He expects from them.

- To do justly, to love mercy (vs 12) and to walk humbly with their God (vs 13).
- This is the exact same message that God told King Hezekiah and the people of Judah thru Micah 90 years earlier in Micah 6:8
- Vs 14 – We should tell people in our gracious Gospel presentation that God will judge them “according to the fruit of their doings”.
  - Calling sin sin isn’t judgmental; it’s gracious to inform them.
  - Dove and Crow story

## **Read 22:1-9**

### **The 2<sup>nd</sup> lesson to learn when in constant danger is that activity is always needed.**

- When trouble is all around, there’s always a chance to serve the Lord.
  - Some people need comforted
  - Some people need exhorted
- Did you notice who went where in chapter 21 and then again in chapter 22?
  - Chapter 22 God goes straight to the King to plead with him.

- God here personally presents the King a chance to repent and be blessed. What grace!
- The Gospel always has 2 parts: our sin and God's perfection.
  - Destruction (like here) should remind us of our sin.
  - Blessing or deliverance should remind us of our great merciful, loving savior as in Eze 39:6-7 and Joshua 4.

## **Prophecy toward Jehoahaz**

### **Read 22:10-12**

- Don't weep for King Josiah that just died (he's in paradise), but weep for Jehoahaz that was just carried off into Egypt by Pharaoh Necho (for he'll never come back)
- Read II Kings 23:31:33

## **Prophecy toward Jehoiakim**

### **Read 22:13-19**

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> lesson to learn when in constant danger is that doing justly honors God and other people.**

- Vs 13 – The Bible had it right about forced slavery all along. It’s wrong! Working to pay off a debt (as in the Law) is a good thing.
- Vs 15-17 – Was *that* the goal of your Kingship? To be arrayed in elegance? Would to God your goal was to do justly.
  - Anyone ever said to you, “well, if you want to get ahead, you should xyz”?
  - Is your goal to do right everyday or to get stuff?
- Vs 19 – This prophecy was fulfilled
  - Read II Kings 23:34-24:7
  - Notice it doesn’t say that he was “buried with his fathers”.
- II Kings 24:1 – This is the 1<sup>st</sup> Babylonian invasion of Judah of 605 BC (just after the Battle of Carchemish with Egypt)
  - Daniel taken captive at about 18 years old.

## **Prophecy toward Jehoiachin**

**Read II Kings 24:8-16**

**Read 22:20-30**

## **The 4<sup>th</sup> lesson to learn when in constant danger is that raising children doesn't stop during hard times.**

- Accountable: God here holds a 17 or 18 year old man responsible as an adult.
  - It may seem like you have forever to raise your kids but by the time they're 13 or 14 there's only a little influence you have left.
  - Don't weary of correcting your kids or grandkids NOW! You may not have tomorrow.
- Two Promotions: Read I Kings 25:27-30
  - Both Daniel taken in 605BC and Jehoiachin taken in 597 BC were promoted in Babylon. BUT HOW THEY GOT PROMOTED IS WHAT CONCERNS GOD
  - Promotion or not is up to God; honoring God daily is up to us.
- Eternal demise: This lineage maintains the legal right to the throne, but God here spiritually discounts Jehoiachin's descendants from rightfully occupying the throne.
  - Matt 1:1-17
  - Luke 3:23-38