

Jeremiah 52 – 12 October 2014

Zedekiah's Fate

- V 1-2 – This chapter is a historical supplement added by someone other than Jeremiah about 25 years later.
 - Nearly identical to the end of II Kings.
 - Added to show that fulfillment of much of what Jeremiah had prophesied.
- Vs 3-11 – This is the 3rd captivity when Jerusalem was destroyed.

Jerusalem's Fate

- Vs 12-16 – The land was given a little attention as to not be overrun.
- Vs 17-23 – The remaining temple treasures of brass were all taken with the notable exception that the Ark of the Covenant is still not listed.
 - Gold and silver items were taken already.
 - Jer 27:19 predicted Babylon would come back for the rest of the items (brass).

The People's Fate

- Vs 24-28 – 74 chief people were killed and 3023 people were carried away into captivity.
- Vs 29-30 – Wave after wave of major life change.

Jehoiachin's Fate

- Vs 31-34 – Daniel and Jehoiachin were both promoted in Babylon?
 - Exalted by opposite means.
 - Jehoiachin accepted the non-kosher food, Daniel rejected it.
 - Jehoiachin and Daniel were both promoted while in Babylon, but it matters to God how you get promoted.

The Jews are experiencing a total upheaval to their lives. Major changes can be progressive and last for years and years or be a single event. Everything they know will change.

- Where they work, where they play.
- Where their friends are, where their family is.

What type of person are you when major change is on the horizon or happening?

From Jeremiah 52 today, we're shown 4 types of people. What type of person does God want us to be during major changes?

The Fighter

- Zedekiah is the example here; he's going to fight for *his way*.
 - Jer 52:3 – Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon...for his whole 11 year reign.
- The Fighter doesn't want the major change to happen.
- He'll do everything to stop change from happening.
- There are TWO types of ungodly fighters seen in the Bible.
 - 1st kind: motivated by maintaining his lifestyle.
 - Example: King Herod the Great
 - Didn't want to lose his kingship (major change) so he was willing to kill multiple sons on his.
 - Didn't want the Messiah to come (major change) so he was willing to slaughter all the babies of Bethlehem to prevent it.
 - 2nd kind: motivated by their own lack of understanding.

- Example: Saul of Tarsus
- Didn't want to lose Judaism so he fought, literally, so he was willing to kill Christians.
- Read I Tim 1:12-13

The Forbearer

- Jehoiachin is the example here, he will capitulate the major change for his own selfish gain.
 - Jer 52:31-34 – Even in his diet he became as a Babylonian.
- As the Fighter, the Forbearer doesn't want major change to happen either, but the Forbearer will not do anything to stop it.
- The Forbearer will capitulate for their own safety or advancement.
 - Lot capitulated towards those in Sodom, progressing closer and closer toward acceptance of their sin.
 - The whole book of Judges is about Israel capitulating to what her oppressor nation wants from her.
 - Ananias & Sapphira capitulated towards the economy of selling all.

The Follower

- The captured and killed Jews are the example here.
- Some follow the Fighters, some follow the Forbearers.
 - The Fighter followers were killed.
 - The Forbearer followers were taken captive.
- For the Follower, it's not that they want or don't want major change to happen; it's that they just don't want to have to think about it or decide for themselves.
 - They're just caught up in it and going with the flow.
- If they do 'what the crowd is doing' then they won't lose anything.
- When don't often know these Bible characters by name, b/c being known would put them at risk.
 - Think of the Herodian soldiers that arrested Jesus.
 - I'm sure that not all 10 of Joseph's brother's were actively trying to sell him and pretend his death. Some just followed.

The Faithful

- Jeremiah – throughout this whole book Jeremiah has been our example of the Faithful.
 - Read Jer 20:9
- For the Faithful, it's not that they want or don't want major change to happen; it's that they just want to know from the Lord if they should 'fight' or 'forbear'.
 - They're not interested in the majority's actions; they're interested in the Lord's direction.
- They're not interested in whether or not it will cost them anything; they do it to honor God.
 - The faithful don't have a price.
 - Story: Proposition for \$1,000,000. "Who do you think I am?" "We've already discovered that, we're just negotiating the price."
- There are TWO occasions when the Faithful get to shine:
 - The 1st occasion is when major change seems right.
 - The Faithful David knew there needed to be major change so he stepped up and 'Fought' Goliath.
 - The Faithful Rahab knew there needed to be major change, her home Jericho would be

conquered, so she “Forbear” and capitulated allowing Israel to conquer.

- The 2nd occasion is when major change seems wrong.
 - The Faithful Josiah knew there need to be major change so he ‘Fought’ to rid Israel of the idolatry the even Solomon set up.
 - The Faithful Jeremiah knew there needed to be major change so he encouraged the Jews to ‘Forbear’ and capitulate to Babylon even though this felt wrong.

Conclusion: The Prodigal Son

1. He knew major change was coming b/c he was coming of age.
 - a. So he Fought to have it happen on his terms. (give me my inheritance now)
 - b. These riches soon vanished away.
2. He knew major change was coming again b/c he was now broke.
 - a. So he Forbear and just capitulated to doing whatever it took to get by. (Fed the pigs)

b. The solution to this cycle of Fighting, and Forbearing, and Following can only be broken one way.

i. When MAJOR CHANGE comes to the heart of a person, turning them into The Faithful!

3. Are you The Faithful?

a. Do you always Fight against change for selfish gain?

b. Do you always Forbear & just acquiesce to the sin around you for your own selfish gain?

c. Do you always Follow the leaders just to blend in for your own advantage?

d. Or are you the one who says, “I want to accept change or not accept change based on what will honor God.”

4. The Prodigal Son ran back to his loving father and said, “I want to be Faithful to you. I know that your way is best and right.”