

Jeremiah 35: The Rechabites and Judah Sunday AM 08/21/22

Introduction:

The setting of **Jeremiah 35**. Jehoiakim reigns as vassal King of Egypt (**2 Kings 23.34-37**). In 605 BC he gives allegiance to Nebuchadnezzar (**2 Kings 24.1**). In 601 BC he rebels which leads to his capture and death (**2 Kings 24.2-6**). It was during his time of reign, **Jeremiah 35** occurs. This is a bleak time in the history of Judah as they constantly refused to listen to God and kept on worshipping their idols.

I) Background of the Rechabites.

A) Related to the Kenites.

1 Chronicles 2:55b *These were the Kenites who came from Hammath, the father of the house of Rechab.*

1. Moses' father in-law was a Kenite.

Numbers 10:28 *Thus was the order of march of the children of Israel, according to their armies, when they began their journey. 29 Now Moses said to Hobab the son of Reuel the Midianite, Moses' father-in-law, "We are setting out for the place of which the LORD said, 'I will give it to you.' Come with us, and we will treat you well; for the LORD has promised good things to Israel." 30 And he said to him, "I will not go, but I will depart to my own land and to my relatives." 31 So Moses said, "Please do not leave, inasmuch as you know how we are to camp in the wilderness, and you can be our eyes. 32 "And it shall be, if you go with us-indeed it shall be-that whatever good the LORD will do to us, the same we will do to you."*

- a. Reuel is Jethro, Moses' father in-law.
- b. They went into the land of Canaan and received property. **Judges 1.16**
- c. Some lived besides Kadesh, **Judges 4.11**.
- d. Sisera was killed by a Kenite woman, **Judges 4.18**.

B) *Jeremiah 35.1-5*

1. He brings all of the house, lineage of Rechab to the house of God.
2. Offers them pitcher full of wine.

C) The vow of Jonadab.

Jeremiah 35:6 *But they said, "We will drink no wine, for Jonadab the son of Rechab, our father, commanded us, saying, 'You shall drink no wine, you nor your sons, forever. 7 'You shall not build a house, sow seed, plant a vineyard, nor have any of these; but all your days you shall dwell in tents, that you may live many days in the land where you are sojourners.'*

1. Jonadab – worshipper of God. Jethro described as a priest of Midian, ***Exodus 3.1; 18.1***.
2. Most likely this Jonadab is Jehonadab “whose heart was right”.

2 Kings 10:15 *Now when he departed from there, he met Jehonadab the son of Rechab, coming to meet him; and he greeted him and said to him, "Is your heart right, as my heart is toward your heart?" And Jehonadab answered, "It is." Jehu said, "If it is, give me your hand." So he gave him his hand, and he took him up to him into the chariot.*

3. This was around 840 BC, ***Jeremiah 35*** is about 250 years later.
4. The vow set a standard different than those around them, made them distinct. Not just to drink no wine, but also build (live in) houses, plant vineyards, and it was without end.
5. Why the vow?
 - a. Midianites were nomads, living in tents, taking care of herds. Perhaps just to preserve their way of life.
 - b. Idolatry was often associated with planting and harvesting crops.
6. The context later in this chapter shows it was not a rash or

unwise vow.

Ecclesiastes 5:4 *When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; For He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed-*

7. This seems to of been a “voluntary vow” made to God.

D) Their observance of Jonadab’s vow.

Jeremiah 35:8 *"Thus we have obeyed the voice of Jonadab the son of Rechab, our father, in all that he charged us, to drink no wine all our days, we, our wives, our sons, or our daughters, 9 "nor to build ourselves houses to dwell in; nor do we have vineyard, field, or seed. 10 "But we have dwelt in tents, and have obeyed and done according to all that Jonadab our father commanded us.*

1. For over two hundred years they had kept this vow.
2. Until recently.

Jeremiah 35:11 *"But it came to pass, when Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up into the land, that we said, 'Come, let us go to Jerusalem for fear of the army of the Chaldeans and for fear of the army of the Syrians.' So we dwell at Jerusalem."*

3. Circumstances had changed due to Nebuchadnezzar, but they were still not drinking wine, or planting vineyards.

II) God’s Comparison Between the Rechabites and Judah.

A) How they received instruction.

Jeremiah 35:12 *Then came the word of the LORD to Jeremiah, saying, 13 "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: 'Go and tell the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, "Will you not receive instruction to obey My words?" says the LORD...14b But although I have spoken to you, rising early and speaking, you did not obey Me.*

Jeremiah 35:15 *"I have also sent to you all My servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them, saying, 'Turn now everyone from his evil way, amend your doings, and do not go after other gods to serve them; then you will dwell in the land which I have given you and your fathers.' But you have not inclined your ear, nor obeyed Me.*

1. Judah did not listen, did not receive instruction from God.
2. Rechabites listened to and obeyed their father's instruction.

Jeremiah 35:14a *"The words of Jonadab the son of Rechab, which he commanded his sons, not to drink wine, are performed; for to this day they drink none, and obey their father's commandment."*

Jeremiah 35:16 *"Surely the sons of Jonadab the son of Rechab have performed the commandment of their father, which he commanded them, but this people has not obeyed Me."*

C) God's Reward and Punishment

Jeremiah 35:17 *"Therefore thus says the LORD God of hosts, the God of Israel: 'Behold, I will bring on Judah and on all the inhabitants of Jerusalem all the doom that I have pronounced against them; because I have spoken to them but they have not heard, and I have called to them but they have not answered.'" 18 And Jeremiah said to the house of the Rechabites, "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: 'Because you have obeyed the commandment of Jonadab your father, and kept all his precepts and done according to all that he commanded you, 19 'therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "Jonadab the son of Rechab shall not lack a man to stand before Me forever.'"*

1. Judah would receive the punishment Jeremiah had spoken against Judah.
2. Rechabites would continue on, more importantly, they would stand before God.

III) Lessons Learned

A) The influence of one generation upon later generations.

1. Jonadab's influence upon his descendants is beyond question.
2. What will your influence be upon your descendants, your children, grandchildren, etc.

Ephesians 6:4 *And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.*

3. Sad to see children of devote Christian's drift away from God.
 - a. saw a statistic which said over 90% of those who grandparents were Christians are not Christians themselves.
 - b. I one time wrote to a columnist "Charles Reese" asking for permission to run one of his articles. He wrote back granting me permission and stating his mother was a member of the church of Christ. I noticed he did not state he was a member.
4. What will your influence be on the Lord's people after your life is over. Many of the King's influence can be seen in the words "and they made Israel sin". Twenty times in *1 & 2 Kings* those words are written.

B) The value of listening, receiving instruction.

1. You know each generation of Rechabites had to answer the question "Why are we doing this?" or Why can't we live in a house? Or "Why can't we drink wine or plant a vineyard?"
 - a. Each generation had to explain to the next generation why.
 - b. Your children will ask those why questions.
2. Judah did not listen to the word of God. It was not a matter of ignorance but self-will.

C) Why is it some people are more dedicated to their ancestors than to God.

1. Nothing said against Jonadab's vow but God ask Judah why these people were more dedicated to this man's vow than His people were to Him?
2. The same can be asked today. Why is it...
 - a. Some people are more dedicated to their ancestor's religion than to God?
 - b. Some people are dedicated to family rituals than

following God's word?

c. Some people are more observant of things like Christmas, Easter than to observing the Lord's Day.

Conclusion:

God's promise to Rechabites "a man to stand before Me" was a great blessing. To stand before God on the Day of Judgement and receive eternal blessings. Let us also remember His warning to Judah of the punishment to come.