

Jeremiah 11-12:6

12-4-97

1. Intro:

- 1.1. This Message is similar to others, they have: Rebuke, exhortation, & warning.
 - 1.1.1. Difference? This is based upon an unkept Covenant.
 - 1.1.2. The Palestinian cov.(land issue in vs.5).
 - 1.1.3. The **Ownership** of the land depended on **God's promise** to Abraham. Their **Possession** & **Enjoyment** of the land depended on **their obedience.**"

2. BREAKING GOD'S COVENANT (1-8)

- 2.1. What Covenant?
 - 2.1.1. **Palestinian Covenant** – **Deut.30:3**.
 - 2.1.2. **Josiah's Covenant** - **2 Kings 23:3** "Then the king stood by a pillar and made a **covenant** before the LORD, to follow the LORD and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes, with all his heart and all his soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. **And all the people took a stand for the covenant.**"
- 2.2. The history of the Jews is the record of Covenants... "God made em, they broke em!"
 - 2.2.1. **Edenic**(tree/cond.); **Adamic**(fall/curses/uncond.); **Noahic**(human gov/uncond.); **Abrahamic**(numerous posterity/great nation/a great blessing to the entire world:uncond.); **Mosaic**(Law/cond.); **Palestinian**(land/uncond.); **Davidic**(royal lineage/uncond.); & **The New**(writing His law upon their hearts/uncond.).
- 2.3. **Vs.4** – "**Iron Furnace**" = a place of suffering. Here Egypt.
- 2.4. "**Obey**" – **Quote** Eliz. Elliot
 - 2.4.1. The frontier lay before us. "Therefore have I set my face like a flint" were words from Isaiah which held me steady when I first decided to go to Ecuador, and they held me steady this time as well. **Obedience to God** was the reason for this journey. It was a good thing for me to remind myself of the reason because, on top of everything, it was really great fun. It was an adventure and held the thrill of adventure, and if I put my mind on the things set before rather than on the things that were behind, I had no sense whatever of gritting my teeth and doing the thing I disliked. It was the thing I was made for and I was full of gladness.¹

¹ Elizabeth Elliot, The Strange Ashes, (Harper & Row, San Francisco, 1975).

2.5. **Vs.5** – “So be it” – Amen, an affirmation of what has been said.

Verily, truly, amen.

2.5.1. This is pronounced after **curses**(see Deut.27), **prayers**, & **hymns**.

2.5.2. This statement brands him a traitor.

2.5.3. “So be it” – Is how we should respond to God’s covenants.

2.5.4. “So be it” – Even if we’re walking alone like Jeremiah!

2.5.5. “So be it” – Even if we don’t understand!

2.5.6. “So be it” – Even if we don’t agree, it is best!

3. 2 CONSPIRACY’S! (11:9-12:6)

3.1. The Lord reveals to Jeremiah a 2-fold Conspiracy(1 against King Josiah, 1 against himself).

3.2. Conspiracy against Josiah (9-17)

3.3. This was a Conspiracy of the men of Judah to disobey God’s covenant & resist the reforms led by Josiah.

3.4. God gives **2 pictures** that reveal their futile faith.

3.4.1. A Wicked Worshiper in the Temple (15)

3.4.2. NIV - "What is my beloved doing in my temple as she works out her evil schemes with many? **Can consecrated meat avert your punishment?** When you engage in your wickedness, then you rejoice."

3.4.3. Holy Flesh – sacrifices. God’s asking why are you sacrificing?

3.4.3.1. Sin cancels out sacrificing! Read **Hag.2:12-14**.

3.4.4. An Olive Tree in the storm (16)

3.4.5. Paul picks up on this in Rom.11.

3.4.6. Judah saw itself as a “Thriving”(green/NIV) Olive Tree that would never fall! {“We have the City, the Ark, the Promise”}

3.4.6.1. But God saw a Babylonian storm a brewing. The wind would break its branches, the lightening would strike & set fire to her!

3.4.7. Gods **last words** to the Church wasn’t the “great commission”(as important as that is); but it was “**Repent or else**”!(Rev.2:16)

3.4.7.1. 6 times “repent”, to 5 out of 7 churches.

3.5. **Conspiracy against Jeremiah (18-23)**

- 3.6. This was a Conspiracy of the people in Jeremiah's own hometown to kill the prophet & silence God's word.
- 3.6.1. His message convicted!
- 3.7. **Vs.19** – He felt like a lamb led to the slaughter. Sounds like? **Is.53:7** “He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.”
- 3.8. **Vs.20** – All he could do was commit himself & his enemies to the Lord & trust God to work.
- 3.8.1. This is the 1st of several occasions where Jeremiah asked God for his help to fight his battles & help him w/**depression** & **fears**.
- 3.8.1.1. **Publicly** – He stood as a rock, bold before his people.
- 3.8.1.2. **Privately** – He was broken before God.
- 3.8.2. **“Testing the mind & hearts”** - This is said of Jesus also – **Rev.2:23**.
- 3.9. **Vs.21-23** – God assures him...Got ya covered!”
- 3.10. * These 2 Conspiracies led to a 3rd **crisis** that threatened Jeremiah's own faith in the Lord!(12:1-6)

4. **A THEOLOGICAL CRISIS FOLLOWED (12:1-6)**

4.1. **JEREMIAH ASKS! (1-4)**

- 4.2. Jeremiah struggles w/a couple problems.
- 4.2.1. He was **Troubled** ...but **Teachable**!
- 4.3. His questions?
- 4.3.1. **Vs.1b** – **Why does the way of the wicked prosper?**
- 4.3.1.1. Why does a **Holy God** permit false prophets & unfaithful priests to prosper, while he, a faithful servant of God, was treated as a sac. Lamb?
- 4.3.1.2. This has been asked by many – Job, Asaph, Hab, Mal, Jer., by you & me.
- 4.3.2. **Vs.1c** – **Why are those happy who deal so treacherously?**
- 4.3.2.1. NIV “Why do all the faithless live at ease?”
- 4.3.3. **Vs.4a** - **How long will the land mourn, And the herbs of every field wither?**
- 4.3.3.1. NIV - How long will the land lie parched?
- 4.4. Jeremiah gives his suggested answer:“Make your sheep into Lamb chops!”(3)

4.5. **GOD ANSWERS! (5,6)**

- 4.6. Definitely not what Jeremiah expected. God's focus wasn't on the wicked but on His servant Jeremiah.
- 4.7. We usually ask (like Jer.), "**How** can I get out of this?" Instead of, "**What** can I get out of this?"
- 4.8. God's servants don't live by **explanations** but by **promises!**
- 4.8.1. **Explanations** satisfy curiosity, & make us smarter (but do not heal).
- 4.8.2. Laying hold of **Promises** build character & make us better servants.
- 4.8.2.1. "God's promises are checks to be cashed, not mere mottoes to hang on our wall!" (Vance)
- 4.9. God's answers are never **Philosophical** but **Pastoral!**
- 4.9.1. They Rebuke us, Re-orientate us, or Reassure us!
- 4.10. **God reveals 2 imp. truths:**
- 4.10.1. **[1] Godly service isn't easy! (5a)**
- 4.10.1.1. It's like running a race. Hard work(mental & phys.), sweat, nerves.
- 4.10.2. **[2] Godly service becomes harder! (5b,6)**
- 4.10.2.1. You've been running w/the footman(living in the land of peace/Jer.). The horses are coming (the jungles of Jordan).
- 4.10.2.2. It will move from outside attack to inside his own family(bro's).
- 4.10.2.3. The pace just quickened!
- 4.10.2.4. 100 mile bike ride – "The Torrey pines hill was coming!"
- 4.11. Each new challenge will help develop our faith & help us to grow.
- 4.11.1. The question isn't "**How long**"(4), but "**How will you compete?**" "**How will you do?**"
- 4.11.2. Hugh Black(Scottish Preacher) said about Jeremiah, "**He needed to be Braced not Pampered!**"
- 4.11.3. God wanted Jeremiah to grow...he wants **us** to grow.
- 4.11.4. **Q:** Is there an area God is working on in your life where He is Bracing you?
- 4.11.5. God is concerned with the development **within** us, not just the difficulties **around** us!
- 4.12. **"Stay In the Race – Accept new challenges – mature in the Lord!"**