

Jeremiah 21,22**2-12-98****1. Intro, Chapter 21:**

- 1.1. Remember Jeremiah is writing prophecy not a chronicle. The following chapters leap back & forth.
- 1.2. One commentator titled this “What will happen when the wood is dry?”
- 1.3. **Outline:** We have 3 messages here: 1st to the **King**; 2nd to the **People**; 3rd to the **kings of Judah**.

2. 1st MESSAGE! To King Zedekiah! (1-7)

- 2.1. He is the last King of Judah.
- 2.2. **Vs.2** – Why don’t we just ask God for 2+2 to = 5? All that God does must be for the best.
- 2.3. He rebelled against Babylon & ended up being captured & seeing his son slain.
- 2.4. Jeremiah told him, Babylon isn’t fighting against you ,...**God is!**
- 2.5. He wasn’t a man of faith...but wanted God’s help!
 - 2.5.1. He believed in praying to the “Get-me-out-of-trouble-God”!
 - 2.5.2. People ignore the Lord till they’re desperate for help, & then they discover He is their enemy!
 - 2.5.2.1. Yes, if it is done w/a sincere heart, He hears them.
 - 2.5.2.2. This is speaking of those who are just investing in quick “Fire” insurance)
 - 2.5.3. It is vain to seek His help, w/o submitting to his will!

3. 2ND MESSAGE! To the People!(8-10)

- 3.1. He gives them the choice between life & death.
- 3.2. **Vs.10** – The heart of the chapter!
- 3.3. Look at this salvationally!

4. **3RD MESSAGE! To the Kings of Judah!(11-14)**

- 4.1. **Josiah** was the last good king.
 - 4.1.1. The 4 after him were evil men whose doom Jeremiah announces.
- 4.2. Had the kings led the nation in repentance, God would have shown mercy, but they persisted in their sins.
- 4.3. **Vs.13** – Those that oppose themselves to God, will ultimately find God opposed to them!
 - 4.3.1. **Mt. 21:44** ““And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.”
- 4.4. Jeremiah wasn't a “popular” Prophet, but a “faithful” one!
 - 4.4.1. Those who heeded his message lived...resisted...died!

5. **Intro, Chapter 22:**

- 5.1. 4 Kings of Judah are addressed “a sad parade of kings”.
 - 5.1.1. He begins w/Zedekiah (the last king), then taking the preceding kings in the order they reigned.
 - 5.1.2. 3 were Josiah's boys, 1 his grandson(Jehoiachin).

6. **ZEDEKIAH (1-9)**

- 6.1. He reminded him that though he sat on David's throne, he sure didn't rule like him!
- 6.2. **Vs.5** - “This house” – not only his own house, but the house(dynasty) of David would have no king until Messiah would come.
- 6.3. Note the “if you will” & “if you won't” in vss. 4,5.
- 6.4. **Vs.8** – Ever walk a ghost town? They'll say, “This is God's city!
 - 6.4.1. If He'll do this to his **own** town...Wow!

7. JEHOAHAZ/Shallum (10-12)

7.1. He reigned for 3 months.

8. JEHOIAKIM (13-19)

8.1. He reigned for 11 yrs.

8.2. Vs.15 - Dad was a believer, but he sure didn't follow his example.

8.3. He was a *vassal* king of Neb. – he later rebelled so he sent him to Egypt, & set up his son(Jehoiachin) in his place.

8.4. Vs.17 – His sins were Covetousness, murder, oppression, & violence.

8.5. Vs.19 – Instead of a normal state funeral, he'd be buried in disgrace.

9. CONIAH/Jeconiah/Jehoiachin (20-30)

9.1. He reigned for 3 months.

9.2. Vs.21 – “I spoke to you...” – If only it could have been said about him → **Ps.119:67** “Before I was afflicted I went astray; but now I keep thy word.”

9.3. Vs.24 – If the king were the very signet ring on Gods right hand, he'd **casually** take it off & hand it to the Babylonians.

9.3.1. The signet ring was **valuable** because it was used to prove authority, identify possessions, & “sign” official documents.

9.4. Vs.30 – He had children(at least 7), but none would take the throne.

9.4.1. **If** Jesus came through Joseph's line, this prediction would be false!

9.4.1.1. **See** Mt.1:11

9.4.1.2. Christ's dynastic rt. to the throne came, through his foster father **Joseph**, from Jecohniah,

9.4.1.3. The phys. Descent of Jesus from David came through **Mary**, whose genealogy came through Nathan not Solomon.

10. GODS JUSTICE!

- 10.1. Some see **Gods wrath** as almost a blemish on His Divine Character.
- 10.2. He is not ashamed to make it known “Vengeance & Fury” belong to Him!
 - 10.2.1. **Read** Deut.32:39-41
- 10.3. **Q:** Are there more scriptures referring to Gods Wrath, anger, & fury, or on His Love & Tenderness? (wrath)
- 10.4. In the Hebrew there is one word used for both Just(justice) & Righteousness. (Zedek) {ie. melchi-zedeck}
 - 10.4.1. Abraham interceding for Sod/Gom said, “**Shall not the judge of all the earth do right?**” (His justice is doing right!)
- 10.5. Because He is Holy – He hates all sin – Because He hates all sin – His anger burns against the sinner.
 - 10.5.1. Read Ps.7:11 (za’am – to foam at the mouth)
- 10.6. The best day of the sinner, is still a day when the curse of God rests upon him.
 - 10.6.1. He goes about his business as if God doesn’t exist, he indulges in lusts, & God is angry with him.
 - 10.6.2. He may have a **self-satisfying** day...but never a “**safe day**”.
- 10.7. The next 3 verses (14-16) give **3 illustrations** of God’s moral government.
 - 10.7.1. **[vs.14] Sin is a Process!** (like a birth)
 - 10.7.1.1. **Illustration** – “**pregnant woman**”.
 - 10.7.1.2. Whatever is conceived is eventually brought forth!
 - 10.7.1.3. **Satan** is the **Father** of sin - & **Self** is the **mother** of it – Boy, what children they bring forth!!!

10.7.2. [vs.15] **Sins Plan!** (like a bait)

10.7.2.1. **Illustration** – “a Pit”.

10.7.2.2. This is speaking of sin deliberately planned, cold-blooded, calculated, premeditated.

10.7.2.3. You'll eventually get caught in your own plot!

10.7.2.4. God never fails to take a man in his own snares!

10.7.3. [vs.16] **Sins Punishment!** (like a boomerang)

10.7.3.1. **Illustration** – “A Boomerang”

10.7.3.2. The event of the boomerang was that if you missed your prey it would come back to you.

10.7.3.3. You can throw your wickedness at someone but a higher power will bring it rt. back at you!

10.8. Should not our message still be “*flee from the wrath to come?*” (Mt.3:7)

10.8.1. Balance – to unrepentant sinners. {grace to the repentant}

10.9. Faithfulness demands that we speak as plainly about **hell** as about **heaven!**

10.10. Some seek to put God's **Justice** & **Mercy** together by seeing “a nice judge compelled by the law, sentencing a man to death w/tears & apologies.”

10.10.1. “**This is to think in a manner wholly unworthy of Him!**” (St. Anselm/Arch. Canterbury)

10.10.2. God is never at cross-purposes w/Himself!

10.10.3. The problem is fixed in **Redemption**. **Mercy** doesn't become effective until **Justice** has done its work (**Jesus**, ☺).