

## Jeremiah 34,35

6-18-98

### 1. Intro:

- 1.1. Promises Promises!
  - 1.1.1. **Prov.20:25** "It is a snare for a man to devote rashly something as holy, And afterward to reconsider his vows."
  - 1.1.2. Remember **Acts 5** with Ananias & Sapphira his wife, when they sold a possession.
  - 1.1.3. **Ecc1.5:4,5** 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; Better not to vow than to vow and not pay. "
- 1.2. **Outline:** Ch.34 – Promise Breakers; ch.35 – Promise Keepers.

## CHAPTER 34 - PROMISE BREAKERS!

### 2. WHOSE SLAVE ARE YOU? (1-7)

- 2.1. Rom.6:16 "Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of **sin** leading to death, or of **obedience** leading to righteousness?"
  - 2.1.1. They choose a sin leading to death!
- 2.2. Here we have Babylon finally breaking through the wall(Jerusalem).
  - 2.2.1. They were down to 2 cities: **Lachish** (23 m. from Jerusalem); & **Azekah** (18 m. from Jerusalem).
    - 2.2.1.1.Neb. required the countries he'd conquer to send recruits. So literally the whole Near East was attacking God's chosen people.
  - 2.2.2. King Zed. Will try to escape(3) but would fail.
  - 2.2.3. **Read 2 Kings 25:1-7** for account of it.
  - 2.2.4. His bondage of sin led to the bondage of his enemy.
- 2.3. During this stormy time for Judah – she looked **around** for **Allies** instead of **up** for the **Almighty**!

### 3. **THE CHANGE OF MIND! (8-11)**

- 3.1. They got kicked out of their land for not keeping the **Sabbath Land Rule**(every 7<sup>th</sup> year mandatory land rest). Now a problem with the 7<sup>th</sup> year **Slave Rule**.
  - 3.1.1. **Read** Deut.15:12-15 “Law concerning Bond-servants”.
- 3.2. They were not to enslave their brethren.
  - 3.2.1. Every 7<sup>th</sup> year set free.
- 3.3. They obeyed this law all of a sudden, coincidence or zeal?
  - 3.3.1. Just so happens their was a nasty **famine** (2 Kings 25:3). So it would be tough to feed all your family & servants.
    - 3.3.1.1. Just so happens that Egypt came up & scared off Babylon temporarily. But when they came back they took their slaves back.
  - 3.3.2. They were trying to appease God. When things got better they **changed their minds!**
    - 3.3.2.1. **Ps.66:13,14** “I will go into Your house with burnt offerings; I will pay You my vows, Which my lips have uttered And my mouth has spoken **when I was in trouble.**”
    - 3.3.3. **Here we have a masters in greater slavery than their servants!**
      - 3.3.3.1. Because they did not seek to please God!
- 3.4. Be a man/women of your word!
  - 3.4.1. **Prov.12:22** “Lying lips are an abomination unto the Lord.”
- 3.5. They forgot one thing! The last word is w/God!!!

### 4. **THE SERMON! (12-22)**

- 4.1. **Vs.15** – Even made the cov. down at the temple (remember Eccl.5:4!)
- 4.2. **Vs.17** – Here, I’ll give you liberty...Liberty to “Fall by the sword, plague, & famine!”
- 4.3. **Vs.18** – to “cut” a covenant = “**made**” (8,13,15,18)
  - 4.3.1. Whoever doesn’t keep the cov. will be ground beef!

- 4.4. Now before we condemn them too much lets look inward!
- 4.4.1. **Q:** Do we as God's people ever make commitments, promises, vows, during the rough times, only to recant when things go better?
- 4.4.2. How many times I've heard the verbal commitments of people on **death beds**, then God heals them & they walk away from the Lord after answering their prayers.
- 4.4.3. Or commitments to **follow Christ** when things are bad, then walk as soon as things turn around.
- 4.4.3.1. Lord just heal me & I'll...; Lord, let me get this house & I'll...; Lord secure this job & I'll...

## CHAPTER 35 - PROMISE KEEPERS!

### 5. PEER PRESSURE! (1-5)

- 5.1. This actually happened 18 years earlier, but was probably put here as a stark contrast to the last chapter.
- 5.2. **Background on the Rechab clan**(2 Kings 10:15-31): Jehonadab(Rechab's son) teams up w/Jehu & tricks all those who worship Baal to come to a Baal-potluck. Once inside got 80 guys to go in & kill all of them!
- 5.2.1. This took place 2 ½ centuries earlier – but the years, decades, centuries, did nothing to weaken the families traditions.
- 5.3. Rechabites - Dr. Wolff (1839) found in **Arabia**, near Mecca, a tribe claiming to be descendants of Jehonadab; and recently a **Bedouin tribe** has been found near the Dead Sea who also profess to be descendants of the same Kenite chief.
- 5.4. **WOW! Turn up the pressure cooker!**
- 5.4.1. **What pressure to conform!**
- 5.4.2. They are brought into a safe & comfortable place! (2)
- 5.4.2.1. Babylonians were attacking. [No longer **Nomad**, didn't seem **so-bad!**]
- 5.4.3. They were brought by Gods prohet himself. (3)
- 5.4.4. He got **all** of them together. (3)
- 5.4.5. He brought them to an exalted meeting place(the temple). (4)
- 5.4.6. They received the best hospitable provisions. (5)

5.4.7. They had already compromised a little in temporarily staying “in” Jerusalem. (11)

5.4.7.1. They abandoned their tents but not their Standards!

5.5. **Q:** Would their refusal lead them to a **rebuke** from God? Was God trying to wean them from their “Eccentric Ultra Conservatism Lifestyle”?

5.5.1. **Q:** Did these obstinate Puritans need to be caught up to their day?

## 6. **RECHABITES THAT WON'T BITE! (6-11)**

6.1. **Vs.6** – This is also translated in later manuscripts “No way Jose!”

6.2. **No Wine, No Home, No Agriculture!**

6.2.1. **These regulations** may have been intended as a protest against Canaanite religion or settled life in general, but more likely they protected the Rechabites' life-style and trade secrets as **itinerant metalworkers**.

6.3. Faithfulness - Faithfulness in little things is a big thing.

6.4. **Vs.6** – **Wisdom on Peer-Pressure!**

6.4.1. Submit to pressure from peers and you move down to their level.  
 Speak up for your own beliefs and you invite them up to your level.  
 If you move with the crowd, you'll get no further than the crowd.  
 When 40 million people believe in a dumb idea, it's still a dumb idea.  
 Simply swimming with the tide leaves you nowhere. So if you believe in something that's good, honest and bright -- stand up for it. Maybe your peers will get smart and drift your way.

6.5. They didn't ask others to agree w/their tradition, but they would not violate it themselves.

## 7. **OBEDIENCE LESSON! (12-17)**

7.1. Here is the knot in the rope! (16)

7.1.1. This verse gets even darker (17). Before the light of 18,19.

7.2. What an indictment against the Jews! **[1]** The Jews refused to obey the very Law of God! **[2]** The Rechabites obeyed every human tradition.

7.3. Christians are often put to shame by those who are intensely loyal to their family, their religion, or their personal pursuit.

7.3.1. If Christians put into their personal walks the devotion & dedication an athlete puts into his sport, the church would be pumping w/revival life!

## 8. **THE RECHABITE REWARD! (18,19)**

8.1. They are not rewarded for their **standards**, but for their **faithfulness** to their fathers command!

8.1.1. Remember: God loves **unity & truth**, but is no lover of **uniformity!**

8.1.1.1. Name one thing He made that is uniform?

8.1.2. He called some to the Nazarite vow...but not all!

8.1.3. Jesus & John the Bap. Glorified God w/different lifestyles.

8.1.4. **Note:** special callings! After Wes spoke many said they weren't called to Africa to do that! (that's ok, we're not all "Wesbo", fighting off snakes, eating giraffe, making crocodiles into boots, etc)

8.1.4.1. He calls some to Africa, others to P.I., others to Haiti, others to New Zealand, some to Beverly Hills, & others to stay home w/the stuff!

8.1.4.2. *One isn't better than the other.*

8.1.5. **Calling's are diff.** - You cannot choose your calling. *Your calling chooses you.*

8.1.5.1. You have been blessed with special skills that are yours alone. Use them, whatever they may be, and forget about wearing another's hat.

8.1.5.2. ***"A talented chariot driver can win gold and renown with his skills. Let him pick figs and he would starve."***

8.1.6. **Find your calling; Follow your calling; & Fulfill your calling!**

8.2. There are three types of Christians who respond to the call of service:

[1] **Rowboat Christians** -- have to be pushed.

[2] **Sailboat Christians** -- always go with wind.

[3] **Steamboat Christians** -- pray & make up their minds where they ought to go, and go there regardless of wind and weather.