

Jeremiah 44,45

9-17-98

1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. Wes share on the Sudan.
- 1.2. Here's Jer.'s last message to his people(580bc).
 - 1.2.1. 46 yr.'s now in the ministry – What faithfulness despite all of life's discouragement.
 - 1.2.1.1. "There are no disappointments to those whose wills are buried in the will of God." *Frederick William Faber*
- 1.3. Some months have passed as they are now spread from the Delta down several hundred miles down river in Pathros.

CHAPTER 44

2. **HEAVY INDICTMENT! (1-14)**

- 2.1. Note: you'll hear a lot of "thus says the Lord" (2,7,11,25,26,30)
- 2.2. [3] As soon as the Jewish remnant land in Egypt, like a thirsty dog to its water bowl, they ran to worship the local deities!
 - 2.2.1. They saw Judah's destruction because of idolatry – yet ran back to it like a pig to its mud hole.
 - 2.2.2. [4-6] They heard from the prophets Gods message, yet played deaf & dumb.
 - 2.2.3. Geography never changes a heart!

3. **WEAK ARGUMENT! (15-19)**

- 3.1. They try to defend their sins by appealing to experiences!
 - 3.1.1. "If it works it must be right!"
 - 3.1.2. **Argument:** "When we lived in Judah & secretly worshiped the queen of heaven everything went well!"
 - 3.1.2.1. Plenty of food; & comfortable circumstances...till king Josiah took over, & made us give up our idols, THAT'S when things got worse!

- 3.1.3. **Conclusion:** We were better off when we disobeyed God & worshiped idols!
- 3.1.3.1. **Q:** have you heard or maybe experienced yourself – “Ever since I became a Christian ***all things are against me!***”
- 3.1.3.2. Jacob thought this! (Gen 42:36) "You have bereaved me: **Joseph is no more, Simeon is no more, and you want to take Benjamin.** All these things are against me."
- 3.1.3.2.1. Wrong! **Rom.8:37** "Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."
- 3.2. They blamed the troubles on the reform instead of on the **evils** it tried to root out. [they turned the truth upside down]
- 3.2.1. W/this technique, you have an answer to everything.
- 3.2.2. Only time would show who was right(28).
- 3.3. They have a choice of the **King of Hearts**, or the **Queen of heaven!**
- 3.3.1. "**Queen**" - She was Ashtarte/Ishtar/Venus. (goddess of fertility).
- 3.3.2. "**of heaven**" - speaking of her elevated character.
- 3.3.3. Woman led the way in practicing idolatry! {even vowed vows to her/24-26}
- 3.3.3.1. **Women** seem to want to lead In whatever they do. It started in Eve & their flesh battles it today.
- 3.3.3.1.1. King Sol. was warned "Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods...and his wives turned away his heart."
- 3.3.3.2. **Husbands** cooperated w/them. Husbands seem to want to follow In whatever they do. It started in Adam & their flesh still battles it today.
- 3.3.3.2.1. If the husband approved his wife's vow, it was valid (Numb.30)
- 3.3.3.2.2. Leader of the family means more than...“I get to make the final decision!”
- 3.3.3.3. **Children** were even involved (7:18) "The children gather wood, the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead dough, to make cakes for the queen of heaven;"

4. **STRONG PRONOUNCEMENT! (20-30)**

- 4.1. [26-29] The Jews in Egypt will perish – only a remnant of the remnant will ever return to the land.
- 4.2. [27] Was God watching over them/ Yes! But not for blessing.
- 4.3. [30] Here's a sign – Pharaoh that they trusted in will be handed over to Neb.
- 4.4. **Wrap up** - The future held nothing for the apostates in Egypt! Where their compatriots in Babylon have hope of freedom in less than a lifetime.
- 4.5. **Final point of ch.44 – Q:** If it was so bad to flee to Egypt throughout the O.T. why did Joseph & Mary, with baby Jesus?
- 4.6. **A:** Egypt was in itself not forbidden territory! In these other instances it was a vote of NO confidence in God.
 - 4.6.1. In Joseph & May's case it was an act of obedience!
- 4.7. **Later** - It would become an **important center** in the early years of the church! (Sept. Was produced there.)

CHAPTER 45

5. **Baruch (1-5)**

- 5.1. Baruch was Jeremiah's secretary who also was taken to Egypt.
 - 5.1.1. This event occurred after he wrote a 2nd copy of the prophecy, because Jehoiakim burned the original(36).
- 5.2. We praise God for what Jeremiah had done, but also for his **assistant!**
 - 5.2.1. **Assistants** help those for whom they work, so they can be freed to get their work done!
 - 5.2.2. **Moses** had 70 elders; **David** had his 600 men; **Jesus** had his disciples; **Paul** has Silas, Timothy, Titus, & others; & **Jeremiah** had Baruch (**Lone Ranger** had Taunto etc.)!

- 5.2.3. Not everyone is called to be an Apostle or prophet etc. but we can **all** do God's will by helping w/the work.
- 5.2.4. Baruch stayed in the background & served God by serving Jeremiah!
 - 5.2.4.1. I could never get ½ the things done without Kelly, Becky, Mac, Ken, & really our whole staff, & our whole volunteer staff.
 - 5.2.4.2. **"It's nice to know that when you help someone up a hill you're a little closer to the top yourself."**
- 5.2.5. Baruch fulfilled Prov.13:20 **"He that walketh with wise men shall be wise."**
- 5.3. Even the most devoted servants occasionally get discouraged!
 - 5.3.1. "A crisis doesn't make a person; a crisis reveals what a person is made of."
- 5.4. **[3]** Even Baruch wanted to quit!
 - 5.4.1. He had a tough job. He could have chosen an easier life. {His brother was on the king's official staff, who probably could have gotten him a good job in the palace.}
 - 5.4.1.1. **Yet had he, look were that kingdom would have been now!**
 - 5.4.2. Baruch chose to identify himself w/the most unpopular man in the land!
 - 5.4.2.1. **Why?** Because he believed in the Lord & relied on His Word!
- 5.5. **[4]** **The Lord's words of encouragement** – "Don't build your hopes on Judah's future, everything will be destroyed soon."
 - 5.5.1. God says "you think you have problems? Everything I had set up has to be pulled down & start over again!"
- 5.6. **[5]** **The Lord's words of assurance** – He was alive because he associated w/Jeremiah. **"I will give your life to you as a prize!"**
- 5.7. **"Do you seek great things for yourself? Do not seek them!"**
 - 5.7.1. How do you reconcile **1 Tim.3:1** **"If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work."**
 - 5.7.2. The difference is **"self-centered ambition!"**

- 5.7.3. “Any ambition that centers on & terminates on oneself is wrong ambition!”
- 5.7.4. Here is **self-centered ambition** [biblically at its finest!](#)
- 5.7.4.1. When Mrs. Zebedee selfishly tried to get her sons the right & left side of Jesus(those places of prominence)! {boy the rest got mad at them mt.20:20-25}
- 5.7.5. Here is **self-centered ambition** [historically at its finest!](#) {Take the four greatest rulers, perhaps, that ever sat upon a throne.}
Alexander, when he had so completely subdued the nations that he wept because there were no more to conquer, at last set fire to a city, and died in a scene of debauch.
Hannibal, who filled three bushels with the gold ring taken from the slaughtered knights, died at last by poison administered by his own hand, unwept and unknown, in a foreign land.
Caesar, having conquered eight hundred cities, and dyed his garments with the blood of one million of his foes, was stabbed by his best friends in the very place which had been the scene of his greatest triumph.
Napoleon, after being the scourge of Europe, and the desolator of his country, died in banishment, conquered and a captive.
5.7.5.1. What did it profit these men to gain the whole world & yet loose their own soul?
- 5.7.6. God was teaching Baruch a verse yet to be written, yet which holds an eternal truth, “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”
- 5.7.7. Q: Do you have ambitions for yourself...**forget them!**
- 5.7.8. **Phil. 2:3** “Let nothing be done through **selfish ambition**”.
- 5.7.9. **Mark 8:35** “For whoever desires to **save his life** will **lose it**, but whoever **loses his life** for My sake and the gospel's will **save it**.”
- 5.7.10. Seek for **God’s work** to be **accomplished** & **God** to be **Glorified!**
- 5.8. Like Baruch - When you hear all your work just went up in smoke!
When it seems that your witness is useless, remember for **Whom** you are doing them!
- 5.9. Q: Survey your ambitions & see if they are from God, or for Self?