

Journey through Jeremiah Part 29 Nebuchadnezzar Reigns

A sermon series by Pastor Byron Chesney, Th.D. – Wednesday, July 05, 2017

† **Jeremiah 27:1-22 – The Prophecy of the Yokes**

(1) In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah came this word unto Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,

This is the 18th prophecy given to Jeremiah. Our King James Bible says it was during the reign of Jehoiakim that Jeremiah was given this prophecy. Some people want to say that our Bible is wrong and that it should say during the reign of Zedekiah instead because the things that occur are in the time of Zedekiah. In fact, if you have a modern translation Bible such as the NIV or an ESV, they replace the name Jehoiakim with the name Zedekiah.

But, our KJV is correct. The prophecy was given to Jeremiah during the reign of Jehoiakim but it was not delivered until 12 years later during the reign of Zedekiah.

(2) Thus saith the LORD to me; Make thee bonds and yokes, and put them upon thy neck,

These bonds and yokes are what was used on animals to use them for working. It was a piece of wood curved over the top of the neck and another piece curved under the neck and they were held together by straps of leather on both sides. Then you could connect ropes and lead the animal by pulling on them – usually these were used on oxen. It was similar to what my papaw, Lorn Chesney, used to do with mules when he plowed the garden, only he would use a bridle, which straps around the head of the horse, but it works the same way.

(3) And send them to the king of Edom, and to the king of Moab, and to the king of the Ammonites, and to the king of Tyrus, and to the king of Zidon, by the hand of the messengers which come to Jerusalem unto Zedekiah king of Judah;

There are 5 Kings mentioned here from surrounding countries. These Kings had formed an alliance together with Zedekiah, King of Judah, to overthrow Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon. Their messengers are to be sent the prophecy of Jeremiah to take back to their Kings.

(4) And command them to say unto their masters, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Thus shall ye say unto your masters;

(5) I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are upon the ground, by my great power and by my outstretched arm, and have given it unto whom it seemed meet unto me.

(6) And now have I given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant; and the beasts of the field have I given him also to serve him.

(7) And all nations shall serve him, and his son, and his son's son, until the very time of his land come: and then many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of him.

This prophecy is not going to go over well with these Kings. The LORD is instructing them that they are to surrender to Nebuchadnezzar because He has made him King over all of them. They must serve him and his family.

(8) And it shall come to pass, *that* the nation and kingdom which will not serve the same Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, and that will not put their neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, that nation will I punish, saith the LORD, with the sword, and with the famine, and with the pestilence, until I have consumed them by his hand.

The repercussions of not obeying the Word of the LORD and bowing down to Nebuchadnezzar, would be severe. The LORD Himself will fight against them and destroy them if they do not serve the King of Babylon. He will allow Nebuchadnezzar to destroy them with “**sword, famine, and pestilence.**” Those are the three ravages of war. The enemy not only kills with the sword but they destroy all of your crops and lands causing starvation which leads to disease and death.

(9) Therefore hearken not ye to your prophets, nor to your diviners, nor to your dreamers, nor to your enchanters, nor to your sorcerers, which speak unto you, saying, Ye shall not serve the king of Babylon: (10) For they prophesy a lie unto you, to remove you far from your land; and that I should drive you out, and ye should perish.

The foolishness of these Kings in that day, how they would rely upon these paid fortune tellers. These people will of course lie to them so they can keep their job, or their heads. The King's had very little tolerance for anyone that spoke against them or gave them bad news, so they would of course lie and make up stories to appease them. It was easier than telling the truth.

(11) But the nations that bring their neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, and serve him, those will I let remain still in their own land, saith the LORD; and they shall till it, and dwell therein.

The LORD says if they will submit themselves to the King of Baylon and not try to fight against it, he will allow them to remain in their land and live.

(12) I spake also to Zedekiah king of Judah according to all these words, saying, Bring your necks under the yoke of the king of Babylon, and serve him and his people, and live. (13) Why will ye die, thou and thy people, by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence, as the LORD hath spoken against the nation that will not serve the king of Babylon?

This was a warning the last King of Judah, Zedekiah. Submit to the will of the LORD and do not fight against Nebuchadnezzar and the LORD will not destroy them with sword, famine, and pestilence.

(14) Therefore hearken not unto the words of the prophets that speak unto you, saying, Ye shall not serve the king of Babylon: for they prophesy a lie unto you.

(15) For I have not sent them, saith the LORD, yet they prophesy a lie in my name; that I might drive you out, and that ye might perish, ye, and the prophets that prophesy unto you.

Here again the LORD is speaking out against the false prophets during Jeremiah's day. They were telling the King not to worry that the LORD would not cause destruction. But the LORD says they aren't speaking for Him. He never told them anything and He did not send them to prophesy. If you know what's good for you, you will not listen to them.

(16) Also I spake to the priests and to all this people, saying, Thus saith the LORD; Hearken not to the words of your prophets that prophesy unto you, saying, Behold, the vessels of the LORD'S house shall now shortly be brought again from Babylon: for they prophesy a lie unto you. (17) Hearken not unto them; serve the king of Babylon, and live: wherefore should this city be laid waste?

The King's been warned, the priests have been warned, the people have been warned, do not believe these false prophets. They are lying and you will die.

(18) But if they *be* prophets, and if the word of the LORD be with them, let them now make intercession to the LORD of hosts, that the vessels which are left in the house of the LORD, and *in* the house of the king of Judah, and at Jerusalem, go not to Babylon.

When Nebuchadnezzar invaded the first time back when Jeconiah was King, he plundered the Temple and took a lot of the things out and carried them off to Babylon as spoils of war. However, he did not take everything, there was still some things left.

Here the LORD tells them; if these prophets are really true prophets, let them start interceding with the LORD to prevent Nebuchadnezzar from carrying off all of the riches of the Temple and in the City that are still left.

(19) For thus saith the LORD of hosts concerning the pillars, and concerning the sea, and concerning the bases, and concerning the residue of the vessels that remain in this city, (20) Which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon took not, when he carried away captive Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah from Jerusalem to Babylon, and all the nobles of Judah and Jerusalem;

This is just a reiteration of what I just said, that Nebuchadnezzar hadn't taken everything the first time.

(21) Yea, thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, concerning the vessels that remain *in* the house of the LORD, and *in* the house of the king of Judah and of Jerusalem; (22) They shall be carried to Babylon, and there shall they be until the day that I visit them, saith the LORD; then will I bring them up, and restore them to this place.

Of course, we know the prophets of Judah were false prophets and they would not be able to intercede with God to prevent this. The LORD says that yes, indeed, Nebuchadnezzar will carry away all that's left. However; the LORD also states that He will eventually restore these things back to Jerusalem.

† All Scripture from the Authorized King James Version of the Bible