

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!
NOTES FOR THIS WEEK: 3/1-8/2021
THIS WEEK'S STUDY: *Jeremiah Chapters 25-26*

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS112, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).
THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340

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OPENING PRAYER – Introduction *Jeremiah Chapters 25 & 26*

Jer 26:11 And the priests and the prophets spoke to the princes and all the people, saying, "This man deserves to die! For he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your ears."

Jer 26:14 As for me (Jeremiah), here I am, in your hand; do with me as seems good and proper to you.

Jer 26:21 And when Jehoiakim the king, with all his mighty men and all the princes, heard his words, the king sought to put him to death; but when Urijah heard it, he was afraid and fled, and went to Egypt.

I Surrender Hillsong Worship (6:53)

Here I am Down on my knees again Surrendering all Surrendering all And find me here Lord as You draw me near Desperate for You Desperate for You I surrender

Drench my soul As mercy and grace unfold I hunger and thirst I hunger and thirst With arms stretched wide I know You hear my cry Speak to me now Speak to me now

I surrender I surrender I wanna know You more I wanna know You more (2x)

Like a rushing wind Jesus breathe within Lord have Your way Lord have Your way in me

Like a mighty storm Stir within my soul Lord have Your way Lord have Your way in me (2x)

Like a rushing wind Jesus breathe within Lord have Your way Lord have Your way in me

Like a mighty storm Stir within my soul Lord have Your way Lord have Your way in me

Lord have Your way Lord have Your way in me

I surrender I surrender I wanna know You more I wanna know You more (2x)

THIS WEEK'S STUDY:

Chap. 25 Seventy Years of Desolation (vs. 1-14); Judgment on the Nations (vs. 15-38); Chap. 26 Jeremiah Saved from Death (vs. 1-24).

Jer 25:1 The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim (605 BC) the son of Josiah, king of Judah (which was the first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon),

Jer 25:2 which Jeremiah the prophet spoke to all the people of Judah and to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying:

Jer 25:3 "From the thirteenth year of Josiah (627 BC) the son of Amon, king of Judah, even to this day, this is the twenty-third year in which the word of the LORD has come to me; and I have spoken to you, rising early and speaking, but you have not listened.

- ***In the fourth year of Jehoiakim:*** This was 605 B.C. an important year in world and Biblical history. In world history the Egyptians were overwhelmed by Babylon at Carchemish in modern Turkey, near the Syrian border. The Babylonian armies chased the fleeing Egyptians south. Jeremiah started to prophesy in the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah, who would reign for another 18 years. Then after Shallum reigned for three months, Jehoiakim came to the throne, having now reigned for four years. Jeremiah would now have been prophesying and faithfully declaring God's word for about 23 years. His ministry will continue for a little more than 18 years, totaling more than 40 years!
- **You may have been witnessing to your family for a year and nothing has happened yet.** You may feel very discouraged because it seems like you have been talking to them for a whole year and they are still the same, uninterested in the things of the **LORD!** Think about Jeremiah!
- ***I have spoken to you, rising early and speaking, but you have not listened.*** How would you feel if you had been ***rising early*** and speaking with a message ***for all the people of Jerusalem*** for so long; but people

were not paying any attention? They were not listening! How discouraging! He was only a little more than halfway through his long work as a prophet.

Jer 25:4 And the LORD has sent to you all His servants the prophets, rising early and sending them, but you have not listened nor inclined your ear to hear.

- **The LORD had sent many prophets to Judah.** He was faithful in warning them of the judgment that was coming. But the people wouldn't listen, just as we won't listen to Him and ignore His warnings. In your own life you can look at those places where you were trapped by Satan, where you fell into the enemies and you will have to confess that God warned you. You had that warning, but you chose to ignore the warning. ***"You have not listened nor inclined your ear to hear!"***
- **If you will serve the LORD, then the LORD will preserve you.** He will take care of you. God has sent prophets like Billy Graham and others with a message much the same as the prophets' message to Israel, which deal with the social evils and problem that exist that exist today. The reason for those problems is because we have turned our backs on God.

Jer 25:6 Do not go after other gods to serve them and worship them, and do not provoke Me to anger with the works of your hands; and I will not harm you.'

Jer 25:7 Yet you have not listened to Me," says the LORD, "that you might provoke Me to anger with the works of your hands to your own hurt.

- **What were the other gods?** They were gods of pleasure, power, money, and possessions. These were the things that the people were living for. They were living for pleasure, to amass fortunes and that was their life. God is saying not to follow, serve or worship them."
- **To your own hurt! Sin always is destructive to the person who is sinning.** You cannot sin without it affecting you, hurting you. Again, the LORD is warning that sin is destructive. God has not forbidden you to do one good beneficial thing. If it is good for you, if it is good, God says to go for it! But if it is destructive, if it can hurt, if it can destroy you, then God says, "don't do that, if you do them and persist in them they will destroy you and they will destroy relationships and others around you. God only wants and works what is best for us!

Jer 25:8 "Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Because you have not heard My words,

Jer 25:9 behold, I will send and take all the families of the north,' says the LORD, 'and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land, against its inhabitants, and against these nations all around, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, a hissing, and perpetual desolations.

Jer 25:10 Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones and the light of the lamp.

- **Thus, says the LORD of hosts...I will send and take all the families of the north,** When God introduces Himself as the commander of heavenly armies (*hosts*), it is important to listen carefully. **Families of the north:** The allies of the king of Babylon, the many nations comprising the Babylonian Empire.
- **Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant.** The LORD calls Nebuchadnezzar His *servant* indicating that God is in control even of the evil empires or nations and rulers that come into power. God rules. We're told in the book of Daniel that Nebuchadnezzar was exalting himself, filled with pride, because of the greatness of the city of Babylon. God through dreams told him, primarily through dreams, of his pride and needed to walk carefully before the world, not to be filled with pride. Nebuchadnezzar forgot the warning, became insane and for seven seasons, lived like a beast in the field. Afterward, regaining sanity, he acknowledged there was a God in heaven and recognized His sovereignty. He is rereferred to as a *servant* of God, and will be used as God's instrument to bring His devastation and destruction and judgment upon Judah.
- **My servant...and will bring them against this land:** When Jeremiah made this prophecy, Babylon had just established itself as the dominant world power by defeating the rival Egyptians at Carchemish. The world waited to see what they would do with their power, and God told them through Jeremiah. Babylon would **make them, Judah, an astonishment, a hissing, and perpetual desolation:** As Jeremiah did many times before, he announced the coming Babylonian conquest of Judah and Jerusalem, taking from them **the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones and the light of the lamp.**

Jer 25:11 And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. (2Ch 36:21) to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her Sabbaths. As long as she lay desolate she kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.

Seventy years! For 490+ years, during the reign of the Israelite kings from David onwards (about 1,050 BC to 587 BC), they refused to allow their land to rest during the Sabbaticals. The verse implies that never enjoyed its sabbatical year as commanded by Moses in the book of Leviticus. Because of their disobedience, God allowed the children of Israel to be taken captive to Babylon for *seventy years*. Daniel, reading the *seventy years* length of captivity realized it was almost over, proceeded to seek the **LORD**.

Jer 25:12 'Then it will come to pass, when seventy years are completed (about 536 BC), that I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity,' says the LORD; 'and I will make it a perpetual desolation.

Jer 25:13 So I will bring on that land all My words which I have pronounced against it, all that is written in this book which Jeremiah has prophesied (likely chapter 45), concerning all the nations.

- ***Seventy years would not only measure the time of exile;*** it would also measure the time until God brought judgment upon Babylon. Even as they made Judah a ***desolation***, so God would make Babylon a ***perpetual desolation!*** When the Persians, under Cyrus and the Medes conquered Babylon, the Jews were able to go back from their captivity. The Babylonians were defeated so the Chaldeans were punished. The empire fell and it was replaced by the Medo-Persians. Judah's desolation was appointed for ***seventy years***; Babylon's was to be ***perpetual!*** The Babylonian Empire never again ruled as such. The nation of Israel, formed in the ancient world, exists today!
- ***This likely is a reference to a book*** that Jeremiah had written in which he had given these prophecies against the nations and that ***book*** will be incorporated in the later writings of ***Jeremiah*** in ***Chapter 45***.

Jer 25:14 (For many nations and great kings shall be served by them also; and I will repay them according to their deeds and according to the works of their own hands.)' "

- ***The LORD will repay them according to their deeds.*** Be not deceived, God is not mocked. Whatsoever a man sows that shall he also reap. ***According to the works of their own hands.*** They are going to get what they deserve. That is justice. Thank God that He deals with us in mercy! If you do not call upon God He will deal with you justly. God will be very fair and just in His dealing with you if you don't call upon Him. But if you call upon Him He will be merciful and He will show you mercy. But that depends upon you, whether you want the justice of God or the mercy of God. A man is a fool who wants the justice of God.

The Cup of the LORD's Wrath

Jer 25:15 For thus says the LORD God of Israel to me: "Take this wine cup of fury from My hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send you, to drink it.

Jer 25:16 And they will drink and stagger and go mad because of the sword that I will send among them."

- ***The nations upon whom the judgment of God is going to fall.*** Several times in the Old Testament a ***cup*** is a powerful picture of the wrath and judgment of God. Jesus referred to this picture of the ***cup of fury*** when He asked in Gethsemane if the ***cup*** might pass from Him. Taking this figurative ***cup*** was the source of Jesus' greatest agony on the cross.
- ***They will drink and stagger and go mad because of the sword that I will send:*** Under the judgment to come, they would act as if they were intoxicated and impaired, not in their right mind. J
- ***You can heed the warning of God or you can ignore the warning of God.*** If you ignore it, it is to your own destruction. But every man will give an account of himself one day before God

Jer 25:17 Then I took the cup from the LORD's hand, and made all the nations drink, to whom the LORD had sent me:

Jer 25:18 Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, its kings and its princes, to make them a desolation, an astonishment, a hissing, and a curse, as it is this day;

- ***Made all the nations to drink:*** Jeremiah described either a vision, a dream, or a simply spoke according to the picture described in the previous verses.
- ***The first was to be to Jerusalem.*** In the New Testament we read that the judgment must begin at the house of the **LORD**. But if it begins at the house of the **LORD** then where shall the unjust and the ungodly appear? Here judgment begins in ***Jerusalem***, the city of God. But then it is to pass on to ***Pharaoh*** and other nations.

Jer 25:19 Pharaoh king of Egypt, his servants, his princes, and all his people;

- **Pharaoh Hophrah** had hired a lot of mercenaries for his army. The people of Egypt ultimately rebelled against the **Pharaoh** because of the mercenaries and Egypt was weakened and was conquered by Babylon.

Jer 25:20 all the mixed multitude, all the kings of the land of Uz, all the kings of the land of the Philistines (namely, Ashkelon, Gaza, Ekron, and the remnant of Ashdod);

- This is not Uz of the area of Babylon, but in the Negev area in Judah, just south of the Gaza Strip.

Jer 25:21 Edom, Moab, and the people of Ammon;

- Then moving over to Edom on the east bank of the Jordan in the southern part. Then coming a little north to Moab. The children of Ammon, known today as the modern capital of Jordan, which comes directly from this Ammon from the Scriptures a territory within Moab.

Jer 25:22 all the kings of Tyre, all the kings of Sidon, and the kings of the coastlands which are across the sea;

- **Tyre, Sidon.** Moving over to the coast and just north of Israel. You hear today of **Tyre**, in southern Lebanon. The kings of **Sidon**. These cities exist to the present time.

Jer 25:23 Dedan, Tema, Buz, and all who are in the farthest corners;

Jer 25:24 all the kings of Arabia and all the kings of the mixed multitude who dwell in the desert;

- **Dedan, Tema, Buz**, areas in the Arabian Peninsula.

Jer 25:25 all the kings of Zimri, all the kings of Elam, and all the kings of the Medes;

Jer 25:26 all the kings of the north, far and near, one with another; and all the kingdoms of the world which are on the face of the earth. Also the king of Sheshach shall drink after them.

- **All the kingdoms of the world which are on the face of the earth**, emphasizing the complete character of this judgment. Since the list is so complete, there is not likely any particular event or period in which all these nations were judged. This list has its ultimate fulfillment at the end of the age in the judgment of the nations.
- **At the end of this long list, Jeremiah emphasized the judgment to come upon Sheshach** – a code name for the Babylonians. It could be that Jeremiah knew that Nebuchadnezzar was given his writings.

Jer 25:27 "Therefore you shall say to them, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "Drink, be drunk, and vomit! Fall and rise no more, because of the sword which I will send among you." ' "

Jer 25:28 And it shall be, if they refuse to take the cup from your hand to drink, then you shall say to them, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "You shall certainly drink!"

- **Drink, be drunk, and vomit!** He promised that the judgments were going to come, the fury of God, the judgment of God, the **cup** of His indignation. People will say, "Oh no, we will not take of that." But God says, "Oh yes you will. You may think that you can escape the judgment of God, no you can't!" As much as they might not want it, there was no escaping this judgment to come. God would judge them, not with a figurative **cup**, but a literal **sword**. If the **cup** was refused, God would insist: **You shall certainly drink!** Judgment could not simply be avoided by denial or positive thinking.

Jer 25:29 For behold, I begin to bring calamity on the city which is called by My name, and should you be utterly unpunished? You shall not be unpunished, for I will call for a sword on all the inhabitants of the earth," says the LORD of hosts.'

- **Calamity on Jerusalem!** If I am going to punish Jerusalem, the city that is called by My name, do you think that you are going to escape? If judgment begins in the house of God, do you think that you will escape the judgment of God, **that you shall not be unpunished?"**
- **All the inhabitants of the earth!** Jeremiah's prophecy begins to span the ages down to the period of the Great Tribulation, the judgment of God that is going to come upon **all the inhabitants of the earth** during the period of the Great Tribulation, which seems we are getting near at the present time! The world is ripening now for the judgment of God.

Jer 25:30 "Therefore prophesy against them all these words, and say to them: 'The LORD will roar from on high, And utter His voice from His holy habitation; He will roar mightily against His fold. He will give a shout, as those who tread the grapes, Against all the inhabitants of the earth.

Jer 25:31 A noise will come to the ends of the earth—For the LORD has a controversy with the nations; He will plead His case with all flesh. He will give those who are wicked to the sword,' says the LORD."

- **The Great Tribulation period – The LORD will roar!** In (*Revelation 10:3*), we read of the Lord coming and roaring as a lion *roars*. Also, (*Joel 3:16*) speaks of the **LORD roaring** from Zion. It is the shout of a lion about ready to destroy its prey. As God is coming to judge and the wickedness of the earth has just exceeded the boundaries and thus the **LORD** will come to bring His righteous judgment upon the inhabitants of the earth and there will be a shout like people who are in the winepress.
- ***Those who are wicked to the sword,' says the LORD."*** Notice, ***those who are wicked***, but you don't read about the righteous! The righteous will escape. Our sins were judged. Jesus bore the judgments for your sins and thus there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, for God has not appointed us unto wrath. We are saved from this judgment of God that is going to come upon this **wicked** world. From the destruction, the desolation, the **sword** of God that is going to smite the earth, you are saved from that. Being saved is such a wonderful thing!

Jer 25:32 Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Behold, disaster shall go forth From nation to nation, And a great whirlwind shall be raised up From the farthest parts of the earth.

Jer 25:33 "And at that day the slain of the LORD shall be from one end of the earth even to the other end of the earth. They shall not be lamented, or gathered, or buried; they shall become refuse on the ground

- **Repeatedly, the worldwide nature of the judgment is emphasized.**
- **Now people talk about being slain in the Spirit and this may be the only Scriptural reference** for it. It will be pretty widespread in those days. The **LORD** will blow on them with His breath, but it is a far cry from what you see today. This ghastly picture is almost beyond comprehension. Nevertheless, it fits the descriptions of judgment found in (*Rev 19:11-18*) which may have been inspired by this passage.
- **Refuse (manure) on the ground:** As Judge of all the earth, God reads His indictment of mankind! The victims of the coming disaster will lie like manure on the earth.

Jer 25:34 "Wail, shepherds, and cry! Roll about in the ashes, You leaders of the flock! For the days of your slaughter and your dispersions are fulfilled; You shall fall like a precious vessel.

- ***Wail, shepherds, and cry:*** Referring first to the kings and leaders of the nations, emphasized in the roster of judgment earlier in the chapter. Kings and other leaders were called **shepherds** in those ancient cultures. ***For the days of your slaughter and your dispersions are fulfilled:*** This has in mind the judgment against Babylon for their conquest and exile of Judah. Other nations with similar sins would face similar judgment. ***Like a precious vessel.*** You drop a delicate glass and how it shatters! That is the way you are going to be just shattered.

Jer 25:35 And the shepherds will have no way to flee, Nor the leaders of the flock to escape.

- **No way to flee or escape!** Now Zedekiah tried to flee but he was caught by Nebuchadnezzar, who then had Zedekiah's sons beheaded in his sight. Zedekiah's eyes were then gouged out. He was there as a captive, but he never saw it. The warning is that there will be **no way to flee**. The rulers are going to come into judgment because they did not lead the people from their sin and iniquity onto a righteous standing for God.

Jer 25:36 A voice of the cry of the shepherds, And a wailing of the leaders to the flock will be heard. For the LORD has plundered their pasture,

- **The prophet is just warning the people that this is what is going to happen.** Earlier that he said to turn to the **LORD**, serve the **LORD** do what is right and you can be spared, you can live in this land. Before that he said, God has set before you the way of life and the way of death and you make your choice. It is that way perpetually. Using this picture of judgment against shepherds, ***the LORD has plundered their pasture***

Jer 25:37 And the peaceful dwellings are cut down Because of the fierce anger of the LORD.

Jer 25:38 He has left His lair like the lion; For their land is desolate Because of the fierceness of the Oppressor, And because of His fierce anger."

- ***He has left His lair like the lion:*** The **LORD** in judgment is pictured as a lion coming against the shepherds and the flocks. They would not be able to resist Him as the shepherd David killed a lion (*1 Sam 17:34-36*).

- **Because of the fierceness of the Oppressor, and because of His fierce anger:** Judgment would certainly come, and it would come with passion, with *fierce anger*.
- **Again, God is setting before them (as well as for each of us!) the way of life and the way of death.** You choose which path you are going to walk. You are going to walk in a path of righteousness following after God and serving God, or you are going to walk in rebellion against God, the path of destruction, the path of sin and you will face the judgment of God! The *fierce anger* and wrath of God.

Jeremiah Threatened with Death

Jer 26:1 In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came from the LORD, saying,

Jer 26:2 "Thus says the LORD: 'Stand in the court of the LORD's house, and speak to all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the LORD's house, all the words that I command you to speak to them. Do not diminish a word.

- ***Stand in the court of the LORD's house...*** Again, like Chapter 7 (Don't say the temple of the **LORD!** the temple of the **LORD!**), Jeremiah is commanded by God to go down to the temple. It's at **the beginning** (four year earlier than the preceding chapter) of the reign of Jehoiakim, a son of Josiah who reigned **609-598 BC**.
- ***Speak to all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the LORD's house.*** This "**all cities**" seems to indicate that this was at least time, when the city, especially the temple, would be packed with people from all over the land.
- ***All the words that I command you to speak to them. Do not diminish a word!*** Jeremiah is to speak to the people, all of the words. Don't tone down the message! It's not going to be a comfortable message. The people will not want to hear it, but don't tone it down! Often, with difficult messages from God, there is a tendency on the part of ministers to sort of try to soften the message a bit, to make it more pleasing or more acceptable to the people, but the **LORD** said, "**Don't diminish a word!**"

Jer 26:3 Perhaps everyone will listen and turn from his evil way, that I may relent concerning the calamity which I purpose to bring on them because of the evil of their doings.'

- ***Now, evil must be punished.*** Sometimes, it appears people are getting by with *evil*, but God must punish it. Here again, we see that He is so patient and longsuffering. Now these people were coming outwardly, to worship God, but in their hearts and daily lives, were *evil* people. Attendance at the house of God cannot and does not atone for *evil*. God wants a person to turn from their evil ways. That was the message. The call of God was the repentance and the turning from *evil*. Jeremiah, "**Do not diminish a word!** Because if they will repent of their *evil* that they are doing, it may be that **I may relent concerning the calamity** and not bring the *evil* upon them, which I have declared.

Jer 26:4 And you shall say to them, 'Thus says the LORD: 'If you will not listen to Me, to walk in My law which I have set before you,

Jer 26:5 to heed the words of My servants the prophets whom I sent to you, both rising up early and sending them (but you have not heeded),

Jer 26:6 then I will make this house like Shiloh, and will make this city a curse to all the nations of the earth.' ' ' "

- ***If you will not listen to Me, to walk in My law.*** Jeremiah was warning the people to begin to follow the *law* of God, and to *listen* to the warnings of the servants of God, the prophets that He sent unto them. Then God would make this temple *like Shiloh*, which was where they first set up the tabernacle when they came into the land of promise. It was the place where the people would gather to worship God. It remained there for several hundred years, but by this time, the area of *Shiloh* had already been conquered and destroyed by the Philistines. It had been laid waste. There was nothing there but just the rubble and the ruins of the old city.
- ***Then I will make this house like Shiloh and will make this city a curse:*** God promised to make Jerusalem and the temple like *Shiloh*, if Judah continued to *not listen* to Him. This is a heavy-duty message for people who are trusting in the fact that they have the temple for their security! To hear that this place, this temple will be like *Shiloh*, it will lie in ruin, would be most disturbing and upsetting to the people!

Jer 26:7 So the priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the LORD.

Jer 26:8 Now it happened, when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people, that the priests and the prophets and all the people seized him, saying, "You will surely die!"

- **Priests...prophets...all the people.... seized him, saying, "You will surely die!** The priests and the prophets were corrupted, profiting from religion. They took his words as a direct attack against them. They were getting angry, but they let him finish his speech because, the LORD had given him the words to speak, and thus the LORD, more or less protected him until he had finished his speech. When God calls you on a mission, He will take care of you, watch over you, and protect you until the mission is accomplished. Then they seized him, saying, "You will surely die!"

Jer 26:9 Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, "This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without an inhabitant?" And all the people were gathered against Jeremiah in the house of the LORD.

- **This house shall be like Shiloh,** That's the thing that really galled them, to say that the temple was going to be in rubble. The religious leaders stirred up the people against Jeremiah, planning to put him to death. They had a trial and sentenced him to death. Such a scene in the temple precincts indicates how angry the people were.

Jer 26:10 When the princes of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king's house to the house of the LORD and sat down in the entry of the New Gate of the LORD's house.

Jer 26:11 And the priests and the prophets spoke to the princes and all the people, saying, "This man deserves to die! For he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your ears."

- **When the princes of Judah heard these things:** The priests, prophets, princes and the people had condemned Jeremiah; now they brought him for judgment to the political leaders of Judah. They're making the accusation and the charges. Because of his prophecy, they interpreted it as blasphemy, deserving death. He was prophesying in the name LORD. If he's prophesying in the name of LORD, and that something didn't happen, then that prophet was to be put to death. At this point he has been prophesying this for about 18 years and it hadn't happened yet.
- **Jeremiah's message was bad news about Jerusalem** – that judgment was on the way! The priests, prophets, princes and the people felt he was against this city and a traitor to Jerusalem. They believed Jeremiah dangerously weakened morale and helped the cause of those who threatened Jerusalem.

Jer 26:12 Then Jeremiah spoke to all the princes and all the people, saying: "The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and against this city with all the words that you have heard.

Jer 26:13 Now therefore, amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the LORD your God; then the LORD will relent concerning the doom that He has pronounced against you.

- **Jeremiah said, I've only told you what LORD told me to tell you.** The LORD sent me. Jeremiah made it clear that his ministry and his message were not a matter of choice. This was God's command and he only did what God sent him to do.
- **Therefore, amend your ways and your doings:** Now he's telling them again, "amend your ways!" Jeremiah was on trial for his life. Yet he still courageously spoke his message and spoke as if they were on trial and not he – because there was a real sense in which that was true. Their only hope was that God might relent from the promised judgment in response to their repentance. If you obey the LORD, then the LORD will not bring the evil upon you.

Jer 26:14 As for me, here I am, in your hand; do with me as seems good and proper to you.

- **Like Daniel and his three friends and the Apostle Paul, death is no threat to Jeremiah.** The princes and all the people said, "You shall surely die! This man shall be put to death. He said that this temple's going to be like Shiloh, Jerusalem's going to be leveled like Shiloh!" Jeremiah said, I've only told you what the LORD told me to tell you. If you men of Judah will change, then it may be that God will change and won't bring the judgement on this place. *As for me, I'm in your hands, do with me what you want.*

Jer 26:15 But know for certain that if you put me to death, you will surely bring innocent blood on yourselves, on this city, and on its inhabitants; for truly the LORD has sent me to you to speak all these words in your hearing."

- **Know for certain that if you put me to death, you will surely bring innocent blood on yourselves:** The choice was left to them, but Jeremiah wanted them to know it was a choice with consequences. Killing God's prophet would only add to the guilt of the leaders and the city.

- **For truly the LORD has sent me to you to speak all these words in your hearing:** Jeremiah was steadfast before this council of the princes of Judah. He didn't display any doubt about his call or his message! What a great example!

Jeremiah Spared from Death

Jer 26:16 *So the princes and all the people said to the priests and the prophets, "This man does not deserve to die. For he has spoken to us in the name of the LORD our God."*

- **This man does not deserve to die:** No doubt moved by the courage of Jeremiah, the ruling of the council of *the princes* and the opinion of *all the people* was that Jeremiah should *not die*. Though the priests and prophets likely did not agree, Jeremiah would be spared *death*.
- **For he has spoken to us in the name of the LORD our God:** They didn't *like* Jeremiah's message, but they had to admit that it was God's message. It wasn't right to blame the messenger for faithfully delivering the message.

Jer 26:17 *Then certain of the elders of the land rose up and spoke to all the assembly of the people, saying:*

Jer 26:18 *"Micah of Moresheth prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah, and spoke to all the people of Judah, saying, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Zion shall be plowed like a field, Jerusalem shall become heaps of ruins, And the mountain of the temple Like the bare hills of the forest." "*

Jer 26:19 *Did Hezekiah king of Judah and all Judah ever put him to death? Did he not fear the LORD and seek the LORD's favor? And the LORD—relented concerning the doom which He had pronounced against them. But we are doing great evil against ourselves."*

- **Micah, about 100+ years earlier during the good King Hezekiah's reign, was basically prophesying to the people, the same kind of destruction that Jeremiah had been prophesying.** The elders bring up *Micah*, wisely remembering that he was not punished for bringing a severe message from God. Instead, King Hezekiah responded by fearing the **LORD** and seeking *the LORD's favor*. God responded favorably! Micah warned them of judgment specifically in the context of the assurance of false prophets and the sense that *no harm* could come to Jerusalem.
- **Did Hezekiah king of Judah and all Judah ever put him to death?** The elders wisely concluded, *We are doing great evil against ourselves:* In a sense of wise self-interest, the elders understood that it was wrong to oppose Jeremiah and to persecute him. Instead, they should *fear the LORD and seek the LORD's favor* just as Hezekiah did with Micah's message. If they did not, they would suffer from it, not only Jeremiah.

Jer 26:20 *Now there was also a man who prophesied in the name of the LORD, Urijah the son of Shemaiah of Kirjath Jearim, who prophesied against this city and against this land according to all the words of Jeremiah.*

Jer 26:21 *And when Jehoiakim the king, with all his mighty men and all the princes, heard his words, the king sought to put him to death; but when Urijah heard it, he was afraid and fled, and went to Egypt.*

- **Urijah was hearing basically the same death threat that Jeremiah heard, but when Urijah heard it, he was afraid, and he fled, and he went to Egypt.** Rather, than standing up as did Jeremiah, saying, "Hey, you want to put me to death? *I'm in your hands, do what you want!* But you are going to just bring innocent blood upon yourselves, adding to your guilt! However, in contrast when Urijah, when he heard they wanted to kill him, *he fled to Egypt!*

Jer 26:22 *Then Jehoiakim the king sent men to Egypt: Elnathan the son of Achbor, and other men who went with him to Egypt.*

Jer 26:23 *And they brought Urijah from Egypt and brought him to Jehoiakim the king, who killed him with the sword and cast his dead body into the graves of the common people.*

- **In contrast to Jeremiah, this other prophet, Urijah, fled when hearing basically the same things as Jeremiah when they.** Urijah fled to Egypt. Most likely there was an extradition treaty between Judah and Egypt at the time. When the king sent down men to bring him back, which they did, he was killed. Jeremiah stood up to the pressure and he lived. The man ran and was killed. We see a great contrast between the two!

Jer 26:24 *Nevertheless the hand of Ahikam the son of Shaphan was with Jeremiah, so that they should not give him into the hand of the people to put him to death. (2Ki 22:13a-14a) "Go, inquire of the*

LORD for me,"[14] So Hilkiah the priest, **Ahikam**, Achbor, Shaphan, and Asaiah went to Huldah the prophetess. (2Ki 25:22) Then he made Gedaliah the son of **Ahikam**, the son of Shaphan, governor over the people who remained in the land of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had left.

- **Nevertheless, the hand of Ahikam the son of Shaphan was with Jeremiah.** There were those who stood up with Jeremiah, and his life was spared. **Ahikam** used his strategic influence to spring Jeremiah free of the death threat. This civil leader under King Josiah, was sent in the 18th year of Josiah's reign, to visit Huldah. **Ahikam** was the father of Gedaliah, appointed governor over Judah by the Babylonians in 586 BC, after Jerusalem's destruction.
- **That they should not give him into the hand of the people to put him to death:** Jeremiah did not only have the threat from *the prophets* and *the priests*, but also from *the people*. **The princes** would not carry out a formal execution, but Jeremiah also needed protection against the mob, from *the hand of the people*.

God's Protection Until Ministry is Finished – a mission or at the end of life?

- **Examples of "no fear of death!"** It seems when God calls you on a mission **that God will take care of you, watch over you, and protect you until the mission is accomplished.** If you're obeying the word of the **LORD** and doing what God commanded you to do, God is going to take care of you. These examples below show that each man was totally committed to fulfill their calling, no matter what. Being not afraid to die, they basically were unstoppable! How committed am I? Are we?
- **Daniel – 3 friends - Dan 3:14** *Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the gold image which I have set up?" Dan 3:16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. Dan 3:17 If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. Dan 3:18 But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."*
- **Apostle Paul going back to Jerusalem to witness to the Jewish leaders - Act 21:13** *Then Paul answered, "What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." Act 21:14 So when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, "The will of the Lord be done."*
- **Two Witnesses during Great Tribulation - Rev 11:3** *And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth." Rev 11:5 And if anyone wants to harm them, fire proceeds from their mouth and devours their enemies. And if anyone wants to harm them, he must be killed in this manner. Rev 11:7 When they finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit will make war against them, overcome them, and kill them.*
- **Moses' Death at the End of 40 year Wilderness March – Deu 34:4** *Then the LORD said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have caused you to see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there." Deu 34:5 So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the LORD. Deu 34:7 Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died. His eyes were not dim, nor his natural vigor diminished.*
- **How committed are we to the LORD, no matter what!**

Closing Prayer