

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Saturday Afternoon

Gospel Mission (2)

Date 22nd October 2022

Preacher Rev Philip Knowles Hymns 277, 286, 231, 233:1,2,5, Read: Jeremiah 8:19-22 Text Jeremiah 8:20

Title- We Are Not Saved.

The words before us focus upon Jeremiah's prophesy and preaching to the southern Kingdom of Judah in the land of Israel,

that in coming days Jerusalem, would be destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon, and many of the Jews will be slain, and many would be taken away as captives to the land of Babylon for 70 years, due to their sin.

Jeremiah faithfully and continually preached calling the people to obey the Word of God, to repent, turn away from sin but turn unto the Lord.

However, the people refused God's message of restoration, **verse 8** "...**no man repented of his wickedness.**" No man turned from his wicked ways.

In this chapter Jeremiah refers to that time when the Babylonian army will come in like a flood, and he also records the response of the people when their opportunity to be saved had ended.

They refused the last words of forgiveness.

Sinner this meeting could be your last opportunity, your last call to come, before your soul will be required of you.

Knowing their end had come, the people lamented in **verse 20** “*The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.*”

These words spoken are a complaint against God because He had not saved them.

It is striking to consider that while such a complaint was made against God, yet the people never acknowledged the error of their own ways, they refused to acknowledge their sin, for each responded in **verse 5** “*what have I done.*”

You may say the same sinner, what I have done, to deserve coming judgment, the answer is the sin of dishonouring, defying, disobeying God, rejecting His salvation.

You may seek to claim, achieve and do many things, but as Christ said to a young man in **Luke 18:22** *Yet lackest thou one thing...*

That one thing is needful for entrance into heaven, it is Faith alone in Christ alone. That's what you lack, but what you need.

Judah, continued in their rebellion against God, but at the same time expected God to overlook, ignore and bypass their sin, by sparing them from 70 years Babylonian captivity.

Deliverance, or being saved, in the eyes of Judah, was viewed as deliverance or being spared from Babylonian captivity.

However, deliverance did not come, God did not ignore their sin, rather they were left to bear the consequences of their disobedience and rejection.

They cried out, “***The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.***”

This is still the mind set of multitudes, who constantly live their lives without any thought of Jesus Christ and the need to be right with God.

They continually refused to turn to Christ for full salvation, yet they still demand to be delivered from coming judgment. They hope that God will ignore their sin.

But this can never be because God is holy and just therefore, sin must be punished.

While these words are related to the cry of the Jews upon the captivity of Judah, yet in many ways there is a gospel lesson, a picture, a foreshadowing of the judgment that awaits every sinner, who refuses to turn from their sin, rejecting Christ's pardon.

Because scripture is filled with warnings what your end will be having refused salvation.

The day of opportunity will have passed, and many will confess ***“we are not saved.”***

FIRST, THE TIMING OF THESE WORDS.

Note the words, ***“The harvest is past, the summer is ended.”***

These opening words speak of the passing and conclusion of time and opportunity having gone.

The people wasted, neglected and forsook every opportunity and mercy given by God.

Throughout the seasons, the same message was proclaimed, yet they continued to walk in the wicked imaginations of their hearts.

I wonder how many opportunities have you had and wasted to come to Christ for salvation.

Week after week, year after year, season after season and still you are not saved.

You have received the gospel invitation to come to Christ for pardon, but each time you cast it aside.

It is the same response of Judah found in **2 Chron 36:16**, ***“... they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.”***

Job put it in these words, **Job 36:18** ***“Because there is wrath, beware lest he take thee away with his stroke: then a great ransom cannot deliver thee.”***

There will be a time, a season of opportunity that will pass, when it does, there will be no remedy, it will be too late, when you die in your sin, ***a great ransom cannot deliver thee, you will say (I am) “we are not saved.”***

Therefore, sinner you are drifting further away in sin, you are in danger of eternal death, sinking deep in sin to rise no more, but the lifeline is thrown out to you,

There is a rescue mission for your soul.

I urge you soul in danger look above Jesus completely saves, He will lift by His love, out of sin's misery, call unto Him, Lord have mercy upon me the sinner.

II SECOND, THE TREMOR OF THESE WORDS. ***“The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.”***

These are words of great tremor or shock. Judah expected to be delivered without pardon.

They are shocked by the fact the harvest season has past, and there is no sign of deliverance.

Now the summer season has ***“ended, and we are not saved.”***

1 They were not saved because they depended upon their outward privileges.

In **verse 19,** ***“Behold the voice of the cry of the daughter of my people because of them that dwell in a far country: Is not the LORD in Zion? is not her king in her?”***

The people thought because of national identity, history and many religious privileges, these were enough to earn favour with God.

They thought that they could continually live in sin, believing the Lord would not send them into Babylon.

How many there are who depend upon gospel privileges, national heritage, family upbringing, and religious traditions.

They think they do not need personal faith in Jesus Christ, they don't need washed in His precious blood, as long they attend religious services during seasonal times, or have religious connections with family and friends all will be ok with God.

Allow, me in caring for your soul to say if you are depending upon human effort, feelings, different beliefs then you are deceived!

If your reliance is upon outward, external ordinances, professions, or church privileges for the forgiveness of sins, then you remain as you are guilty.

It is no wonder that the harvest is past, and the summer is ended, and you are not saved.

You must have faith alone in the sinless person and substitutional death of Jesus Christ alone.

Nothing can ever remove the guilt of sin but the blood of Jesus Christ, God's son.

Nothing can take from you the love of sin, but the power and application of the atoning or covering blood, and the work of the Spirit upon your entire nature, creating new life, spiritual life in Christ Jesus, giving a new desire for true holiness.

I ask, will you be free from your burden of sin, there is power in the blood, come by faith to Jesus, come for cleansing in Jesus blood.

2 They were not saved because they depended upon their own profanities.

verse 19 “Why have they provoked me to anger with their graven images, and with strange vanities?”

They provoked God, by their continual worship to false idols and false deities from **strange** or **foreign** lands.

They worshipped their own gods, forsaking the only true and living God.

Notice the question in **verse 5** “**Why then is this people of Jerusalem slidden back by a perpetual backsliding?**” They continually left God out of their lives.

They were praying to their own mediators, saviours.

In **verse 1** they worshipped the bones of the dead in the tomb.

In **verse 2** they worship the sun, moon and stars. Other idols of their own vain imagination.

Maybe as you listen to those words, you say I don't worship and bow down to religious images, or the dead,

but have you thought about this you worship, exalt and serve self, you make yourself your own deity, your own god.

You believe your life rests in your own hands not God.

You depend, and trust in self for acceptance with God.

Yet in such a condition you are unacceptable to God.

Sin must be driven out of your heart by the power of the Holy Spirit applying redemption, accomplished by Christ's death.

Oh you must either leave your sin, or leave all hope of heaven!

you cannot enter into heaven clothed in rags of sin. You must enter heaven as the prophet Isaiah said, ***clothed in the garments of salvation.***

3 They were not saved because They depended upon their own prophets.

They didn't listen to Jeremiah's preaching, his message seemed too restrictive, and extreme.

Oh Jeremiah, lighten up a bit. All this talk about coming judgment because of sin and being cut off. Don't be so serious.

The others prophets presented a different message, an appealing, applaudable, and accommodating message.

They said in **verse 11** "***Peace, peace:***" In other words, all will work out in the end.

Jeremiah is exaggerating, he's making you worry over nothing. "***Peace, peace:***", don't worry, live as you please, God is too loving to send us into Babylon.

Jeremiah said, "***they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.***"

there is no peace, because true peace is found by trusting in Jesus Christ blood.

Every preacher is charged to prepare a people for the coming of the Lord, warn them to flee the wrath to come, the penalty for sin, everlasting destruction and punishment.

To be redeemed by blood, is to be delivered from wrath. Christ has endured the wrath of God upon the cross.

On Him the fire of divine judgment has fallen.

Therefore, flee to where the fire has already fallen and find everlasting peace with God by Christ.

I the Timing, II The Tremor of these words.

III THIRD, FINALLY THE TRAGEDY OF THESE WORDS.

v20 “we are not saved.”

Note the final words of the text -- “**we are not saved.**” To have to cry out “**we are not saved...**” is the greatest tragedy imaginable.

Notice **verse 5** “**they refuse to return.**”

Verse 9 “**they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom is in them?**”

Jeremiah preached the word of God calling them to turn from their sin, and idols. He called them to return to the Lord, he gave every opportunity.

The prophet asked a rhetorical question, meaning the answer is clear and known to be so, the answer is in the question.

In **v22** “**is there no balm in Gilead; is there no physician there?**” **The answer is yes there is.**

Judah knew in Gilead there was the Balsam tree which produced a gum like ointment, and when they had an infected wound or sore, they would go to the tree and a skilled physician would apply the ointment to the wounds for healing.

So, the lesion spiritually, taught them,

Our sin before God is like a open wound, effecting every part of our lives, as **Isaiah 1:6** states, ***“From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.”***

Do you understand sinner, God views you in your sin, as an open wound, unclean, filthy by sin.

Yet there is a great physician, who heals the wounds of sin, who binds up wounds.

He is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ blood cleanses from all sin, He is the only physician, who can heal the soul, by the application of His cleansing blood that removes sin.

There is wonder working power in the blood of Christ to forgive sin.

(Let me illustrate this picture with the aloe plant....., take a stem, and pour out the gum, and apply it to hand)

Yet Jeremiah lamented verse 22, “why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?”

why have they not gone to have their sin forgiven, their wounds cleansed and healed.

Why have they not gone to the physician.

There is a remedy, there is way to have sin forgiven, why will they not ask for it.

The answer is they **rejected the word of God**, the message of salvation through Christ and His precious blood.

As a result the enemy would come and take them away captive, and their cry would be “**we are not saved.**”

There are no other words which are more tragic to hear “**we are not saved.**” Or individually I am not saved. What will it mean spiritually.

To be eternally driven from the comfort of Christ’s presence. To cast out into outer darkness where there shall be weeping and wailing, and gnashing of teeth. To be tormented in the lake of fire. What a tragedy.

But there is time now sinner, come to Christ as you are, there is mercy with the Lord, **Romans 10:13 for whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.**

Closing Hymn **233:1,2,5**