

Message #29

Jeremiah 25:1-38

It is very evident from **verse 1** that Jeremiah and God want this very carefully dated—the fourth year of Jehoiakim, which is 605 BC. That was the very year that Babylon defeated Assyria and Jehoiakim transferred his allegiance from Egypt to Babylon. This will be the same year that Jeremiah began to dictate his messages to Baruch (36:1-4).

In **verses 1-7**, Jeremiah wants God's people to realize that he has been proclaiming the truth to all of God's people for 23 years since 627 BC (**25:3**). As Warren Wiersbe said, he is at the mid-point of his career (*Be Decisive*, p. 129). He has been proclaiming the truth and no one listens. You would think he would be so depressed he would give up. But he kept at it. Plus God had sent other servants and prophets to His people time and time again (**v. 4**) and God's people refused to listen to them.

Over and over again Jeremiah and the other prophets told the people of God to turn away from their evil and turn back to God (**v. 5**). They told them that if they would do that, God would bless them in their land. Those men of God warned them in **verse 6** to not go after other gods because they will provoke God to anger.

If God's people don't turn from their evil and persist in going after other things other than Him, it angers God. God says when you anger Me, I will do you harm. But if you don't anger Me, "I will do you no harm" (**v. 6**).

But look at **verse 7**, **God's people would not listen to God**. This point is stressed in **verses 3, 4, 7, 8**. God's own people refused to listen to God's word. They refused to make right choices. They refused to turn to the Lord. They refused to turn away from their evil and they provoked God to anger. This is not something God's people want to do. So because of that **verse 8** says here is what is going to happen because you don't want to obey Me.

BECAUSE GOD'S PEOPLE HAVE REFUSED TO LISTEN TO HIS WORD AND HAVE LIVED IN THEIR SIN FOR YEARS, THEY HAVE ANGERED GOD TO THE POINT THAT HE WILL CAUSE DEVASTATING THINGS TO HAPPEN TO HIS OWN PEOPLE.

When it comes to sin and destruction, **sin will not ultimately destroy you; you will destroy yourself by refusing to deal with your sin**. God will only put up with His people pursuing sin for so long and then He will judge them and put an end to it. They will bring His chastising judgment upon themselves. It is possible to reach a point when it becomes too late for grace.

DIVINE CHASTISEMENT #1 – God will bring Nebuchadnezzar and his Babylonian allies to utterly destroy the land. **25:9**

I want you to see from this verse that Nebuchadnezzar is called “**My servant**” (**25:9; 27:6; 43:10**). Now he was not the servant of God in the sense that he wanted to know the word of God and do the will of God.

He is called the servant of God because God’s sovereign hand was on him and using him to punish His own people. Nebuchadnezzar was being used more by God to accomplish God’s will than His own people.

Nebuchadnezzar was used by God to bring three main waves of destruction against God’s people. The last one in 586 BC completely destroyed Jerusalem and killed thousands. This was all part of a sovereignly controlled judgment of God that He authorized using Nebuchadnezzar as His leader.

God can use godless, idolatrous heathens to accomplish His will when His own people aren’t interested in Him or His word.

DIVINE CHASTISEMENT #2 – God will take away all joy and happiness from His people. **25:10a**

The ability to live a happy, joyful life is a blessing of God. God can take that blessing away from His people. He will take it away if they persist in their sin. The happy sounds of life will be gone. Even the normal happiness of a bride and bridegroom would be gone.

If you have ever seen pictures of the Jews during the days of Hitler, there was nothing happy in their world. Every day was a depressing day. A day to hide, survive and cry. God can cause things like that to happen to those who refuse to listen to His word and continue to persist in their sin.

DIVINE CHASTISEMENT #3 – God will take away all business prosperity. **25:10b**

The happy sounds of business prosperity would be gone. It is a blessing of God when business thrives. When God is blessing a people, the businesses flourish. The millstones make their noises as they do their work and the light of the lamp burns to get the work done.

DIVINE CHASTISEMENT #4 – God will cause this captivity judgment to take place for 70 years. **25:11**

God decided that a 70 year judgment would be implemented against His own people for their refusing to deal with sin. When God’s people stop being serious about God’s word, His judgment will come and it may last. When God’s people pursue sin, His judgment may affect them for quite a while.

Now some have said this was not a literal number. Well Daniel thought it was a literal number. If this was given in 605 BC, 70 years would take to 535 BC.

According to Daniel 9:2, Daniel was reading the prophecies of Jeremiah and he was reading this very text that talked about 70 years. Daniel was reading this in the first year of Darius' reign which was 539 BC. Daniel realized that we are only 4-5 years away from the 70 years and that became a key to his great prayer for deliverance.

DIVINE CHASTISEMENT #5 – God will destroy Babylon for their evil after 70 years.
25:12-14

God says after I have completed my chastisement time period of 70 years, God says I will target the Babylonians and pay them back for what they did.

This is an amazing glimpse here of the sovereignty of God. God literally brought the Medes and Persians in 539 BC and they destroyed Babylon.

God may raise up a godless political leader to rule for a while to accomplish His purposes, but when God is done, that godless leader and power will be destroyed by the same God.

DIVINE CHASTISEMENT #6 – God will pour out His wrath on all nations. **25:15-28**

God wants all to realize how sovereign He is when it comes to judgment. God would not only pour out His anger on His own people, He will go after the entire Gentile world. God gets fed up with people of all nationalities who do not listen to Him and His word.

God says in **verse 15** that He will send His cup of wrath to various specific areas and they will drink of His wrath.

Judgment Area #1 - **Jerusalem. 25:18a** Actual city of Jerusalem

Judgment Area #2 - **Cities of Judah. 25:18b** Cities in southern Israel

Judgment Area #3 - **Egypt. 25:19** Modern day Egypt

Judgment Area #4 - **Uz. 25:20a** Near modern day Jordan and Syria

Judgment Area #5 - **Philistines. 25:20b** Modern day Gaza strip

Judgment Area #6 - **Edom. 25:21** Modern day Jordan

Judgment Area #7 - **Tyre. 24:22a** Modern day Lebanon

Judgment Area #8 - **Sidon. 24:22b** Modern day Lebanon

Judgment Area #9 - Coastland cities. 24:22c Mediterranean coastal cities

Judgment Area #10 - Dedan, Tema, Buz. 24:23 Land near Jordan

Judgment Area #11 - Arabia and all in the Arabian desert. 24:24 Modern day Arabia

Judgment Area #12 - Zimri. 24:25a King who lived in land of northern Israel

Judgment Area #13 - Elam. 24:25b Modern day Iraq

Judgment Area #14 - Media. 24:25c Modern day Iran

Judgment Area #15 - All kingdoms of the north. 25:26a Russia, Turkey

Judgment Area #16 - All kingdoms of the earth. 25:26b All nations everywhere

In verses 26-28 God tells Jeremiah, you tell them this entire message if they do not turn to Me and turn from evil, I will bring total and complete calamity upon them and they will drink the full cup of My anger and wrath.

I love something one commentator wrote: “Though this section may seem irrelevant to us moderns, it conveys an important message. The law of sin and punishment applies to all people, whether or not they recognize God’s claim on their lives. Sin has its own built-in execution power. We do not break God’s laws. We break ourselves on them when we refuse to recognize them as valid” (Fred M. Wood and Ross McLaren, *Jeremiah, Lamentations*, p. 234).

In verses 30-38 God wants Jeremiah to give these nine prophetic predictions to all the people, and specifically the political leadership of the nations.

(Prediction #1) - God will roar His judgment out of heaven. 25:30

(Prediction #2) - God will bring His judgment against all nations of the world. 25:31

(Prediction #3) - God will cause evil to be stirred up worldwide. 25:32

(Prediction #4) - God will kill so many people they will not be buried. 25:33

(Prediction #5) - God will target and slaughter political leaders. 25:34

(Prediction #6) - God will not permit anyone to escape. 24:35

(Prediction #7) - God will cause all political leaders to wail as He destroys them. 25:36

(Prediction #8) - God will cause the peaceful places to be destroyed. 25:37

(Prediction #9) - God will attack the world like a ferocious Lion. 25:38

PRACTICAL THOUGHTS:

- 1. It is vital that God's people listen to and apply God's word.**
- 2. When God's people don't listen and apply God's word, God is angered.**
- 3. God only puts up with His people's rebellion for so long.**
- 4. God can and will bring severe chastising judgment against His own people.**
- 5. It will not be your sin that will destroy you; you will destroy yourself by refusing to turn away from your sin.**