

OT Survey II
Les Sillars

Week 4 Kings and Prophets: The Fall of Judah I (Jeremiah)

Transition from Hezekiah of Judah and his foolishness with the King of Babylon

21:10-15 Manasseh—a wicked king who ignores the lesson of the Law of Moses, the warnings of the prophets, and the warning of the fate of the Northern Tribes

22-23 Josiah—a good king who followed the “ways of his father David”

If you’re going to rid yourself and your people of sin, are half-measures appropriate?

Then a series of evil kings, and in the era of Jehoiakim the king of Babylon Nubuchadnezzar returns

That sets off a kind of slow motion fall to Babylon—takes about 20 years

He sets up Jehoiachin’s uncle Zedekiah as king, who rebels, and ch 25 tells the whole dismal story

Siege for a year and half, then the walls fall in 586 BC

See Deut. 28:53, 64

But the book ends with a hint of hope: after 37 years, Jehoiachin is released and given a place at the king’s table

Lesson: we look at this and wonder how they could be so dense, but of course we’re not that much different

Question: how close do we have to get to total destruction before we change our ways? Can we change our ways on our own?

Jeremiah: The Weeping Prophet

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- The Call of the Prophet
- Book of Judgment and Salvation 2-35
- Persecutions of the Prophet 36-38
- Fall of Jerusalem 39-45
- Judgment on the Nations 46-51
- Historical Appendix

Ch 1—the call of Jeremiah

God prepares the prophet for opposition from the covenant people—they won’t like it

Through symbols, metaphors, imagery—memorable and powerful

Linen belt, wineskin, pottery, figs, cup of wrath

Ch 2-4 You were my bride yet you prostituted yourself—not because you had to, but because you wanted to; haven't I got cause against you? Yet you ignored my pleas

Ch 8:18 Jeremiah's heart for his people

Ch 10 God mocks their idols

Ch 19 smashed pot that cannot be repaired

Ch 21 King Zedekiah (already been under Babylon for some decades) wants to know if the Lord will rescue them?

Messages of Hope

Ch 23 the Righteous Branch

Ch 25 70 years from first Babylonian captivity 605 to the starting of the temple 536

Ch 29 letter to the exiles of Jehoiachin, before the final destruction
v 5 build houses and settle down

Ch 30-31 promises of Restoration

New Covenant 31:31-34 Christ is the mediator

Lk 22:20, I Cor 11:25, II Cor 3:6 Heb 8-9

Ch 33 Restoration in the name of David

Cleanse of their idolatry, restore their prosperity, give them a righteous King, and fulfill the promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

Back to Deut. 30 the prophecy that God will bring Israel back after their rebellion

So he sets before them life and prosperity, death and destruction—therefore choose life

We don't have the same choice as Israel—their experience teaches us that we cannot by our own strength be righteous or keep the demands of the Law, either as individuals or as a culture

Ch 34-38 Jeremiah's conflict with the leaders of Judah shows their hard hearts and his perseverance

Ch 39-44 matter of fact recounting of the fall, and of their heart hearts even in the midst of the fall as they reject Jeremiah's word not to flee to Egypt but instead take their medicine in Israel

Section on prophecies against the nations—Babylon is last and gets the most

52 Babylonian king makes sure Jeremiah is looked after 52:31

Hint of hope

Message—exactly what Mark has been preaching about from Romans 1-3

No one is righteous—we cannot keep the Law on our own, we cannot be righteous on our own.

We require the New Covenant to be restored to God, who has pleading with His people through

history to return to Him

Jeremiah offered hints of restoration and Isaiah got into the restoration of the Kingdom of God, so in the later prophets those hints became increasingly explicit in Ezekiel—we'll look at those in the coming weeks