

Jeremiah 43-45 – 26 September 2024

“Breaking The Back Of The Enemy”

Introduction

*In Section 5 of 6 (Chap 30-44); main events unfold

*In Chapter 30-33, before destruction, God gave a hopeful message of their promised restoration

*In Chapter 34-36, we’re presented scenarios in which everyone is being pressured into a choice

*In Chap 37-39, we dealt with the day of destruction

*In Chap 40-42, we looked at 3 people who had great chances to revitalize their life in Christ but didn’t

*Now in Chap 43-45, we have the final events after Jerusalem’s fall with the remnant that went to Egypt

*We’ll again look at 3 different groups of people and the strongholds of sin that they continue to allow

*There needs to be surrender to Jesus Christ fully

Today, let’s see the 3 areas that need surrendered to the lordship of Jesus Christ for them & us

#1 – The leaders are still distracted by the threat of the world system (Chap 43)

Read Chap 43:1-3

1. You can compare all the reasons that different people chose to NOT believe God thru Jeremiah, but they're all different reasons
 - a. Here they believe Baruch is against them
2. They'd Jeremiah's 40 yr track record to believe
3. There are many things people blame unfaithfulness on other than themselves
 - a. Pretending obedience (Turn Luk 9:57-62)
 - b. Pretending obedience would be bad (this case & Rich Young Ruler)
 - c. Pretending obedience afterward (Act 5)
 - d. Pretending disobedience is another's fault (Gen 3:12)

Read Vs 4-7

1. Johanan choses to disobey the will of God that he vowed he would follow when he asked for it

2. What's worse is he's forcing others to go with him in this disobedience into Egypt
 - a. May have even taken Jeremiah daring God to "judge them all" like He said He would
3. Tahpanhes is about 8 miles over, what is now the Suez Canal, into Egypt
4. Now baby Jesus' family was told by God to go into Egypt for deliverance
 - a. It's not about trusting Egypt or not trusting Egypt, it's about obeying the Lord direction

Read Vs 8-9

1. "The Word came to Jeremiah" – He may have been forced out of the right physical place (Judah), but not out of the right spiritual place (obedience)
2. Egyptologist Sir Flinders Petrie excavating in 1886 found this "great open platform of brick work" that he believes is this very place

Read Vs 10-13

1. History records these events 18 yrs later 568 BC

#2 – The people are still confused by demonic entities (Chap 44)

Read Chap 44:1-6

1. The heart of their problem reminded to them
 - a. They go after other gods that can't satisfy
2. God reminds them of His faithfulness, truthfulness and ability to perform
3. It also reminds them of their unfaithfulness, betrayal and inability to serve God alone

Read Vs 7-10

1. So God uses the past to talk about the present
 - a. They were supposed to have learned humility & fear of God
 - b. They were supposed to have changed their actions to serve God & see His way as good
2. Notice that the right way to see their sin is that they're acting "against their own self"
 - a. This is the same kind of sermon Stephen gave for his very last sermon in Acts 7
 - b. Maybe it was Jeremiah's last as well

Read Vs 11-14

1. Not only does God declare promised judgement on Judah that fled here, but also on Egypt themselves – Babylon comes in 18 yrs (568 BC)
2. Interesting that God says a few will escape this punishment of Babylon coming & the famine
 - a. I believe these are the faithful brought to Egypt against their will like Jeremiah & Baruch

Read Vs 15-16

1. They believed Jeremiah was speaking to them ‘in the name of the Lord’ & out right rejected God

Read Vs 17-19

1. The Queen of Heaven seems to be reference to the Canaanite Ashtoreth, goddess of fertility
 - a. Solomon allows this & Manasseh stoked it
2. They’re attributing their punishment to their unfaithfulness to pagan gods and NOT Yahweh
 - a. Now how could they know if their plight was for unfaithfulness to God or these idols?

- b. B/c Yahweh has proven record of prophecy
 - i. Since beginning the nation w/ Moses to Joshua & Samuel, God has proven Himself

Read Vs 20-23

- 1. God was patient with them, but after continued ignoring of His law, He has to act

Read Vs 24-29

- 1. The Lord always fulfills His Word
- 2. This is how we know the difference between true and false gods
- 3. This is how we know the difference between a faithful powerful God & unfaithful, impotent idols
- 4. God doesn't lash out in anger, but says 'just watch what happens and I'll prove faithful'
- 5. So the captive, obedience in Babylon WILL return but the free, disobedient in Egypt WON'T

Read Vs 30

- 1. Very specific prophecy here, not just that Babylon would come and conquer but also more

- a. Hophra would be killed ‘by his enemies’
 - i. He was overthrown by his officer Amasis
 - b. Then in 568 BC Nebu ends Amasis’s rebellion
2. God is specific thru Jeremiah so that when it happens all will believe God

#3 – Even the godly are still desiring fleshly gain (Chap 45)

Read Chap 45:1

1. This chapter fits after chapter 36 when Baruch delivered the written Word to the King
2. Baruch wasn’t just great scribe but a friend
3. Many letters are attributed to him by the Jews

Read Vs 2-3

1. Now we could really give it to Baruch really bad for complaining about his situation
 - a. Or we could praise our merciful God for seeing the individual
 - b. Baruch was threatened of life by the king for reading Jeremiah’s Word at that time

2. This is an element of self-advancement that God will deal with Baruch about
 - a. He was a hard-charger – maybe this is the personality that had Johanan in chap 43 blame Jeremiah’s words on Baruch

Read Vs 4

1. This has been the Lord’s constant refrain thru the whole ministry of Jeremiah & Baruch
 - a. Read Jer 1:10 (ie Jer 18, 24, 29, 31, 35, 42)
2. Before God gets to Baruch in vs 5, He reminds Baruch that He’s working out a global plan

Read Vs 5

1. Some of Baruch’s sorrow & pain came from desiring great material gains, maybe status
 - a. Notice God didn’t say lower your expectations, He said, “Don’t seek them”
2. Jesus said, “seek 1st the Kingdom & then all the necessary material things of life will be given”
3. Notice God even says why, “b/c all material things in life come and go” – can’t hold them long

4. Finally, Baruch's faithful service is rewarded with a promise that he will die in peace

Conclusion

What does it take to break the back on the sinful strongholds that surround us?

1. **Are you still distracted by the opinions of the world around you?**
 - a. Men are fickle & will turn on you
 - b. Jesus Christ will always be faithful
2. **Are you still convinced there are drugs, tarot cards, crystals or horoscopes that can help you?**
 - a. Demonic power will eventually abuse you
 - b. Jesus' power is available to save & love
3. **Are you still desiring the fleshly gain of this world?**
 - a. To appease our body & soul is fleeting
 - b. To live for Christ brings eternal reward!