

Jeremiah 52 – 12 October 2014

Zedekiah's Fate

- V 1-2 – This chapter is a historical supplement added by someone other than Jeremiah about 25 years later.
 - Nearly identical to the end of II Kings.
 - Added to show that fulfillment of much of what Jeremiah had prophesied.
- Vs 3-11 – This is the 3rd captivity when Jerusalem was destroyed.

Jerusalem's Fate

- Vs 12-16 – The land was given a little attention as to not be overrun.
- Vs 17-23 – The remaining temple treasures of brass were all taken with the notable exception that the Ark of the Covenant is still not listed.
 - Gold and silver items were taken already.
 - Jer 27:19 predicted Babylon would come back for the rest of the items (brass).

The People's Fate

- Vs 24-28 – 74 chief people were killed and 3023 people were carried away into captivity.
- Vs 29-30 – Wave after wave of major life change.

Jehoiachin's Fate

- Vs 31-34 – Daniel and Jehoiachin were both promoted in Babylon?
 - Exalted by opposite means.
 - Jehoiachin accepted the non-kosher food, Daniel rejected it.
 - Jehoiachin and Daniel were both promoted while in Babylon, but it matters to God how you get promoted.

The Jews are experiencing a total upheaval to their lives. Major changes can be progressive and last for years and years or be a single event. Everything they know will change.

- Where they work, where they play.
- Where their friends are, where their family is.

What type of person are you when major change is on the horizon or happening?

From Jeremiah 52 today, we're shown 4 types of people. What type of person does God want us to be during major changes?

The Fighter

- Zedekiah is the example here; he's going to fight for *his way*.
 - Jer 52:3 – Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon...for his whole 11 year reign.
- The Fighter doesn't want the major change to happen.
- He'll do everything to stop change from happening.
- There are TWO types of ungodly fighters seen in the Bible.
 - 1st kind: motivated by maintaining his lifestyle.
 - Example: King Herod the Great
 - Didn't want to lose his kingship (major change) so he was willing to kill multiple sons on his.
 - Didn't want the Messiah to come (major change) so he was willing to slaughter all the babies of Bethlehem to prevent it.
 - 2nd kind: motivated by their own lack of understanding.

- Example: Saul of Tarsus
- Didn't want to lose Judaism so he fought, literally, so he was willing to kill Christians.
- Read I Tim 1:12-13

The Forbearer

- Jehoiachin is the example here, he will capitulate the major change for his own selfish gain.
 - Jer 52:31-34 – Even in his diet he became as a Babylonian.
- As the Fighter, the Forbearer doesn't want major change to happen either, but the Forbearer will not do anything to stop it.
- The Forbearer will capitulate for their own safety or advancement.
 - Lot capitulated towards those in Sodom, progressing closer and closer toward acceptance of their sin.
 - The whole book of Judges is about Israel capitulating to what her oppressor nation wants from her.
 - Ananias & Sapphira capitulated towards the economy of selling all.

The Follower

- The captured and killed Jews are the example here.
- Some follow the Fighters, some follow the Forbearers.
 - The Fighter followers were killed.
 - The Forbearer followers were taken captive.
- For the Follower, it's not that they want or don't want major change to happen; it's that they just don't want to have to think about it or decide for themselves.
 - They're just caught up in it and going with the flow.
- If they do 'what the crowd is doing' then they won't lose anything.
- When don't often know these Bible characters by name, b/c being known would put them at risk.
 - Think of the Herodian soldiers that arrested Jesus.
 - I'm sure that not all 10 of Joseph's brother's were actively trying to sell him and pretend his death. Some just followed.

The Faithful

- Jeremiah – throughout this whole book Jeremiah has been our example of the Faithful.
 - Read Jer 20:9
- For the Faithful, it's not that they want or don't want major change to happen; it's that they just want to know from the Lord if they should 'fight' or 'forbear'.
 - They're not interested in the majority's actions; they're interested in the Lord's direction.
- They're not interested in whether or not it will cost them anything; they do it to honor God.
 - The faithful don't have a price.
 - Story: Proposition for \$1,000,000. "Who do you think I am?" "We've already discovered that, we're just negotiating the price."
- There are TWO occasions when the Faithful get to shine:
 - The 1st occasion is when major change seems right.
 - The Faithful David knew there needed to be major change so he stepped up and 'Fought' Goliath.
 - The Faithful Rahab knew there needed to be major change, her home Jericho would be

conquered, so she “Forbear” and capitulated allowing Israel to conquer.

- The 2nd occasion is when major change seems wrong.
 - The Faithful Josiah knew there need to be major change so he ‘Fought’ to rid Israel of the idolatry the even Solomon set up.
 - The Faithful Jeremiah knew there needed to be major change so he encouraged the Jews to ‘Forbear’ and capitulate to Babylon even though this felt wrong.

Conclusion: The Prodigal Son

1. He knew major change was coming b/c he was coming of age.
 - a. So he Fought to have it happen on his terms.
(give me my inheritance now)
 - b. These riches soon vanished away.
2. He knew major change was coming again b/c he was now broke.
 - a. So he Forbear and just capitulated to doing whatever it took to get by. (Fed the pigs)

- b. The solution to this cycle of Fighting, and Forbearing, and Following can only be broken one way.
 - i. When MAJOR CHANGE comes to the heart of a person, turning them into The Faithful!

- 3. Are you The Faithful?
 - a. Do you always Fight against change for selfish gain?
 - b. Do you always Forbear & just acquiesce to the sin around you for your own selfish gain?
 - c. Do you always Follow the leaders just to blend in for your own advantage?
 - d. Or are you the one who says, “I want to accept change or not accept change based on what will honor God.”
- 4. The Prodigal Son ran back to his loving father and said, “I want to be Faithful to you. I know that your way is best and right.”