

II Kings 24-25 – 8 December 2022

“There Is A Limit”

Introduction

*God has been warning His people Israel to repent of their idolatry & pride for 400 yrs since time of David

*From 640 BC until now (605 BC) Judah had a great chance at restoration / renewal under good king Josiah

*As the whole book of Jeremiah shows, the nation still clings to their own ways and their own will

*Tonight, Israel as a nation comes to an end

*There is a limit...

*There's a limit to corruption & sin God allows

*There's a limit to how much evil God will allow to affect the innocent children

*There's a limit before judgement falls

***So, here are 3 things we can do if we find that we've been allowing sin to persist in our life**

1st thing we should be when we see persist sin: Determine whom we really serve (Chap 24:1-17)

Read Vs 1-7 - *Reign of Jehoiakim*

1. Jehoiakim can't figure out whether to serve Egypt or Babylon (b/c he should be serving God)
 - a. Read Jer 22:17 – He couldn't figure whom to align with b/c he was really serving self
 - b. “Oh God, should I eat McDs or B King? Neither...you should be eating Chic-fil-a” haha
2. During the reign of Manasseh, God determined to exile Judah to Babylon (Read Jer 25:9)
3. Although this was generally long foretold in the Law of Moses (Lev 26:33-35), it's now occurring in 605 BC w/ Babylon
 - a. This is the 1st of 3 waves of deportations
 - b. Daniel & many others taken to Babylon
4. It's b/c of their idolatry but it's length of time is b/c of not recognizing land sabbaths prescribed in (Read) Lev 25:2-7 (II Chr 36:21 / Jer 25:11-12)
 - a. Ezra 3:8 gives exact date they come back & end the 70 years of punishment in 535 BC

Read Vs 8-9 - *Reign of Jehoiachin*

1. Jehoiachin is on throne only 3 months when Babylon comes back for 2nd attack in 597 BC

Read Vs 10-16

1. Being besieged, Jehoiachin surrenders and many are deported & a great spoil is taken

Read Vs 17

1. Mattaniah, renamed Zedekiah is NOT son of Jehoiachin, but his uncle, Josiah's 3rd son to reign
 - a. Jeremiah had prophesied this (Read Jer 22:28-30)
 - b. Spiritual implications in that Messiah doesn't come thru the lineage of Jehoiachin

2nd thing we should be when we see persist sin: Use hard times to repent & soften (Chap 24:18-25:21)

Read Vs 18-20 - *Reign of Zedekiah*

1. II Chr 26:12 says he didn't humble himself before Jeremiah who was sent from the Lord
2. Hard times from God will either...
 - a. Hasten your repentance & softening or hasten your hardening against God
 - b. Same sun that softens wax, will harden clay
 - c. Like hardening of Pharaoh's heart (Moses)
3. Their hearts were far from God's will, but they convinced themselves that God was on their side
4. Not only was Jeremiah telling them to submit to Babylon, but also God would bring them back!
 - a. Jer 31:23 – Restoration of Hebrew language
 - b. Jer 31:31-33 – Would be a New Covenant

Read Vs 1-6

1. This is the final siege & conquest of Jerusalem & of Israel occurring in 586 BC

Read Vs 7

1. Interesting prophecies that Zedekiah would see & speak w/ Nebo (Read Jer 32:4) but wouldn't see Babylon (Read Eze 12:13)

Read Vs 8-10

1. Temple is sacked to the ground & main defense of city (what makes it a city) the wall is broken

Read Vs 11-17

1. All the treasures & blessings from God are now spoiled and taken from them

Read Vs 18-21

1. These were strong men that would have revolted against Babylon
2. Harsh to kill them? Read II Chr 36:14-16
 - a. They constantly rejected the Lord
 - b. These horrid events are what Jeremiah wrote Lamentations about
 - c. Jeremiah was called a traitor, yet he always told them hard truth they didn't want to hear

3rd thing we should be when we see persist sin: Accept this world won't give proper results (Chap 25:22-30)

Read Vs 22-24

1. Gedaliah was actually being obedience to what God told them in submitting to Babylon (Jer 27)
2. Jew actually started to return a bit out of their hiding places in the surrounding countries
 - a. Things seemed a bit stable

Read Vs 25-26

1. Now everyone is scared and fleeing again b/c of their disobedience to the Lord
2. Gedaliah was seeking God but associating with bad men

Read Vs 27-30

1. Daniel & Jehoiachin were both promoted in Babylon, but it matters how you get there
2. Jehoiachin's earthly prosperity meant nothing b/c of his spiritual poverty

Conclusion

Have you found yourselves in a place where there is sin all around & you know you've been a part of it?

1. Determine whom we really serve

- a. Bible says to examine yourselves to see if you're in the faith (II Cor 13:5)
- b. We easily lie to ourselves & live with ourselves still on the throne of our lives

2. Use hard times to repent & soften our hearts

- a. Bible says whom God loves He chastens (Heb 12:6)
- b. It's God's grace in getting your attention

3. Accept this world won't give proper results

- a. Even when we repent & turn to God, things may not go smooth sailing
- b. This world isn't where the godly get rewarded

Final thoughts

1. God continually wants to help, but there's a limit (*Read II Pet 3:9-10*)
 - a. Some think, 'well we're America, we'll never cease from being a nation or being free'
 - i. We're not guaranteed that!
2. Is God finished w/ the Jews? No way (Rom 11)
 - a. Thru Israel's fall we all now know the truth
 - b. If God won't cast away Israel forever, He won't cast me away either!
3. We'll either be used...
 - a. To bring God to an unbelieving world or
 - b. Be judged as ungodly by the unbelieving world

(Finish by reading *II Pet 3 at verse 11*)