

MESSAGE NOTES: Jeremiah 27

3 Lessons of the Yoke

1. *God uses situations and people to accomplish His purposes that we would not use.*

Jeremiah 27:3 "Then send word to the kings of Edom, Moab, Ammon, Tyre and Sidon through the envoys who have come to Jerusalem to Zedekiah king of Judah."

Jeremiah 30:8-11 "'In that day,' declares the LORD Almighty, 'I will break the yoke off their necks and will tear off their bonds; no longer will foreigners enslave them. Instead, they will serve the LORD their God and David their king, whom I will raise up for them. "'So do not be afraid, Jacob my servant; do not be dismayed, Israel,' declares the LORD. 'I will surely save you out of a distant place, your descendants from the land of their exile. Jacob will again have peace and security, and no one will make him afraid. I am with you and will save you,' declares the LORD. 'Though I completely destroy all the nations among which I scatter you, I will not completely destroy you. I will discipline you but only in due measure; I will not let you go entirely unpunished.'"

2. *Not everyone who claims to speak for God speaks for God*

Jeremiah 27:9-11 "So do not listen to your prophets, your diviners, your interpreters of dreams, your mediums or your sorcerers who tell you, 'You will not serve the king of Babylon.' They prophesy lies to you that will only serve to remove you far from your lands; I will banish you and you will perish. But if any nation will bow its neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon and serve him, I will let that nation remain in its own land to till it and to live there, declares the LORD."

1 John 4:1-6 "Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood."

Doctrinal Test (1 John 4:2-3) || Life Test (1 John 4:4) || Affinity Test (1 John 4:5-6)

3. *True Freedom is found in the Yoke of Jesus Christ*

Matthew 11:28-30 "'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.'"

Galatians 5:1 "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."

STUDY GUIDE:

STEP ONE: Icebreaker (*Optional*):

- What is the best way to cook/eat eggs? Is there any form of eggs that grosses you out?

STEP TWO: Prayer & Scripture Reading

- Ask someone in your group to pray to open your time together.
- Ask another person to read **Jeremiah 27**.

STEP THREE: Discuss Questions

1. What was challenging, encouraging, confusing, or stood out most to you from this past weekend's teaching?
2. Why does God have Jeremiah put a yoke on his neck? What is he communicating, and who is his audience?
3. In this chapter, God is putting an evil nation in charge of His people. What does this say about the way God uses trials in our lives? How does it make you feel that God has this kind of power over the world?
4. In this passage, Jeremiah is shown as the true prophet while the rest are false prophets. Do you think the false prophets intentionally lied about their prophecies? Or were they simply mistaken in hearing from God?
5. The command to serve the King of Babylon would have been a hard message to swallow. Can you think of a time you felt God was calling you to do something that did not immediately make sense to you?
6. Our story leaves us with a grain of hope. Read **verse 22**. Knowing what you know about the Bible, how does God "bring them back and restore them" both physically and spiritually?
7. How does Jesus succeed where Judah fails? What does that mean for us today?

STEP FOUR: Prayer

- Ask someone in your group to close in prayer.