

Parables (Part 20) - The Vineyard (B) January 18, 2025

The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://www.cornerfringe.com/media/qk6dbxw/parables-part-20-the-vineyard-b>

***Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserve the original context, but this document is not verbatim. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue, and both are italicized for easier reading. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliteration into the English alphabet. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.**

[Video montage]

And He taught them many things by parables. He said unto them in His doctrine; Hearken, behold, there went out a sower to sow; it came to pass as he sowed, some fell by the wayside, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up, and some fell on stony ground where it had not much earth. He said unto them, he that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

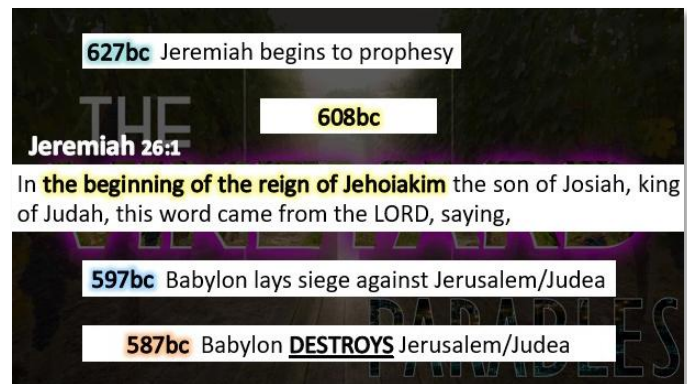
[Daniel Joseph]

Shabbat Shalom, everyone. We're going to continue to look at the Parable of the Vineyard as Yeshua tells this in Matthew Chapter 21. Currently we're hovering over this verse right now: Matthew 21:35—*"And the vinedressers..."* Again, what are we referring to here? The vinedressers are those entrusted with the care of the vineyard. These are the shepherds. Their job is to protect, prune, and cultivate the vineyard to do what? It is supposed to be bearing good fruit. So, the vinedressers *"took his servants,"* i.e., the prophets, and what did they do? How do they treat God's people sent specifically to the vinedressers? They treat them horribly. We're told here they *"beat one, killed one, and stoned another."*

What I told you last week is that, to draw the depth and the magnitude of what Yeshua brought to the table, we have to go back because this is not just a nice little story. Yeshua is drawing from actual, literal history between the God of Israel and the covenant people, and what that relationship looked like in all the span of the years. Unfortunately, there were some bumps in the road, and that relationship was not healthy, so the LORD sent His servants, the prophets. Today, we're going back to Jeremiah to finish this out and get a better appreciation for what Yeshua brought to the table. As I mentioned before, the fact that He brought this does not elude the vinedressers of His day as He's talking to the chief priest, scribes, and elders.

With that said, we're going to open up in Jeremiah 26:1—*In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came from the LORD, saying...* [emphasis added]. I want to put the landscape and backdrop into perspective. We know exactly when the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim was. It was in 608 BC. If you go back to Chapter One in Jeremiah, where Jeremiah is first called to bring the word of the LORD, it takes us back to 627 BC, so you can see we are well into the ministry of Jeremiah. You have to get your arms wrapped around this. God didn't send Jeremiah just one time; this is not a one-time message like Jonah's. Jonah went to Nineveh and to warn them only once. No, this takes place in a span of numerous years.

To put this into further perspective, what we see is that as you come to 597 BC, that's when Nebuchadnezzar laid siege against Jerusalem in Judea. Then it hits its pinnacle about ten years later. In 587 BC, Nebuchadnezzar laid waste to the Temple of God, burned it to the ground, and the Jewish people were taken into captivity. So, if you mark this from the beginning of Jeremiah's time, where he is called by the LORD to go to His people, to the time of destruction, isn't that interesting? It is 40 years. It was the same number that the LORD pronounced as Jonah the prophet walked in and said, "In 40 days the LORD's going to destroy you," but with Jeremiah, it's going to be 40 years. That's an amazing thing. So, you see that all this time God is giving His people a chance to repent.



Jeremiah 26:2—*"Thus says the LORD: 'Stand in the court of the LORD's house..."*[emphasis added]. Again, where is Yeshua in Matthew Chapter 21? As He's speaking the parable, He is in the Temple, the same place that Jeremiah is in. There are many similarities between Jeremiah and Yeshua. In fact, it's important for you to catch these little things. When you go to Matthew 16:13, Yeshua asks, *"Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?"* Their response is in Matthew 16:14: *"Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah."* Think about that. Why would people in the first century who were listening to Yeshua's teaching, and they had never in their life heard anyone speak like He spoke and were in awe, why would they think of Jeremiah? This was the first century. Jews were well educated in the Torah; they knew who Jeremiah was and his story. They knew the things that he did, and they looked at Yeshua's ministry and noticed the symmetry and parellism. Understand that this has everything to do with the Parable of the Vineyard. There's a direct parallel to Jeremiah.

Continuing in Jeremiah 26:2—*...and speak to all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the LORD's house, all the words that I command you to speak to them* [emphasis added]. Jeremiah recognizes that all the cities of Judah are coming to the LORD's house; it's called The House of Prayer. Let's put this in modern-day terms: all the believers, all the Christians, are going into the church. The context of what's being shared is frightening because the people of Israel are steeped in sin, and yet they're still going up to the place of worship. They're going up to worship the LORD and offer sacrifices. They're going to praise the LORD with their mouths. They'll raise their hands. They'll do this because they're 'good' Christians. This is the context, which is disturbing.

Then the LORD sends a warning to Jeremiah. He says in Jeremiah 26:2—*...all the words that I command you to speak to them. Do not diminish a word* [emphasis added]. Do you know what is one of the most important lessons for a shepherd, a vinedresser, a pastor, or a preacher? Don't you dare diminish one word. Don't you dare dilute the gospel of Jesus; don't water it down. The job of the shepherd is not to come and make people laugh and become a cult of personality. One job the shepherd has is to get out of the way, take the Word of the LORD, and deliver it. Get out of the way, step out of the LORD's way, and don't dare alter it. Don't rewrite Scripture. Don't become a theological ballerina tiptoeing, dancing, and spinning around what God said to preach because someone might be offended, or maybe your tithes will decrease. Because the message may not be very popular, and people won't like it. I have had

pastors who have come to me and literally say to me that they understand and agree with what's written in Daniel, but they can't preach it because they'll lose their jobs. That is not a made-up story.

Moving to Jeremiah 26:3—*Perhaps everyone will listen and turn from his evil way*. What is the hope of the LORD? What is God's heart in this matter? He wants to see His people impacted by His Word to such a degree that they turn back and repent. I love what the psalmist says in Psalm 119:9—*How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word* [emphasis added]. Not by walking in a way that acknowledges Jesus as savior but also accepts whatever feels right. There's only one way to repent. There's only one way to pick up one's cross and follow Yeshua, and that's to receive His Word. There's no other way. This is the Word of the LORD. We have to take heed. That means you must yield your will to the will of the living God.

Notice the power of repentance; this is what the devil does not want you to embrace. He says in Jeremiah 26:3—*...that I may relent concerning the calamity which I purpose to bring on them* [emphasis added]. That He may relent. God has determined judgment. Repentance is so powerful that even after God determines judgment, He will change His mind. This goes back to Jeremiah Chapter 18. There is something that is worth noting today. In Jeremiah 1:5, Jeremiah is called a *prophet to the nations*, and his message does apply to us today. The Holy Spirit that moved through Jeremiah is speaking to those who have ears to hear. It's a powerful thing that the enemy doesn't want us to know. When one repents, the bondage of the devil, the grip he has on people, the power of darkness, is broken because God's heart is broken. When God's heart breaks for people, it melts, and even though He had determined judgment against them, they will melt His heart if they repent. That's how someone wins the heart of the LORD. That's the importance of the law and the commandments—it's His heart. Our obedience to the commandments is His love language.

He says in Jeremiah 26:3—*...that I may relent concerning the calamity which I purpose to bring on them because of the evil of their doings* [emphasis added]. There is one reason why God brings judgment upon His people; the covenant people. Why would He do that? Because of sin. The psalmist says this: Psalm 7:11—*God is a just judge, and God is angry with the wicked every day* [emphasis added]. Satan wants to come in and tell us, "No, He's not." The Devil wants to convince us it doesn't matter, that He's not *El kanna* (אֱלֹהֵי קַנָּא), a jealous God. The devil wants to convince us there's nothing we can do to provoke Him to anger. God is angry with the lawless and the wicked every single day.

Psalm 7:12-13—¹² *If he does not turn back, He will sharpen His sword; He bends His bow and makes it ready.* ¹³ *He also prepares for Himself instruments of death; He makes His arrows into fiery shafts* [emphasis added]. This is what God prepares against His own people, and why He sent Jeremiah. He was preparing instruments of death. Psalm 68:21 says: *But God will wound the head of His enemies, The hairy scalp of the one who still goes on in his trespasses*. In other words, if someone wants to get comfortable with sin and wants to continue living how they please, then God will prepare instruments of death against them. However, the Devil wants to tell us, "No, He's not." This is biblical.

Hosea 7:2a—*They do not consider in their hearts that I remember all their wickedness; now their own deeds have surrounded them* [emphasis added]. This is why the wicked renounce God. Psalm 10:13—*Why do the wicked renounce God? He has said in his heart, "You will not require an account."* They think they're not going to be held accountable for their actions. They think to themselves, "I'm good. I'm saved. I'm under grace. There is going to be no accounting. There's going to be no judgment."

Moving to Jeremiah 26:4—*And you shall say to them, thus says the LORD: "If you will not listen to Me..."* Listen to what? "...*to walk in My law which I have set before you*" [emphasis added]. That's what it means to listen to the LORD. To receive the voice of the LORD is to walk; not simply to hear. It is to walk in His law. One might say that this is "Old Testament stuff. This doesn't pertain to the New Testament. This doesn't exult the glory of Jesus. If anyone believes this, they don't understand the New Covenant." On the contrary, this message is timeless all the way through the entire book.

To lay this out, let's go to the Apostle Paul, who knew very much about the grace of our LORD Yeshua. He says this in Romans 2:13—*For not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified* [emphasis added]. Only the doers of the law are justified before God. Jeremiah, this anointed man of God who's anointed by the Spirit, is being sent to his own people telling them they need to heed the law of the LORD. All the righteous men throughout this book are bringing the exact same message.

Paul goes on in Romans 3:31—*Do we then make void the law through faith?* So, after Jesus has come, we receive Yeshua into our hearts. What do we do with the law? We're told today to abandon and get rid of it. The Apostle Paul says, "*Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law*" [emphasis added]. What does he say? *Alla nomon histanomen* (ἀλλὰ νόμον ἱστάνομεν), which has a very powerful meaning in Greek. It means to establish, but it also means you stand on God's Holy Law.

I learned one of the most important theological lessons in my life at seven years old. You know what that was? It's when I went into Sunday school and the teachers at the time taught me the Bible. Yes, I was taught to stand alone on the Word of God, the Bible. That means nothing is going to move me. This is my foundation; this is the rock that I'm going to stand on. Anything that comes against God's Holy Law, I am going to reject because I stand *histémi* (ἵστημι) which in the Greek means, "I stand on His Word."

He goes on in Romans 6:18—*And having been set free from sin...* I love this because Paul exalts the holy name of Jesus. Who sets us free from sin? What is the problem in the world? The problem in this world is that we can't make atonement for ourselves; we can't personally make this right. We need a LORD and a Savior; we need Yeshua, and so because Yeshua has set us free. Then what? Now: *you became slaves of righteousness* [emphasis added]. Psalm 119:172 says: *"...all Your commandments are righteousness."* We're to become slaves of righteousness.

It's amazing because when God sent Moses and Aaron to Pharaoh, what did He tell him to do? Exodus 8:1: *Shallach et ammi veyavduni* (שְׁלַח אֶת-עַמִּי וַיַּעַבְדֵנִי), "*Let My people go that they may serve Me.*" They were slaves of Pharaoh, a picture of the antichrist and of the Devil. They were to become slaves of righteousness, serving God alone. That's the impact that the Gospel is supposed to be having on the church and us as believers. Instead of running away from the law, because of Yeshua we should be running to the law. I love Psalm Chapter 119 Verse 88, one of my favorite verses in the Bible: *Kechasdecha chayyeni ve'eshmerah edut picha* (כְּחַסְדְּךָ חַיֵּנִי וְאֶשְׁמְרָה עֲדוּת פִּיךָ) - *Revive me according to Your lovingkindness* (meaning "Your mercy"). This is referring Yeshua. Revive us according to Your loving kindness, according to Yeshua. Why? *So that I may keep the testimony of Your mouth.* We're to be sanctified according to 1 Peter 1:16: *"Be holy, for I am holy."* That's a true reception of the Gospel.

He moves on and says in Romans 6:19—*I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness* [emphasis added]. We serve the Devil when we walk away from God's law. The Devil

becomes someone's master when they reject the law. Which messiah, as believers and Christians, are we going to follow? Are we going to follow the false messiah, the antichrist that is literally called the lawless one, or are we going to serve the one who is holy, just and true? When He came into His ministry, what did Yeshua do? He taught the law. He taught it better than anyone had before.

Moving further in Romans 6:19—*so now present your members as **slaves of righteousness for holiness*** [emphasis added]. Again, in Psalm 29:2: *Hishtachavu Yahweh behadrat kodesh* (הִשְׁתַּחֲוּ לַיהוָה בְּהַדְרַת קֹדֶשׁ), *“Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.”* How do we actually worship Yeshua? Only one way: in the beauty of holiness, and you cannot define holiness any other way than God's holy law.

Then Paul adds this in Romans 8:7—*Because the carnal mind is enmity* (hatred) *against God* (listen to how he describes it) *for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be* [emphasis added]. You know someone is an enemy of Yeshua when they reject His law. The flesh will not submit to the holy law of God. We're in a world, in a generation, that that is very confused. They've been convinced that they don't need Scripture. They've been convinced that the Bible is not the template, but their own heart. Jeremiah says in Jeremiah 17:9—*“The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it?”* The heart is not a safe guideline. The Word of the LORD is what must influence us. This is how we're to receive wisdom and understanding.

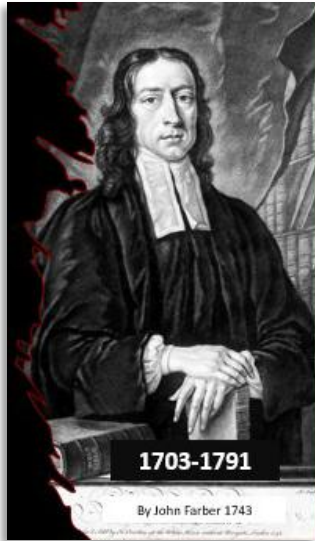


Charles Finney

To show you how much things have changed in our American society, I want to take you back to the 1800s. There was a man known as Charles Finney. I was acquainted with Charles Finney at a very young age because I grew up with Assemblies of God. I grew up in this very charismatic, Pentecostal environment, and one of the champions, very much so, of that environment is Charles Finney. This is a man that went out and stirred revival that brought in thousands. God used this man as an instrument. I want to show you how he thought. Gene was up here praying for revival, and this man did it; God used him to do radical revival that impacted the world. Listen to this man's words. Charles Finney—*“A revival is nothing else than a new beginning of obedience to God.”* That's true revival in Scripture, and you can see this all the way through the totality of the Word. Old and New Testament, it doesn't matter; that's what revival is. It's when we set your hearts to bend to the will of our Father in Heaven. When we set our hearts, we bend our will to His Word.

Listen to what he says and how he cultivated the revival: *“Evermore the Law must prepare the way for the gospel.”* (Where are the preachers that come to the pulpit and bring forth the law? There are only a few.) *“To overlook this in instructing souls is almost certain to result in false hope, the introduction of a false standard of Christian experience, and to fill the Church with false converts.”* Finney is saying that if anyone tries to do this a different way, if they try to circumvent the Holy Law of God, then this is not the one that's going to champion the cause for Christ. They will fill the church full with imposters; they will be deceived, and they will go out deceiving.

John Wesley, a little bit earlier, was known to impact the world. This is another person who was a brilliant theologian. The man had a heart for the LORD, and was a companion of Whitfield in the Holy



Club. These were two monumental men that changed the course of what we understand as history. John Wesley says this: *"Before I can preach love, mercy, and grace, I must preach sin, Law, and judgment."* This is a revival and how Christianity used to function: the result was that the law went forth. They recognized the problem; how can you get someone to appreciate the necessity of Jesus unless they understand the validity of the law? Unless they understand the reality of judgment and the impact, they won't understand the implications of sin. Nobody's going to treasure that grace and mercy that's in the Gospel.

What they're going to do is insult the Spirit of Grace, the very thing written of in Hebrews and Jude. Jude 1:4—*For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness.*

This is John Wesley's formula as a preacher of Jesus Christ: Preach 90% Law and 10% grace [emphasis added]. We're not living in Wesley's time anymore.

The law is completely and utterly rejected under the excuse of, "Because we have Jesus, we have to reject it." That's what the Devil wants us to believe. Accepting Jesus in order to reject Scripture. How does that even make sense? Yet, people are believe it; they're selling the truth and buying the lie.

John Wesley

I want to share with you a little clip of one of my indirect mentors, David Wilkerson. I want you to listen to this man because this man was anointed. This man was anointed of God and believed me; he was not popular. This man was uninvited to churches; they didn't like what he had to say. It's interesting because growing up, I used to hear the rumblings of people calling him a Jeremiah because of the rejection he faced and because of the word he brought. David Wilkerson said: *"In the last days, there will be a church that goes after forgiveness only; that is all they will preach. Come to Jesus; lay hold of Him. You can walk your own walk and talk your own talk. You can have all this and Jesus too. No holiness preaching, no separation from the world, no preaching of sanctification, no dealing with sin. The Bible says they will heap to themselves teachers having itching ears, and there are churches all over America that will give you pabulum, they'll give you candy cotton, they'll give you a gospel that makes you feel good. Don't dare go to a church where you don't have the sword of the LORD piercing into the innermost being 'til you feel the guilt of your sin."* Spoken like a true modern-day Jeremiah.



David Wilkerson

Jeremiah 26:4-5—⁴ *"And you shall say to them, 'Thus says the LORD: "If you will not listen to Me, to walk in My law which I have set before you, ⁵ to heed the words of My servants the prophets..."* [emphasis added]. *My law and the prophets*, this is the formula that you see all over the place in the New Testament. We know of Matthew 7:12 where he tells us to do unto others as we would have them do unto us; *this is the Law and the Prophets*. This is the totality that the LORD is bringing. If we don't listen

to the totality of His counsel, we're in trouble—“...*whom I sent to you, both rising up early and sending them (but you have not heeded)*” [emphasis added]. What is the problem in this vineyard? Why is it producing filthy, inedible fruit? Because they will not listen to the Word of the LORD. They would not accept Jeremiah.

Now the LORD is going to tell them what to expect. Again, remember, the Prophet Jeremiah and the things recorded are for the nations. Listen to this: Jeremiah 26:6—“*then I will make this house like Shiloh, and will make this city a curse to all the nations of the earth.*” God is saying, “If you don't bend the knee and bend the will before me, I will destroy you,” and the whole campaign of deception that the enemy tries to run against us is, “No He won't. You can go to bed at night, it's okay. You can live how you want and you're still going to inherit the Kingdom of Heaven; you're still good.” This is the idea that the enemy wants us to have.

Jeremiah 26:7-8—⁷ *So the priests and the prophets* (the vinedressers, they were entrusted with the care of the vineyard), *and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the LORD.* ⁸ *Now it happened, when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people, that the priests and the prophets and all the people seized him, saying, “You will surely die!”* [emphasis added]” How do they respond to Jeremiah? They want to kill the messenger. It's not his opinion; he's not bringing his own words. He brought them the word of the LORD. Take this in because this is life-changing. Here we had a prophet of God authentically speaking every word the LORD told them to speak, telling the people we need to return to the law? These people that Jeremiah is addressing have the law and yet they can't even recognize when the law is being presented before them.

How do we process that the Son of God is the one who is referenced in John 1:14 as *the Word became flesh*? In other words, the Torah, the law, became flesh and dwelt among us. Yet, the Pharisees and Sadducees, the priests, experts in the Torah, couldn't recognize Him. He is the Torah; how did they not recognize Him? He showed them the true Torah because they don't understand it, and they didn't understand it because they wouldn't bend their will to it. The only way we're going to gain understanding of God's Word is when we willingly humble ourselves and bend our will to Him and His law. Those people, because they didn't know the Torah, couldn't recognize Yeshua. It's a critical point that we cannot say, “I know Jesus,” but reject His Torah, His holy law. Those who do are trying to separate something that cannot be separated. The law is the character of Yeshua. It's His character, His heart, and His mind, so it cannot work both ways.

Yeshua says in John 7:7—“*The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me.*” Why does it hate Him? “*Because I testify of it that its works are evil.*” Why all the prophets are hated? Because they testify of evil; it's not a popular message. People don't want to be told they're not living in a way that God wants them to live. They want to be told, “I'm choosing to live my life, I want you to come in, put your arms around me, and justify my lifestyle, whatever that means, whatever that looks like.” If we're going to have Yeshua living within us and speaking His holy word, be prepared to be hated by the world. One of the things that the Greek philosopher Plato got right was when he said, “*No one is more hated than he who speaks truth.*” Scripture says in Psalm 119:142—*Your law is truth.*

Jeremiah shows us the depravity that God's people have fallen into. Jeremiah 6:10—*To whom shall I speak and give warning, that they may hear? Indeed their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot give heed. Behold, the word of the LORD is a reproach to them; they have no delight in it* [emphasis added]. We are dead if the Word of the LORD is not our delight. If our hearts are not burning to immerse

ourselves, we're spiritually dead and complacent. Our hearts are divided and belong to the world. If we're not driven to prayer and to the ministry of the Word, something's wrong in our spiritual life. This was the depravity of the people of God; they had no delight in His Word and didn't want to hear it.

Isaiah 30:8-9—⁸ *Now go, write it before them on a tablet, and note it on a scroll, that it may be for time to come, forever and ever:* ⁹ *That this is a rebellious people, lying children, children who will not hear the law of the LORD* [emphasis added]. We can identify a rebellious generation in Christendom, in the church, when they say, "I'm not hearing it, I'm done, I'm not listening to the law." Satan has created this negative connotation that the moment a Christian hears the term 'law,' they're running the other way. All they hear is, "You're trying to oppress me. You're trying to bring me under a curse." This is the mentality of most of modern Christianity.

Jeremiah 26:9—*Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD* (the people are not happy with Jeremiah) *saying, 'This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without an inhabitant'?* *And all the people were gathered against Jeremiah in the house of the LORD* [emphasis added]. They hate the Word of God. They're in the house of the LORD, and the Word of the LORD is being spoken, and it's offensive—They are a dead people. When God's Holy Word becomes offensive to us, we're on the wrong side.

Jeremiah 26:10-11—¹⁰ *When the princes of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king's house to the house of the LORD and sat down in the entry of the New Gate of the LORD's house.* ¹¹ *And the priests and the prophets* (i.e., the vinedressers), *spoke to the princes and all the people, saying, "This man deserves to die!"* [emphasis added]. Isn't it interesting? The vinedressers in Yeshua's day thought the very same thing of Yeshua, who was bringing the Word of the LORD. He brought the Word of the LORD in the house of the LORD, and it was offensive. *For he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your ears.*

Who else prophesied against Jerusalem? Yeshua did. This is an uncanny parallelism between Jeremiah and Yeshua. Yeshua literally spoke against Jerusalem and actually warned the people. He went to the cross and became the great savior of the world. This sacrifice hung on the cross, and what did He say? "Don't weep for Me. Weep for yourselves and for your children, because your enemies are going to surround you, and they are going to level you to the ground." How do you think those words were going to be received? Let's get this straight: Yeshua was going to come against Jerusalem? This is the very beacon of Jewish identity, of the descendants of Abraham, and He's going to make a statement like that? This is how the people viewed Jeremiah. It was appalling to them. They saw it as treasonous. They saw this as if he was committing an abomination against his own people. He was a betrayer. He was worse than a tax collector. Yet, why was the city of *Yerushalayim*, the City of the Great King, being spoken against? Because they've departed from His Law. Not even Jerusalem will stand. We should take in the weight of that.

Jeremiah 26:12-13—¹² *Then Jeremiah spoke to all the princes and all the people, saying: "The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and against this city with all the words that you have heard.* ¹³ *Now therefore, amend your ways and your doing and obey the voice of the LORD your God"* [emphasis added]. That's how we deal with the problem of sin and lawlessness; we get back on track. 2 Chronicles 7:14—*If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and if they will pray and seek My face, and if they will turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, then I'll show them mercy. I'll bring healing and heal their land.*

Isaiah 13:9—*Behold, the day of the LORD comes, cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate; and He will destroy its sinners from it* [emphasis added]. This is a declaration that He will destroy the lawless. It is written, judgment is coming; it is absolutely certain and has been declared. Is there still hope? Absolutely! Get out of lawlessness, get out of sin, and get out now because this will come to pass. As surely as it's written, and the LORD has spoken, it will happen.

Apostle Paul says this in Acts 20:21—*"...Testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our LORD Jesus Christ"* [emphasis added]. It's not either/or, that's not the true Gospel. Acts 20:21 is what the full Gospel is. It's going out preaching repentance, turning back to God's Holy Law, turning back to His commandments, and testifying that Yeshua is the Messiah and the Savior of the world. That is the full and true Gospel. When Yeshua meets His disciples after His resurrection, He sends them out and says in Luke 24:47, "Go and preach *repentance and remission of sins*." He didn't say, "Go preach just repentance." That was not His message. It was *repentance and remission of sins*. That we think that we should grab hold of the grace of God and walk in total rebellion is abhorrent.

When we read the Book of Hebrews, in Chapter 10, we're under a greater obligation than any other generation before the coming of Yeshua to walk more diligently because of the price that He paid. Because of that price, we respond in faithfulness. With this in mind, go to Revelation 14:12—*Here is the patience (the endurance) of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus* [emphasis added]. This is the message Paul preached. This is the message that John preached. It's a message that's being lost.

Jeremiah 26:13—*Now therefore, amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the LORD your God; then the LORD will relent concerning the doom that He has pronounced against you.* Hosea 10:12—*Sow for yourselves righteousness; Reap in mercy.* It changed my life and my perspective. Whoever sows righteousness will reap mercy. Take that in because that is a full-Gospel statement. It's a true response to the mercy of God. If you sow righteousness, and you'll bear fruit worthy of repentance.

Jumping ahead to Jeremiah 38:2—*Thus says the LORD: "He who remains in this city shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence; but he who goes over to the Chaldeans shall live; his life shall be as a prize to him, and he shall live"* [emphasis added]. Do you see how insane Jeremiah's words sound right now? He's telling the Jewish people who are functioning in the Temple, while *Yerushalayim* stands, to 'abandon ship' and get out of Jerusalem. Defect to a pagan, heathen nation, a nation worshipping demons. To his audience, this sounded absolutely insane. Well, it's fascinating because Yeshua preached the same message in Luke 21:20-21—²⁰ *"But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near."* ²¹ *Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.* The same message Jeremiah brought, Yeshua also brought; this is why the people thought He was Jeremiah. Continuing: *"Let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her"* [emphasis added].

Jeremiah 38:3-4—³ *Thus says the LORD: "This city shall surely be given into the hand of the king of Babylon's army, which shall take it."* ⁴ *Therefore the princes said to the king, "Please, let this man be put to death, for thus he weakens the hands of the men of war who remain in this city, and the hands of all the people, by speaking such words to them. For this man does not seek the welfare of this people, but their harm"* [emphasis added]. They were running a political campaign against Jeremiah. They were demonizing him because they hated his words. It reminds me of what we read about Elijah and Ahab. What did Ahab call Elijah, who was one of the most holy men that have ever existed? He called him a "troubler of Israel." A troubler of Israel, this is how they saw Jeremiah. Do you see a pattern throughout

Scripture? God's people, may we say, the Church, not receiving the Word of the LORD. It's this destructive pattern that we see play out over and over.

Jeremiah 38:6—*So they took Jeremiah and cast him into the dungeon of Malchiah the king's son, which was in the court of the prison, and they let Jeremiah down with ropes. And in the dungeon there was no water, but mire. So Jeremiah sank in the mire.* Jeremiah 18:18a—*Then they said, "Come and let us devise plans against Jeremiah; for the law, shall not perish from the priest."* In other words, what is being communicated here is the priests that they had on duty, who were telling them what they wanted to hear; their testimony and instructions were faithful. Their instruction was legitimate. Continuing: *...Nor counsel from the wise* (their wise men in the day, who were telling the populous not to listen to Jeremiah), *nor the word from the prophet.*

The Book of Jeremiah is filled with false prophets. There is a prophet named Ahab, not to be confused with the king. There is a prophet named Zedekiah. There is a prophet called Hananiah who went toe to toe against Jeremiah at the house of the LORD. Jeremiah had a yoke on him, and Hananiah came and broke it off and prophesied that in two years God would break the yoke of the king of Babylon off the necks of the nations. He proclaimed that everything that's been taken from the Temple would be returned. Everything would be restored in two years. It sounded good to the people. Do you see how false prophets operate? False prophets tell people what they want to hear, not what they need to hear. When judgment is at the door, there will be a cacophony of these individuals rising up, telling people what they want to hear, strengthening the hands that should be weakened, and weakening the hands that should be strengthened. These are false prophets at work.

I will tell you that our land is covered with false prophets. It is interesting to me how recently we're all listening to reports of California burning to the ground. What I find fascinating, considering how volatile this nation is, is all of this looming talk that we hear that America is going to be restored and we're going to be stronger than ever before. I want to believe that. There's nothing more that I want than to lay waste to this woke ideology that is demonic filth.

We are seeing certain things happening in the Palisades, which is the focal point of what is being considered one of the greatest catastrophes that has ever happened in America. The Palisades is burning to the ground. The media is talking about the Palisades in conjunction with the Santa Ana winds, blowing up to 70 to 100 miles an hour. Do you know what *palisades* actually means? It means 'defense walls.' Do you know that when you go to Scripture, you see that when God brings judgment, He brings an east wind? Here you have this unbelievable east wind that is making headlines all over the world, coming in and burning the Palisades, the defense walls, to the ground.

There are things happening prophetically that I think we need to be awakened to. All we need to see is the debauchery, the depravity and the immorality in the pulpits. We don't even have to go outside of the church today to find depravity. That is exactly the context of Jeremiah's words—total depravity in the house of the LORD. Total depravity amongst the believers, the vinedressers. These are the ones that are supposed to be delivering the Holy Word of God, but they're totally compromised. There is no true faith in them.

Jeremiah 18:18—*Come and let us attack him with the tongue* (in a smear campaign) *and let us not give heed to any of his words* [emphasis added]. They're not Jeremiah's words. Aren't we told that before the LORD does anything, He brings His prophets? The problem is that historically they hated the prophets because they're said things the people didn't want to hear. What they wanted to hear was that

they were going to be set free; they were to going to be at liberty and be blessed. Their Jerusalem was going to operate as it has always functioned. That was the beacon of their identity, and didn't want anyone coming against them or the things they loved.

Proverbs 13:13—*He who despises the word will be destroyed, but he who fears the commandment will be rewarded* [emphasis added]. That's the Gospel truth. Don't believe anything else that comes against this. If you despise the Word of the LORD and reject it, you will be destroyed. That's why the Christians in Matthew Chapter 7 are expecting to get into the Kingdom, and He says (Matthew 7:23), *"Depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!"* They despised His Word. That day is coming faster than people know. How soon the LORD's return is coming soon.

One of the things I was talking about in prayer this morning was that Jerusalem in Revelation Chapter 11 is called Sodom, and in our lifetime, only in the last couple of years, have they had gay parades come in. Sodomites come in and parade in Jerusalem, the 'City of the Great King.' For Jerusalem to be called Sodom, that should be a sobering thought in itself, but for us to be alive to see it is something amazing. Many Jews in Jerusalem weep over this. They'll appalled and abhorred that these things came into their city, but this is the time we're living in. We're living in the times mentioned in the Book of Revelation right now, so it's no time to be lax. There's nothing else for us to do but go back to the Bible. Go back to what some of you learned at the same age I did, at seven. I will stand alone on the Word of God. Amen.

[Closing prayer]

"Abba Father, Your Word is *living and powerful and sharper, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and it alone is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart* (Hebrews 4:12). The greatest, the most deceiving thing on planet Earth is our own heart, and yet Your Word can come and organize and clarify and bring total revelation to truth. And Abba Father, where we're at right now, in these last days, and how soon the return of Jesus is, LORD, I pray You send Your Holy Spirit because we're nothing apart from it. Send Your Spirit out and enter into the hearts of man. Give us understanding. Give us wisdom. Give us a passion for the Gospel of Yeshua. Give us a passion where all day long we are not satisfied unless we're meditating on You, unless we're praising You, unless we're thanking You, unless we're on our knees, and unless we're fasting. And now is the time You are calling Your people because judgment is about to become a very tangible thing.

So, LORD, we pray that You move, You increase our faith. Increase our faith because we need to be Peters to get out of the boat and walk on water. That we won't look to the left or to the right as the storm wells up, but we will keep our eyes on Yeshua, *the way, the truth, and the life* (John 14:6), *the author and finisher of our faith* (Hebrews 12:2), *the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End* (Revelation 1:8).

And so we thank you, LORD. We give You all the praise and glory. We pray this in the mighty name of Yeshua. Amen."