

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What caused the people to persecute Jeremiah when he brought words of prophecy from God? Are people any different today?
2. Why did God ask Jeremiah to buy a field that he was going to lose anyway? (imagine yourself in a similar situation).
3. Was God too severe in His judgment towards Israel? Did God warn them about the consequences of their sin?
4. How do many unconverted people look upon God today?

SUMMARY:

God had already revealed to Jeremiah that Israel was to be taken into captivity and the country made desolate. Yet now God requested that he buy property and make record of his purchase. Isn't this somewhat irregular? Nevertheless, Jeremiah obeyed, and after all had been recorded only then did God reveal that the people would be delivered and could return back to their own property.

This is a rich lesson concerning God's judgment for sin, but more important, His mercy and compassion toward repentant sinners. God still has this same two-fold message today.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #3

April 21, 2013

Second Quarter

JEREMIAH DEMONSTRATES FAITH

LESSON TEXT: *Jeremiah 32:1-15, 36-44*

LESSON SETTING: Jeremiah is imprisoned in Judah in the days of King Zedekiah.

TIME: Approximately 590 B. C.

I. FAITH TESTED Jeremiah 32:1-5

- A. Persecution (vs. 2) Psalm 119:86, 157; 143:3; Jeremiah 15:15
- B. Imprisonment (vs. 3) Jeremiah 37:15; 38:6; Lamentations 3:53

II. FAITH DEMONSTRATED Jeremiah 32:6-15

- A. Instruction from God (vs. 6-7) Isaiah 30:21; Deuteronomy 32:11-12
- B. Jeremiah Obeys (vs. 9) Exodus 19:5; Revelation 22:14
- C. Proof of Obedience (vs. 10-14)

III. FAITH CONFIRMED Jeremiah 32:36-44

- A. Confirmation of Prophecy (vs. 36) Jeremiah 39:1-8
- B. Promise of Return (vs. 37) Isaiah 11:11; Zephaniah 3:20; Zechariah 10:10
- C. Promise of Regeneration (vs. 39) Ezekiel 36:26; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 Peter 1:23
- D. Promise of Blessing (vs. 41-42) Isaiah 30:23; Malachi 3:10

GOLDEN TEXT: *BEHOLD, I AM THE LORD, THE GOD OF ALL FLESH: IS THERE ANYTHING TOO HARD FOR ME?*

Jeremiah 32:27

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Ezekiel 3:1-27

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Revelation 21:1-29; 3:1-22

QUARTERLY THEME: God's People in Captivity

TOPIC: EZEKIEL, PROPHET OF THE EXILE

INTRODUCTION:

It is very interesting to note how God spoke to Ezekiel. It may have only been with a still small voice, but there was no doubt about it being the voice of God. We today can hear that same still small voice if we are totally yielded to Him. We must seek out a quiet place. It is sure we will not hear His voice while being seated in front of a TV or while listening to the radio. We must seek a quiet place.

God's instruction was so positive that Ezekiel obeyed immediately. God told him that he was to be a watchman and if he did not warn, then the blood of the people would be on him. However, if he warned them of sin and judgment and they refused to turn to God they would be solely responsible.

God speaks these same words to us even today. He holds all believers responsible for making the Gospel known to others. We want to choose our own way of witnessing, or perhaps we are ashamed or fearful of speaking out for Christ. God has chosen the way and will not accept timidity. We must let wayward souls know of their waywardness. When God gives us opportunity to witness and we fail to do it, we will be required to give an account for that soul. If however, we do speak out and if that person rejects the message or rebels even against us, then he alone is responsible.

May we never minimize our responsibility in our calling as Christians!

CENTRAL TRUTH: God has made us responsible to deliver the message of the gospel to those around us.

GOLDEN TEXT: *I HAVE MADE THEE A WATCHMAN UNTO THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL: THEREFORE HEAR THE WORD AT MY MOUTH AND GIVE THEM WARNING FROM ME.* Ezekiel 3:17

So often people today want to "dispensationalize" God's Word. In other words they would say "this Golden Text belongs to the Jews" or "that was Old Testament times." In the New Testament, "that was for the Romans," or "the Corinthians" until finally very little is left that would apply to us today. We must awake to the fact that ALL scripture was written for our admonition (I Corinthians 10:11) that we should not fall into the same ways as those who have gone before us. So we need to take this message as though God were speaking to us today.

Ezekiel had a special message to be a watchman to Israel and to warn them. We today have a special message to be a watchman to the church and to the world to warn them of God's judgment for sin. We see the world continually rebelling against God and sinning. How can they know if we do not warn them? Likewise we may see Christians living rather loose lives. How especially important that we seek to lead such ones back into a close walk with God.

All too often we hear, "well that's the ministers' job." Remember all believers are to be watchmen, and this includes you! You may see things no one else has seen!

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF April 22 – 28

M. God Warns Adam. Genesis 2:8-17

T. Moses Admonishes Israel. Deuteronomy 4:1-13

W. Elijah Preaches to Ahab. 1 Kings 21:17-24

T. *A Watchman's Warning. Ezekiel 3:1-27

F. Jonah Preaches to Nineveh. Jonah 3:1-10

S. Christ Teaches About His Coming. Matthew 24:36-51

S. John Writes About Christ's Return. Revelation 22:8-21

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