

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!
NOTES FOR THIS WEEK: 2/15-16/2021
THIS WEEK'S STUDY: *Jeremiah Chapters 21-22*

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS112, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).
THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340

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OPENING PRAYER – Introduction Jeremiah Chapters 21 & 22

Jer 21:8 "Now you shall say to this people, 'Thus says the LORD: "Behold, I set before you the way of life and the way of death.

I SPEAK JESUS (5:25)

I just want to speak the name of Jesus Over every heart and every mind

'Cause I know there is peace within your presence I speak Jesus

I just want to speak the name of Jesus Till every dark addiction starts to break

Declaring there is hope and there is freedom I speak Jesus

'Cause your name is power Your name is healing Your name is life

Break every stronghold Shine through the shadows Burn like a fire

I just want to speak the name of Jesus Over fear and all anxiety

To every soul held captive by depression I speak Jesus

Your name is power Your name is healing Your name is life

Break every stronghold Shine through the shadows Burn like the fire

Shout Jesus from the mountains Jesus in the streets

Jesus in the darkness over every enemy Jesus for my family I speak the holy name Jesus (2x)

Shout Jesus from the mountains And Jesus in the streets

Jesus in the darkness over every enemy Jesus for my family

I speak the holy name Jesus

Your name is power Your name is healing Your name is life

Break every stronghold Shine through the shadows Burn like a fire (2x)

I just want to speak the name of Jesus Over every heart and every mind

'Cause I know there is peace within his presence I speak Jesus

THIS WEEK'S STUDY:

Jerusalem's Doom is Sealed (vs. 1-10); Message to the House of David (vs. 11- 22:10);

Message to the Sons of Josiah (vs. 11-23). Message to Coniah (vs. 24-30).

King Josiah - Jer. begins his ministry 13 th yr, about 627 BC	640-609BC	Good king	31	son of Amon; mother: Jedidiah daughter of Adaiah of Bozkath	2 Kgs 21:26 – 23:30; 2Ch 33:25-35:27
King Jehoahaz (also called Shallum)	609 BC	Bad king	3 mos.	son of Josiah; mother: Hamutal daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah	2 Kgs 23:30-34; 2Ch 36:1-4
King Jehoiakim (name changed from Eliakim to Jehoiakim by Pharaoh Necho, probably reflects vassal status)	609-598 BC	Bad	11	Son of Josiah; brother of Eliakim/Jehoahaz; mother: Zebidah daughter of Pedaiah of Rumah	2 Kgs 23:34 – 24:6; 2Ch 36:5-8
King Jehoiachin (also known as <i>Coniah</i> ; called <i>Jechoniah</i> in some translations)	598-597 BC	Bad	3 mos.	son of Jehoiakim; mother: Nehusta daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem	2 Kgs 24:6-17 2Ch 36:8-10
King Zedekiah (name changed from Mattaniah to Zedekiah by King Neb. probably reflects vassal status)	597-586 BC	Bad	11	son of Josiah; paternal uncle of Jehoiachin; mother: Hamutal daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah (mother of King Jehoahaz)	2 Kgs 24:17 – 25:30 2Ch 36:10-13; Jer 52:1-3; 37-39;

Note: Josiah had four sons - (**1Ch 3:15**) *The sons of Josiah were Johanan the firstborn, the second Jehoiakim, the third Zedekiah, and the fourth Shallum (Jehoahaz)*

- **There is a jump in time, from the end of *Jer 20* to the start of *Jer 21***, of about 10 years. *Jer 20* ended in the 11 year reign of *Jehoiakim* (598BC), the third son of *Josiah*, *Jer 21* fast-forward, about 10 years, nearing the end of reign of *Zedekiah*, about 588-587BC, to the time when Babylonian armies are in Judah and Jerusalem is being besieged for 18 months.
- **About 17 years before this** Nebuchadnezzar first came to Jerusalem in the reign of King *Jehoiakim* and subjugated the city and took captives from the best and the brightest of Judah, such as Daniel (about 605 BC, first deportation).
- **About 10 years before this**, Nebuchadnezzar came again in the reign of King *Coniah* (*Jeconiah*, *Jehoiachin*) and carried away the treasures of Jerusalem taking more captives (such as Ezekiel), and he deposed *Coniah* (about 598 BC, second deportation). He then put *Zedekiah* on the throne as a puppet king.
- **By the time of *Jer 21*, King *Zedekiah*'s reign (597-586) was almost over**; Nebuchadnezzar returned a third time to destroy the city of Jerusalem and carry away the remaining people of Judah (about 586 BC). *Zedekiah*'s older brothers *Jehoahaz* and *Jehoiakim* (and his nephew *Coniah*) reigned before him.

Jer 21:1 The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD when King Zedekiah sent to him Pashhur the son of Melchiah, and Zephaniah the son of Maaseiah, the priest, saying,

- **This is a different Pashhur from the previous chapter.** In the previous chapter *Pashhur* was the son of Immer, this is *Pashhur* the son of *Melchiah* and *Zephaniah* the son of *Maaseiah*. These two fellows were sent by king *Zedekiah*. They were sent to Jeremiah secretly the Jeremiah might inquire of the LORD as to the outcome of the battle with Nebuchadnezzar.

Jer 21:2 "Please inquire of the LORD for us, for Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon makes war against us. Perhaps the LORD will deal with us according to all His wonderful works, that the king may go away from us."

- ***Zedekiah* is hoping that maybe he will get a good word from the LORD.** Maybe the LORD will speak that He is going to work wondrously and defeat *Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon* who has invaded the land. At this time, *Babylon* is beginning to besiege the city of Jerusalem. They came to Jeremiah, "We want to hear from the LORD, what is going to be the outcome?" Jeremiah was not popular with the king or with the people because he told them the truth. We, as well, will not be popular with the world as we tell the truth of the gospel!

Jer 21:3 Then Jeremiah said to them, "Thus you shall say to Zedekiah,

Jer 21:4 'Thus says the LORD God of Israel: "Behold, I will turn back the weapons of war that are in your hands, with which you fight against the king of Babylon and the Chaldeans who besiege you outside the walls; and I will assemble them in the midst of this city.

- **I will not turn back *Nebuchadnezzar* but the weapons of war that are in your hands!** They will come on in to the midst of the city. The Babylonians would not only *besiege* Jerusalem, but they would also breach the walls and be *in the midst of the city*.

Jer 21:5 I Myself will fight against you with an outstretched hand and with a strong arm, even in anger and fury and great wrath.

Jer 21:6 I will strike the inhabitants of this city, both man and beast; they shall die of a great pestilence.

- ***I Myself will fight against you...*** Judah would not only have to fight against the Babylonians, but they would also have to *fight against* the LORD, Himself. He would *fight against* them, *even in anger and fury and great wrath*.
- ***I will strike the inhabitants of this city, both man and beast! They shall die of a great pestilence:*** War would not be the only cause of death in the devastation to come. Many would also die under disease and *pestilence*. Whenever the cities were besieged the water supplies

would run low. With the shortage of food there would come cholera and all kinds of diseases and pestilence. Many people would die from the *pestilence* while the city was under siege.

Jer 21:7 And afterward," says the LORD, "I will deliver Zedekiah king of Judah, his servants and the people, and such as are left in this city from the pestilence and the sword and the famine, into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, into the hand of their enemies, and into the hand of those who seek their life; and he shall strike them with the edge of the sword. He shall not spare them, or have pity or mercy." ' (second longest verse in Bible behind Est 8:9)

- **The prophecy is that Zedekiah is to be taken as a captive** and these people that have survived the siege. Now under the siege there will be those that will die from famine, from the diseases and from the sword. The rest that are left will be taken as captives by *Nebuchadnezzar*.
- **According to Josephus, because Jeremiah had predicted that Zedekiah was going to be taken as a captive to Babylon, whereas Ezekiel, had prophesied that Zedekiah would never see Babylon.** Zedekiah interpreted that as the prophets contradicting themselves and thus he did not believe them according to Josephus. One prophet saying he would never see *Babylon* and another saying he was going to be carried away to *Babylon*. And they were both speaking in the name of the Lord. What happened?
- **When the city of Jerusalem fell to Nebuchadnezzar, Zedekiah and his family were brought to Nebuchadnezzar, who killed Zedekiah's sons right before his eyes. Then he put out Zedekiah's eyes. He gouged them out. And then took him to Babylon.** Ezekiel's prophecy was fulfilled! He never saw *Babylon* because his eyes were put out. But Jeremiah's prophecy was also fulfilled! He was taken as a captive to *Babylon*. Thus, seemingly conflicting prophecies came together in that they were both fulfilled. He did go as a captive to Babylon, but he never saw Babylon.

Jer 21:8 "Now you shall say to this people, 'Thus says the LORD: "Behold, I set before you the way of life and the way of death. (Deu 30:15, 19) "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, [19] I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before your life and death, blessing, and cursing; therefore, choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;

Jer 21:9 He who remains in this city shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence; but he who goes out and defects to the Chaldeans who besiege you, he shall live, and his life shall be as a prize to him.

- **God says, "I give you the choice, life or death.** Stay in the city and resist and you are going to die. Go out and surrender and you will live." Because of this they accused Jeremiah of being a traitor, of de-moralizing the people who were trying to defend the city. He was suggesting that they capitulate, that they surrender to save their lives. Notice that God said, **"I set before you the way of life and the way of death."** That seems to be perennial. God sets before man *the way of life and the way of death*.
- **In the Garden of Eden, God set before Adam and Eve the way of life and the way of death.** There were two trees in the garden, the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, and the Tree of Life. One promised death and the other promised life! God set before them life and death. Adam was given the choice of which to eat from. Why in the world do you suppose he would eat of the tree of *death* before he ate of the tree of *life*? Poor choice!
- **But, lest we fault Adam for his choice we must realize today that God is still giving to man the choice of life or death.** Life in Jesus Christ, it is your choice. You can have eternal life. You can receive Jesus Christ as your Savior. Your sins will be forgiven. And you can receive eternal life.
- **Or you can reject to Jesus Christ and go on in your sin and the wages of your sin is death.** Today, the same offer - Eternal *life* in Christ or *death* in your sins. There is not one good reason to choose *death* over *life* and yet men do it! Adam chose the path of death and many are following Adam. Jesus said, (**Joh 14:6**) *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.* In (**Eze 33:11**) *Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'*

God is urging people to choose life but there must be the choice. God will not violate that choice that He has given to you. You can choose to die in your sins if you wish. God will allow you to make that choice, but He also offers you the choice of *life*.

Jer 21:10 For I have set My face against this city for adversity and not for good," says the LORD. "It shall be given into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall burn it with fire." '

- **That did happen!** Jeremiah was speaking God's truth. And what God said did take place. The city did fall to Babylon. They did burn it with fire, and they did kill all of those who sought to defend the city.

Message to the House of David

Jer 21:11 "And concerning the house of the king of Judah, say, 'Hear the word of the LORD,

Jer 21:12 O house of David! Thus says the LORD: "Execute judgment in the morning; And deliver him who is plundered Out of the hand of the oppressor, Lest My fury go forth like fire And burn so that no one can quench it, Because of the evil of your doings.

Jer 21:13 "Behold, I am against you, O inhabitant of the valley (Jerusalem), And rock of the plain," says the LORD, "Who say, 'Who shall come down against us? Or who shall enter our dwellings?'

- ***Execute judgment in the morning; and deliver him who is plundered:*** God called *the house of David* – the king and royal family of Judah – to faithfully do their job in leading the kingdom. One of the basic responsibilities God has appointed to civil government is the application and execution of justice (***Rom 13:1-7***). God commanded them to fulfill their responsibility – with the strong implication that they had not done so.
- ***Lest My fury go forth like fire and burn so that no one can quench it:*** If they did not radically repent, judgment was certain – and would come *like fire*.
- ***Who shall come down against us:*** God said He was *against* those who felt safe and secure despite the coming judgment? Though they felt safe and secure as a *rock of the plain*, judgment was coming.

Jer 21:14 But I will punish you according to the fruit of your doings," says the LORD; "I will kindle a fire in its forest, And it shall devour all things around it."

- **This is always true!** God punishes a person *according to the fruit* of their *doings*. God is absolutely just and fair in His punishment and His judgment. And *according to the fruit of your doings* God will deal with you.
- **God's repeated declaration of judgment and the reason, according to the fruit of their doings.** They were still in this state of almost being wiped out, still being corrupt. You would think that there would be a mass repentance. That all the people would have proclaimed a fast and days of prayer and let us wait upon God and let's seek God for His help that He might deliver us from the hand of the enemy that is about to destroy us. You would think that with all these pending judgments, but they would not! Therefore, they are going to be punished according to *the fruit of their doings*. It is a mistake for a nation to forsake God as Israel forsook her God. It is a mistake for a nation to take up other gods as we have taken up other gods!

Chapter 22:

- **Jeremiah is going to prophesy concerning three of the last kings of Judah. Shallum (Jehoahaz)** is the first of the three kings. Josiah's son, ***Shallum***, was twenty-three years old when his father was killed in the battle. He began an evil reign, not as his father, but he turned completely to wickedness! He reigned for only three months. He was taken captive to Egypt.
- **Pharaoh then put his older brother, Jehoiakim, on the throne**, who was to pay tribute as demanded to Egypt. He reigned for eleven years.
- **Upon the death of Jehoiakim, his son, Coniah, (Also called Jehoiachin, Jechoniah); (Je-Yah; choniah – will establish), or as called here, Coniah** (without God), reigned for only three months. He also was evil as his father had been. He was captured by ***Nebuchadnezzar*** and taken as a captive with his family and his mother to Babylon where he died. Those are the three kings

that we will be dealing with in this chapter. The two sons of Josiah. Then the grandson of *Josiah, Coniah*, the third of these three kings.

Jer 22:1 Thus says the LORD: "Go down to the house of the king of Judah, and there speak this word,

- **Again, we have the LORD speaking directly to Jeremiah.** It is interesting how the word of the LORD would come to Jeremiah and how precise and explicit were the commands of the LORD to him. Wouldn't it be great if we had that kind of a communication where God could speak as clearly to us?

Jer 22:2 and say, 'Hear the word of the LORD, O king of Judah, you who sit on the throne of David, you and your servants and your people who enter these gates!

- **Jeremiah is commanding the king,** his counsel, the people that are there to hear the word of the LORD. Now, the fact of the matter is that they did not listen. They had closed their ear to the word of the LORD. At the end of the chapter, we find Jeremiah saying, ***"Oh earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the LORD."*** No one will listen so he cries to the *earth* to hear the word of the LORD. But here the command is to the king and to his servants to hear the word of the LORD.

Jer 22:3 Thus says the LORD: "Execute judgment and righteousness, and deliver the plundered out of the hand of the oppressor. Do no wrong and do no violence to the stranger, the fatherless, or the widow, nor shed innocent blood in this place.

- ***Execute judgment and righteousness...deliver the plundered... Do no wrong and do no violence... nor shed innocent blood in this place.*** God's demand is not harsh or difficult. What God is saying is just be fair. The judicial system had become corrupted. There was not any real true execution of justice. The evil people were getting by with their evil. The court system had become so corrupted that the evil was not being punished. The honest people were getting really a bad deal, much like our litigious land today.

Jer 22:4 For if you indeed do this thing, then shall enter the gates of this house, riding on horses and in chariots, accompanied by servants and people, kings who sit on the throne of David.

- **If you will just be fair, have an honest government, do what is right, take care** of the weak, and the widows, then you will be able to ride on your chariots and you will be able to maintain the nation. The kingdom will go on. You will be preserved.

Jer 22:5 But if you will not hear these words, I swear by Myself," says the LORD, "that this house shall become a desolation."

- **God is not laying a heavy thing on them.** He is very fair and the rewards of doing it are great. You will be able to maintain you position as king. But if you do not though, God says that He will swear by Myself, there is no one higher! But their corruption continued. They did nothing to correct the corruption and thus the kingdom fell. God promised that if they would just correct the corruption that He would prolong them, that He would take care of them. How merciful He is!

Jer 22:6 For thus says the LORD to the house of the king of Judah: "You are (beautiful), Gilead to Me, The head of Lebanon; Yet I surely will make you a wilderness, Cities which are not inhabited.

- **Gilead was over on the far side of the Jordan River** by the Jabbok River that comes into the Jordan. It was a beautiful partially wooded area. Lebanon was famed for the cedars, the beautiful forests of Lebanon. God said, "You are like Lebanon to Me." A beautiful forest.

Jer 22:7 I will prepare destroyers against you, Everyone with his weapons; They shall cut down your choice cedars And cast them into the fire.

Jer 22:8 And many nations will pass by this city; and everyone will say to his neighbor, 'Why has the LORD done so to this great city?'

- **Jerusalem, that great city, the palace of the king made of cedars,** going to be burned to the ground. And when people see the ruins of it as they walked by it they will say, "Why did God do this to this great city?" ***I will prepare destroyers against you:*** God emphasized the point that He

would **not fight for them** against the Babylonians. Instead, **He would fight against them**, preparing the soldiers Himself.

- **Why has the LORD done so to this great city?** Jeremiah pictured the people of the nation's seeing the destruction of Jerusalem and wondering why. Were these not the people of God? Was the God of Israel weaker than the god of the Babylonians?

Jer 22:9 Then they will answer, 'Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD their God, and worshiped other gods and served them.' "

- **The answer to the question of the nations was simple.** It was because Judah departed from the LORD, forsaking their covenant with Him. Their idolatry led to this destruction. **The desolation is going to come**, and the reason is given.

Jer 22:10 Weep not for the dead, nor bemoan him; Weep bitterly for him who goes away, For he shall return no more, Nor see his native country.

- **Rather, weep bitterly for him who is exiled, because he will never return nor see his native land again**, because all Jews want to be buried in their homeland, Israel!

Message to the Sons of Josiah

Jer 22:11 For thus says the LORD concerning Shallum the son of Josiah, king of Judah, who reigned instead of Josiah his father, who went from this place: 'He shall not return here anymore,

Jer 22:12 but he shall die in the place where they have led him captive, and shall see this land no more.

- **Josiah was a good and popular king.** When he died in the battle at Megiddo, there was great mourning for him among the people. His son **Shallum (Jehoahaz)** had taken the throne. He will reign for only three months. The Pharaoh came and took him as a captive unto Egypt and he is not going to come back. Jeremiah said not to weep for his father, he is dead, but weep for his son he is going to be in a living hell there in Egypt. He is going to be taken captive, he will not come back. He is being carried away as a captive.

Jer 22:13 'Woe to him (Jehoiakim) who builds his house by unrighteousness And his chambers by injustice, Who uses his neighbor's service without wages And gives him nothing for his work,

Jer 22:14 Who says, 'I will build myself a wide house with spacious chambers, And cut out windows for it, Paneling it with cedar And painting it with vermilion.'

- **When he died his brother, Jehoiakim, who was two years older, was made king by the Pharaoh.** He will reign for eleven years. **Jehoiakim** was evil! He immediately decided to build this beautiful palace for himself, even though it was a time of economic woe in Judah. Also being so corrupt, he does not pay his workers' wages, while forcing them to build them this beautiful, elaborate, house!
- **Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness:** In the custom of Israel's prophets, Jeremiah confronted **Jehoiakim** for his greed and injustice. He said that he and others of the house of David were guilty of; **Unrighteousness** and **injustice**; Cheating working men (**gives him nothing for his work**); Selfish and indulgent luxury (**I will build myself a wide house with spacious chambers**); Presumption (**Shall you reign because you enclose yourself in cedar?**); Not following the good examples of their forefathers (**Did not your father eat and drink and do justice and righteousness?**).

Jer 22:15 'Shall you reign because you enclose yourself in cedar? Did not your father eat and drink, And do justice and righteousness? Then it was well with him.

- **His father was Josiah, a good king.** He turned the hearts of the people back to the LORD. He refurbished the temple, he remodeled the temple, and he was a good king. And the LORD reminds him of his father. Your father was a good man. He did judgment, and he was just, and **it was well with him.**

Jer 22:16 He judged the cause of the poor and needy; Then it was well. Was not this knowing Me?" says the LORD.

- **Was not this knowing Me?** Jeremiah called upon **Jehoiakim** to remember his father **Josiah**, who enjoyed a modest life as a king and did **justice and righteousness**, evidence of **knowing** God, not

fancy palaces. He knew the LORD and he did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and he was blessed upon the throne

Jer 22:17 "Yet your eyes and your heart are for nothing but your covetousness, For shedding innocent blood, And practicing oppression and violence."

- **The indictments of God against this wicked king Jehoiakim.** He was taking advantage of people. He was covetousness, he was out for himself. He was taking advantage of his position in enriching himself. And one of those evil rulers was only out to rip the people off, instead of knowing God they knew greed, violence, and injustice. They were indeed ripe for judgment.

Jer 22:18 Therefore thus says the LORD concerning Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah: "They shall not lament for him, Saying, 'Alas, my brother!' or 'Alas, my sister!' They shall not lament for him, Saying, 'Alas, master!' or 'Alas, his glory!'"

- **When Jehoiakim dies people are not going to be sad.** He is a wicked man. He has oppressed the people. He has been a bad leader and thus upon his death there is not going to be any mourning, much like there has been when Herod the Great died. There will be no real lamenting for *Jehoiakim* at his death. People are not going to be sad or weeping or mourning as they did for his father *Josiah*.

Jer 22:19 He shall be buried with the burial of a donkey, Dragged and cast out beyond the gates of Jerusalem. (Jer 36:1,2,21,23,24,30, 31) Now it came to pass in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, that this word came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying: [2] "Take a scroll of a book and write on it all the words that I have spoken to you against Israel, against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spoke to you, from the days of Josiah even to this day. [21] So the king sent Jehudi to bring the scroll, and he took it from Elishama the scribe's chamber. And Jehudi read it in the hearing of the king and in the hearing of all the princes who stood beside the king. [23] And it happened, when Jehudi had read three or four columns, that the king cut it with the scribe's knife and cast it into the fire that was on the hearth, until all the scroll was consumed in the fire that was on the hearth. [24] Yet they were not afraid, nor did they tear their garments, the king nor any of his servants who heard all these words. [30] Therefore thus says the LORD concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah: "He shall have no one to sit on the throne of David, and his dead body shall be cast out to the heat of the day and the frost of the night. [31] I will punish him, his family, and his servants for their iniquity; and I will bring on them, on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and on the men of Judah all the doom that I have pronounced against them; but they did not heed." (IKi 2:4b) 'If your sons take heed to their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul,' He said, 'you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'

- **Because of Jehoiakim's actions God is cutting off the kingly line to any of Jehoiakim's descendants.** He will be shamed at his death as he will not have any royal kind of a burial. His body will just lie out in the field to rot like *a donkey* when it dies. When Jehoiakim was killed in battle, his body was left unburied in the fields to rot, as the prophet declared he would be.

Jer 22:20 "Go up to Lebanon, and cry out, And lift up your voice in Bashan; Cry from Abarim, For all your lovers are destroyed.

Jer 22:21 I spoke to you in your prosperity, But you said, 'I will not hear.' This has been your manner from your youth, That you did not obey My voice.

- **Many times, in a period of prosperity, people turn their hearts from the LORD.** They do not listen to God. They do not feel a need of God. They have come now to trust in their riches. How we need to be aware of that. Is this not what has happened to our country?

Jer 22:22 The wind shall eat up all your rulers, And your lovers shall go into captivity; Surely then you will be ashamed and humiliated For all your wickedness

- **From the time of his youth, Jehoiakim was going his own way.** He did not take consideration of God or make a place for God in his life, he would not obey the voice of God. This was so true of Israel as well. God's people had much blessing and *prosperity* in their land. In many of those years of *prosperity*, God spoke to them, but they refused to listen.
- **This is one of the great weaknesses and tragedies of the human condition.** In *prosperity* we often refuse to listen to God and He only has our attention in seasons of woe. Nevertheless, better

to hear God in our woe than to never hear and respond to Him at all. We need to be on guard in our area of prosperity!

Jer 22:23 O inhabitant of Lebanon, Making your nest in the cedars, How gracious will you be when pangs come upon you, Like the pain of a woman in labor?

- ***Jehoiakim's palace was lined with these cedars.*** This a reference to this beautiful palace that he had built in Jerusalem. You make your nest in the *cedars, cedars from Lebanon*.
- ***Like the pain of a woman in labor.*** You are going to face a horrible death. Living now in luxury not listening to the voice of God. Not really concerned with the things of God but as sure as a woman who is going to have a baby is in travail, in pain so shall you be when you are facing death.

Jer 22:24 "As I live," says the LORD, "though Coniah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, were the signet on My right hand, yet I would pluck you off;

- ***Coniah,*** followed in the steps of his father's wickedness! He was just eighteen years old when he began to reign, but he reigned for only three months, and did much evil in the sight of the LORD. Now, the LORD said concerning him, though he were ***the signet on My right hand***, or the signet ring, which the king wore as a sign and used as a seal of his position and power. God has set Himself against this king ***Coniah*** or ***Jechoiachin***, promising judgment to come.

Jer 22:25 and I will give you into the hand of those who seek your life, and into the hand of those whose face you fear—the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and the hand of the Chaldeans.

- ***The Babylonians had already come.*** They were besieging the city of Jerusalem. His father, Josiah, had gone out from the city to face them in battle and was killed. ***Coniah*** took over in Jerusalem, but the conditions are bad. The siege is still on. Naturally, there was fear in his heart concerning the Babylonians. And the LORD is declaring that He is going to turn him over to the Babylonians.

Jer 22:26 So I will cast you out, and your mother who bore you, into another country where you were not born; and there you shall die.

- ***The prophecy is that he is going to be captured by the Babylonians and carried away*** by them to another country where he will die. It is true that he reigned for three months and the Babylonian army came, and they captured him, and they took the city of Jerusalem and much spoil with them and many captives. He was carried as a captive to ***Babylon*** and ***Nebuchadnezzar*** appointed ***Zedekiah*** to reign on the throne in his stead. So, the prophecy against ***Coniah*** was fulfilled. He and his mother Nehushta were taken to Babylon where they died.

Jer 22:27 But to the land to which they desire to return, there they shall not return.

- ***The Jewish people always longed to return to Jerusalem,*** but He said that you are not going to.

Jer 22:28 "Is this man Coniah a despised, broken idol—A vessel in which is no pleasure? Why are they cast out, he and his descendants, And cast into a land which they do not know?"

- ***Is this man Coniah a despised, broken idol:*** God was not pleased. He was not fulfilling the purpose of his existence. God pronounces that he is going to be cast out, he and his descendants. The people who had seen his good grandfather, ***Josiah*** pass away, were, ready to adore ***Coniah*** when they saw him upon the throne, but now ***he is a despised broken idol***, which, when it was whole, was worshipped, but, when it is rotten and broken, is thrown by and despised, and nobody regards it, or remembers what it has been. God declares of him that he is a vessel in whom there is no pleasure.

Jer 22:29 O earth, earth, earth (O land! unhappy land! desolated land!) Hear the judgment of the Lord! Hear the word of the LORD!

- ***This was a strong, unique, and solemn introduction to a vow or promise of God.*** Let all the inhabitants of the world take notice of these judgments of God upon a nation and a family that had been near and dear to Him, inferring that God is impartial in the administration of justice. It could be an appeal to the earth itself on which we tread, since those that dwell on earth are so deaf and careless, being swallowed up in those things and are strongly pursuing of them; such have need to be called upon again and again, and a third time, to ***hear the word of the Lord***. Or it could be a call to men considered as mortal, of the earth, and hastening to the earth again.

Jer 22:30 Thus says the LORD: 'Write this man down as childless, A man who shall not prosper in his days; For none of his descendants shall prosper, Sitting on the throne of David, And ruling anymore in Judah.' (1Ch 28:5, 6) And of all my sons (for the LORD has given me many sons) He has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the LORD over Israel. [6] Now He said to me, 'It is your son Solomon who shall build My house and My courts; for I have chosen him to be My son, and I will be his Father. (Jer 36:31) I will punish him (Jehoiakim), his family, and his servants for their iniquity; and I will bring on them, on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and on the men of Judah all the doom that I have pronounced against them; but they did not heed.'

- ***Coniah, you are at the end of the kingly line! Because of what you father Jehoiakim has done, none of your descendants will sit on the throne or rule in Judah. God pronounced the end of Coniah's prosperity as far as ruling over the nation, that none of his seed, his descendants, shall reign on the throne. So how can the Messiah, Jesus come from the Davidic line of kings, as prophesied?***
- ***Matthew's gospel gives to us Jesus' legal genealogy through Joseph, the husband of Mary. Matthew's genealogy includes Jehoiachin but shows only who Jesus' legal father was, not his natural one.***
- ***Luke traces Jesus' parental line through Nathan, a son of David, not through Solomon. We find that Joseph is a descendant of Coniah, whose line is cut off. So, if Jesus were indeed the son of Joseph he could not lay claim to the throne of David, It would be because of the curse upon the house of Coniah, that none of his seed shall reign on the throne.***
- ***Luke's gospel chapter 3 gives us the genealogy of Mary. She also is a descendant of David but not through Solomon and Coniah. She is a descendant of David through David's son, Nathan. Thus, Jesus can sit upon the throne of David being the son of Mary and the Son of God. He can sit on the throne of David and thus God's promise to David will be kept that God will establish the throne of David forever. And that there shall not cease to be one of David's seed sitting upon the throne. Thus, the promise can be fulfilled because Mary is a descendant of David also as is noted in Luke's genealogy.***
- ***Notice the significant and amazing principle of the five daughters of Zelophehad in passing on their rights, having no brothers, by which inheritance rights are passed, made possible the right of Jesus Christ to the throne of David through His mother Mary. Therefore, Jesus has the legal right through Joseph, his stepfather and Mary could pass on to her Son, Jesus the right to the throne based on this law established by the daughters of Zelophehad. So as prophesied, the Messiah Jesus was legally of the Davidic line through Solomon, also having full natural born son rights through His mother Mary, who was of the Davidic line through Nathan!***
- ***We have the curse upon Coniah and his seed not to sit upon the throne forever. Zedekiah, his brother, was made king in his stead by Nebuchadnezzar and Coniah, (Jehoiachin) died as a captive in Babylon. So, the story of three kings who have been presented here, They were kings who went their own ways and perished in their own ways. Kings who did not surrender their will or their lives to the living God. We can learn much from their mistakes and God help us that we might learn the lessons.***

Closing Prayer