

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!
NOTES FOR THIS WEEK: 5/24-25/2021
THIS WEEK'S STUDY: *Jeremiah Chapters 44-45*

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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Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 For Audio & notes from previous studies - www.ptwente.com

OPENING PRAYER – Introduction *Jeremiah Chapters 44-45*

THIS WEEK'S STUDY:

Chap. 44 – Israelites Will Be Punished in Egypt - (vs. 1-30); Chap. 45 – Assurance to Baruch – (vs. 1-5).

INTRODUCTION:

- **Jeremiah, chapter 44** records the absolute refusal of the remnant in Egypt to obey God. God patiently explains that He is the One responsible for the invasion and desolation of Judah. Again God gives the reason for His punishment. What a revelation of God's love! He still pleads with them to return to Him. Their insolent reply is an example of the utter depravity of the human heart. There is nothing left for them now but judgment.

Jer 44:1 The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the Jews who dwell in the land of Egypt, who dwell at Migdol, at Tahpanhes, at Noph, and in the country of Pathros, saying,

Jer 44:2 "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: 'You have seen all the calamity that I have brought on Jerusalem and on all the cities of Judah; and behold, this day they are a desolation, and no one dwells in them,

- **This is perhaps, the final word of the Lord through Jeremiah,** to the disobedient people, who had sought refuge in Egypt. This is a little bit later as the Jews have spread out from Tahpanhes to these other cities.
- **Jeremiah is calling to their attention, that they have seen the fulfillment of God's word.** As God promised that He would destroy the city of Jerusalem, bring it to desolation, they saw the city. Before they left, they saw the rubble of the city, the ashes. They saw the walls of the city that were broken down, the houses that were destroyed because of God's prophesied judgment. "You've seen it."

Jer 44:3 because of their wickedness which they have committed to provoke Me to anger, in that they went to burn incense and to serve other gods whom they did not know, they nor you nor your fathers.

- **They would not obey God,** they followed after the false gods, they worshiped their idols. They provoke Me to anger!

Jer 44:4 However I have sent to you all My servants the prophets, rising early and sending them, saying, "Oh, do not do this abominable thing that I hate!"

- **God is pleading with the people.** He sent the prophets to plead with the people. "Don't do these things. Don't worship these false gods." They were worshiping gods of sexual excitement. Pornography was wide spread.
- **God is pleading with them not to worship sex, not to worship pleasure, not to worship power, the god mammon.** God is pleading with them on these things. "Oh", God said, "Don't do these things. These abominable things that I hate." **An abomination, in the scripture, is always the elevating of false gods in a person's life!** God looks upon that and the word that He uses is abomination. That is the worship of any idol or false god. The first commandment "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me." We see the god of pleasure is being widely worshiped in the USA today!
- **It becomes us to give warning of the danger of sin, and the fatal consequences of it,** with all seriousness and earnestness: "Oh! do not do it! If you love God, do not, for it is provoking to Him; if you love your own souls do not, for it is destructive to them." Let conscience do this for us in an hour of temptation, when we are ready to yield. ***Oh, do not do this abominable thing that I hate!"***
- **God wants to be first in your life!** God wants you to put Him above every other desire, and every other thing. He desires that first place in your devotion, in your heart, and in your life. He demands it. "You shalt have no other gods before Me." Yet these people began to live for other purposes, living for pleasure, living for power. These things began to dominate their life, and God sent His prophets warning them, "Don't do these things. The things that I hate." Now when God says He hates something, it's important that we pay attention! If the Lord hates them, then we better develop a hatred towards those things also. Here He is saying those abominable things, which come between you and Me!

Jer 44:5 But they did not listen or incline their ear to turn from their wickedness, to burn no incense to other gods.

- **But they did not listen or incline their ear!** God sent prophet after prophet! He warned them, He pleaded with them, "Don't do this!", and yet they wouldn't listen to God. Therefore, because they would not listen they will see God's fury and His anger against them.
- **They still persisted in their idolatries;** and you see what came of it, therefore God's **anger was poured out upon** them, **as it is this day.** Now this was intended for warning to you, who have not only heard the judgments of God's mouth, as they did, but have likewise seen the judgments of His hand, by which you should be startled and awakened, for they were inflicted that others might hear and fear and do no more as they did, lest they should fare as they fared!

Jer 44:6 So My fury and My anger were poured out and kindled in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem; and they are wasted and desolate, as it is this day.'

- **If they had gone from Egypt back to Jerusalem**, they would've seen the place uninhabited, leveled, desolate.

Jer 44:7 "Now therefore, thus says the LORD, the God of hosts, the God of Israel: 'Why do you commit this great evil against yourselves (self-afflicted), to cut off from you man and woman, child and infant, out of Judah, leaving none to remain,

- **God is saying, "Why didn't you learn your lesson? Why do you continue to do** those things that brought the destruction? To continue to do them in Egypt is only going to bring further judgement of God upon you, even while you're here in Egypt."
- **Sin is destructive, in any form.** If you will look at sin, you will see how it destroys a person. It destroys a person physically, it can destroy a person emotionally, and of course, it does destroy a person spiritually. But look at the physical consequences of many sins, people have indulged themselves, or over indulged themselves, and are suffering physical consequences as a result. Look at how many people are suffering emotional consequences as a result of their sin. Sin destroys your relationship with your family, with others. The destructive aspects of sin. God is actually saying, "Why do you do these things that destroy you?" That's wise to consider. Why do something that is only destructive?
- **It's wise to consider: "If it can't do you any good, but it can do you harm, then don't do it."** If it can get you in trouble or whatever, then don't do it. But if it can't do you harm, but it can do you good, then let's go for it! Be ready to do something that could do you good and couldn't do you harm!
- **Why continue until you've cutoff man, and woman, and child?** They did a great deal of injury to themselves and their families: *You commit this great evil against yourselves.* You wrong them! You deceive them with that which is false, you destroy them, for it will be fatal to them.

Jer 44:8 in that you provoke Me to wrath with the works of your hands, burning incense to other gods in the land of Egypt where you have gone to dwell, that you may cut yourselves off and be a curse and a reproach among all the nations of the earth?

- **You're persisting in this evil here in Egypt**, where you've gone to dwell. You're only hurting yourself. You're going to be cut off. You're going to become *a curse and a reproach*, and you're going to just destroy yourself. God says, why are you continuing in idolatry? You were driven out of Judah and Jerusalem for your idolatry. Now you have changed your address and you are doing the same thing!

Jer 44:9 Have you forgotten the wickedness of your fathers, the wickedness of the kings of Judah, the wickedness of their wives, your own wickedness, and the wickedness of your wives, which they committed in the land of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem?

- **Haven't you learned from history? Can't you see what sin and wickedness has done** to other people, and to other civilizations? Can't you see what it has done to your fathers? Look at the history of your people and look what sin has done! Look what worshipping of these false gods has done! Have you forgotten the wickedness of your fathers, and the wickedness of the kings, of what they were doing, have brought the judgement of God upon their land?
- **the wickedness of their wives** – Think of Solomon's wives, particularly his Egyptian wives, (*Neh 13:26*) *Did not Solomon king of Israel sin by these things? Yet among many nations there was no king like him, who was beloved of his God; and God made him king over all Israel. Nevertheless pagan women caused even him to sin.*
- **We are to be Godly men and Godly women – there is a difference!** (*Gen 1:27*) *So God created man in His own image; in the image of God, He created him; male and female He created them.*
- **In marriage** – (*Eph 5:22, 25*) *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. [25] Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, (1Pe 3:1, 4, 7) Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, [4] rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. [7] Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.*

Jer 44:10 They have not been humbled, to this day, nor have they feared; they have not walked in My law or in My statutes that I set before you and your fathers.'

- **You were *not* humbled!** You did not stand in fear of the law of God, though You've seen the destruction that was prophesied, the judgement of God that came upon the nation, yet it did not change you! Those who do not walk in the law of God do thereby, show that they are destitute of the fear of God!

Jer 44:11 "Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: 'Behold, I will set My face against you for catastrophe and for cutting off all Judah.

- **The whole thing is moving in a logical kind of a progression.** You haven't experienced yet the full extent of the judgement of God, because of your wicked doings. "You will suffer even more." Now they had suffered tremendously. They had suffered the ravages of the wilderness in moving back to Egypt. There they were cursed, and they were unwanted, but they persisted in their evil, and therefore they haven't yet experienced the full extent of God's judgement.
- **In the law, God said, "If you will obey My commandments, then, this is what I will do for you.** I will bring you to dwell in the land of Judah. I will prosper you, and your crops will produce abundantly." God told all of the blessings of keeping the law. "But if you will not walk in My statutes, and you do not keep My commandments..." It's progressive! Then the Lord begins to tell them the things that would happen. That He would close up heaven. It would not rain.
- **The judgements of God are to turn us back to the ways of the Lord.** But if you don't pay attention, if you don't listen, if you don't turn back to God, then He increases the pressure. The problems become even worse. So here they are. You'd think that by this point they would've learned their lesson and would've turned to God and turned away from their evil. But they had not!

Jer 44:12 And I will take the remnant of Judah who have set their faces to go into the land of Egypt to dwell there, and they shall all be consumed and fall in the land of Egypt. They shall be consumed by the sword and by famine. They shall die, from the least to the greatest, by the sword and by famine; and they shall be an oath, an astonishment, a curse and a reproach!

- **The remnant of Judah.** These were the remnant. They survived all of these other things, now they fled to Egypt.
- **They shall all be consumed...they shall die by the sword and by famine...they shall be an oath, an astonishment, a curse and a reproach!** Life's not going to be easy! God is never going to let Egypt, a type of the flesh, bring any consolation into your life! You disobey God in going down to Egypt, God said that these things were going to happen. God said, "You're not going to find safety there. Your only place of safety is by trusting in Me. Dwell here, then you will dwell safely, and I'll take care of you." Yet the people did not believe, and so they persisted in going down to Egypt, where the very things they were seeking to avoid, are going to happen to them there in Egypt!

Jer 44:13 For I will punish those who dwell in the land of Egypt, as I have punished Jerusalem, by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence,

Jer 44:14 so that none of the remnant of Judah who have gone into the land of Egypt to dwell there shall escape or survive, lest they return to the land of Judah, to which they desire to return and dwell. For none shall return except those who escape.'

- **There will only be a very few that will come back.** If we walk contrary to God, He will walk contrary to us. How can those expect to be well off who would not know when they were so, though God Himself told them?
- **Those that escape.** Listen to God and come back, but for the most part, they're going to be annihilated there in Egypt. Now, this is God's message to the people. How do they respond? True to form, they totally reject Him.

Jer 44:15 Then all the men who knew that their wives had burned incense to other gods, with all the women who stood by, a great multitude, and all the people who dwelt in the land of Egypt, in Pathros, answered Jeremiah, saying:

- **Now, they had come to Pathros, no doubt, all of the people had gathered there for some kind of a religious festival** of their false gods. Here, Jeremiah speaks God's word to them, giving them God's warning. We find that their hearts are still in rebellion against God, obstinately refusing to submit to the power of the word of God. We do not often see such an instance of downright daring contradiction to God Himself as this, or such an avowed rebellion of the carnal mind!
- **It appears the women had been even more guilty of idolatry and superstition than the men,** not because the men stuck closer to the true God and the true religion than the women, but because they

were generally atheists, and were for no God and no religion at all, and therefore could easily allow their wives to be of a false religion, and to worship false gods.

- **There was a consciousness of guilt that made the men resistant to reproof:** *They knew that their wives had burnt incense to other gods, and that they had watched them in it. The women that stood by knew that they had joined with them in their idolatry, so that what Jeremiah said touched them in a sore place. The reply which these persons made to Jeremiah, and in him to God Himself, was in effect the impudence to say to the Almighty, Depart from us; we don't want the knowledge of Your ways!*

Jer 44:16 "As for the word that you have spoken to us in the name of the LORD, we will not listen to you!"

- **This is so heavy, but it is nothing new! They had not listened to Jeremiah for forty years!** They are going to continue in their stubborn abhorrent ways of not listening to God. This is the culture that we live in, right now! Our culture is mocking the word of God! We don't want to hear what the Bible says about morality, about marriage, about the end of the world, about forgiveness, about sin and that everyone is a sinner and comes short of the glory of God. It's only through Jesus Christ that we may be saved! Right now, we are living in this culture!

Jer 44:17 But we will certainly do whatever has gone out of our own mouth, to burn incense to the queen of heaven and pour out drink offerings to her, as we have done, we and our fathers, our kings and our princes, in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. For then we had plenty of food, were well-off, and saw no trouble.

- **We're going to continue in this worship of female goddess, the queen of heaven,** They're not going to cease worshipping her, burning their incense, pouring out their drink offerings to her.
- **What an example of sin!** This shows just how blind sin can make a person. We say, standing back objectively, "Can't you see what you are doing to yourself? You can see it so clearly! But they seem to be blind to the whole thing! But that's because sin has, as a part of its characteristic, that dulling of the senses. Just think they are in Egypt worshipping a Babylonian god, saying when we worshipped her we had *plenty of food, were well-off, and saw no trouble* – What about Jerusalem being leveled? Sin and pride blinds!!
- **Leprosy is used in the Bible as a type of sin.** Because the insidious thing about leprosy is that when it eats away your body, it eats away first of all the nerves. Leprosy is painless. You don't realize that you're just rotting away. You see the people without their feet and all, they say it's because the rats have eaten them. But they didn't feel it. In the night, you know, the rats come and chew on their foot, but they don't feel it at all. But you've lost the sense of feeling.
- **That sense of pain is an important thing.** That sense of feeling is important. God created it, so that when you put your hand down on a hot stove, you feel that heat and you move your hand quickly. God created pain as an alarm system for us, in helping to preserve us. But sin has a very blinding effect. A dulling of a person's senses. A person begins to totally misinterpret history.

Jer 44:18 But since we stopped burning incense to the queen of heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her, we have lacked everything and have been consumed by the sword and by famine."

- **Now these people are saying,** "We're not going to stop burning the incense to the queen of heaven, pouring out the drink offerings to her. Because, when we were doing that, we were in good shape. We had plenty. But, when we stopped doing it, that's when we got into trouble.
- **Self-deception! Deceiving one's self!** Here we see the people so self-deceived, mistaking the calamity of God's judgment, which occurred, as being the result of not praying to the queen of heaven, when in fact the judgment was the result of their idolatry, exemplified in worshipping the queen of heaven! The worst deception that can happen to our lives is self-deception! It is the word of God that keeps us from being self-deceived! That is why the Bible is referred to and likened to "the mirror of God's word". It will always tell us the truth about our situation, about what we should do!
- **So deceived, they began to blame God, not their idolatry, for the calamities that came upon them!** This is so typical of man! So typical! You haven't served God, you haven't really been living for the Lord. But any calamity that comes in your life, you get angry with God, and you want to blame God for it. "Why would God allow this? And you want to blame God.
- **That is so endemic of people, they don't worship God,** they don't serve God, but oh they want to blame God! Let something go wrong, and they shake their fist at God, and speak of their anger and

hatred towards Him. Here were these people blaming God for the calamity that befell them, when in reality it was just the opposite. It was because they had forsaken God, that the calamity came.

Because they wouldn't listen to God, because they wouldn't obey God.

Jer 44:19 The women also said, "And when we burned incense to the queen of heaven and poured out drink offerings to her, did we make cakes for her, to worship her, and pour out drink offerings to her without our husbands' permission?"

- **The women plead that though they were most forward and active in their idolatries, yet they did it with the consent and approval of their husbands.** This plea seems to be somewhat frivolous. What would it help them to be able to say that it was according to their husbands' mind, when they knew that it was contrary to God's mind? It is astonishing how we can re-write any narrative in our minds to produce a narrative that we can live with or somehow justify the life that we want to live! Only the word of God will keep us from going there!
- **It is sad when those who are in the nearest relation to each other, who should exhort each other to that which is good and so help one another to heaven, to harden each other in sin and so help one another for hell.** What a tremendous blessing and how it is so important for any husband to have a God-fearing wife!

Jer 44:20 Then Jeremiah spoke to all the people—the men, the women, and all the people who had given him that answer—saying:

Jer 44:21 "The incense that you burned in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, you and your fathers, your kings and your princes, and the people of the land, did not the LORD remember them, and did it not come into His mind?"

Jer 44:22 So the LORD could no longer bear it, because of the evil of your doings and because of the abominations which you committed. Therefore your land (Judah) is a desolation, an astonishment, a curse, and without an inhabitant, as it is this day.

Jer 44:23 Because you have burned incense and because you have sinned against the LORD, and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD or walked in His law, in His statutes or in His testimonies, therefore this calamity has happened to you, as at this day."

- **Let's get the record straight, Jeremiah is saying.** "It isn't God's fault. It's your fault for not obeying the Lord and following the Lord and listening to the Lord because if you had done that, then you would still be in the land today. God would have delivered you from your enemies." They said that these miseries came upon them because when they had *stopped incense to the queen of heaven and pouring out drink offerings to her, we have lacked everything and have been consumed by the sword and by famine.*" Jeremiah says, no! It was because you had formerly done it, not because you had left it off now. Your idolatry, such as burning incense and worshipping the queen of heaven was the cause not the answer to your problem! That's why *your land is a desolation, an astonishment, a curse, and without an inhabitant, as it is this day.*
- **The right understanding of the cause of our calamities** should go far towards the cure of our sins. Whatever evil comes upon us, it is because we have sinned against the Lord, and we should therefore stand in awe, hate our sin and sin not!

Jer 44:24 Moreover Jeremiah said to all the people and to all the women, "Hear the word of the LORD, all Judah who are in the land of Egypt!"

- **Jeremiah has something to say to them,** especially to the women, from *the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel*, They have given their answer; now let them hear God's reply, *Judah, that dwells in the land of Egypt*, has God speaking to them, even there; that is their privilege. Let them observe what He says; that is their duty. Now God, in His reply, tells them plainly, since they were fully determined to persist in their idolatry, God was fully determined to proceed in His controversy with them. If they would go on to provoke Him, He would go on to punish them, and see which would get the better at last.

Jer 44:25 Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, saying: 'You and your wives have spoken with your mouths and fulfilled with your hands, saying, "We will surely keep our vows that we have made, to burn incense to the queen of heaven and pour out drink offerings to her." You will surely keep your vows and perform your vows!'

Jer 44:26 Therefore hear the word of the LORD, all Judah who dwell in the land of Egypt: 'Behold, I have sworn by My great name,' says the LORD, 'that My name shall no more be named in the mouth of any man of Judah in all the land of Egypt, saying, "The Lord GOD lives."

- **God repeats what they had said.** You have said it, and you stand by it, to do accordingly, as if, though it were a sin, yet their having vowed to do it were sufficient to justify them in the doing of it. But no man can by his vow, make that lawful to himself, which God has already made sin. God says, “you will accomplish, you will perform, your wicked vows. Now hear My vow, what **I have sworn by My great name;**” and, **if the Lord has sworn, (Jer 4:28b) Because I have spoken. I have purposed and will not relent, Nor will I turn back from it.**
- **My name shall no more be named in the mouth of any man of Judah in all the land of Egypt, saying, "The Lord GOD lives!** It's over. Their relationship with God is over. You can't have it both ways! God has put the finish to it. He said, “That's it! You persist in your evil after all of this? That's it. It's over.”
- **It is a privilege to speak the name of God, to identify Him as my God, to communicate and to say that I love Him and I worship Him!** It's a privilege to speak that to the world. There is a responsibility with that privilege to then live a life that is consistent with someone who would truly say that. God is saying, now there is nothing of it in your heart. If I can't bring this idolatry and dual worship of other gods to an end, I will judge you in Egypt and bring an end to it!

Jer 44:27 Behold, I will watch over them for adversity and not for good. And all the men of Judah who are in the land of Egypt shall be consumed by the sword and by famine, until there is an end to them.

- **God has sworn that what little remnant of people there was there should all be consumed.** He will **watch over them for adversity and not for good, until they are rooted out!** To those whom God finds impenitent sinners He will be found to be an implacable Judge.

Jer 44:28 Yet a small number who escape the sword shall return from the land of Egypt to the land of Judah; and all the remnant of Judah, who have gone to the land of Egypt to dwell there, shall know whose words will stand, Mine or theirs. (Psa 33:11) *The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart to all generations. (Isa 46:10) Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,'*

- **By His grace, God always has that small number!** There will be this remnant! Now we'll just wait and see **whose words will stand**". Sinners say that they shall have peace though they go on; God says they shall have no peace. But when God judges He will overcome! **God's word shall stand**, and not the sinner's. Prophecy, which comprises 27-33% of the Scripture, is one of the great things that sets the Bible apart from all other religious writings!

Jer 44:29 And this shall be a sign to you,' says the LORD, 'that I will punish you in this place, that you may know that My words will surely stand against you for adversity.'

Jer 44:30 "Thus says the LORD: 'Behold, I will give Pharaoh Hophra king of Egypt into the hand of his enemies and into the hand of those who seek his life, as I gave Zedekiah king of Judah into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, his enemy who sought his life.' "

- **Hophra was Pharaoh at that time**, but he will actually fall to the Babylonians, which did take place a few years later. Here these people are fearing Nebuchadnezzar, deciding to go to Egypt for safety in escaping him. We see God's hand in actually sending the Babylonian king to Egypt to completely conquer them, just like God did to Judah and Jerusalem!
- **This is what God said. "We'll just wait and see"**. The word of God was fulfilled, and we have the story of history. From a chronological, this is God's last word. It's over.
- **It's a sad day when God quits speaking to man.** When God says, “Okay, that's it. I'm not going to talk to you anymore. The name of Jehovah will not be mentioned again.” You know, that's it. The last word. The final word of God. There comes, and it's a rather frightening thing to realize, that in every life, every life, there comes that final call of God, to turn from your wickedness to a life in Christ. For every man who rejects that call of God, one day, God continues to call, and call, and call. But one day, God will no longer call. People, many people, millions of people, have heard God's final call. It's all over, once God's made that final call!

- **When will the final call be? We don't know! You don't know but what that tugging in your heart tonight, by the Holy Spirit, is God's final plea, God's final call to you.** We don't know when God is making His final appeal. When He says, "Okay, this is it. This is the last time I'm going to speak, the last time I'm going to draw you, the last time I'm going to deal with you concerning the evil in your life." If you reject God's final call, there remains only that certain fearful for looking for the judgement, and fire indignation, for which He will devour His adversaries. God made His final call. It's over. The dye has been cast. Now, all that remains is waiting to watch and to see the word of God being fulfilled, as history tells us that it was.
- **We don't really know what happened to Jeremiah.** There are stories that Jeremiah died in Egypt, along with the rest of the captives. He stayed there, though he had no more message for the people.
- **This is the final message of Jeremiah.** His prophecy is over. His period and time of prophesying is through and tragic as far as results, it was a failure. Yet he was obedient and faithful to God in warning the people. That's all that God required!
- **We make a great mistake in thinking that we've got to win people to Jesus Christ,** and we put so much emphasis upon getting the contract signed. That's not so. You're not paid commission. You're paid a salary, and the Lord says that you are to witness, that you are His witnesses! What comes of the witness is His territory. All you are required and responsible to do, is to bear witness to people of the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. What the Lord has done in your life. Having witnessed, that's all that you're required to do. You're not required to argue people into a belief of Jesus Christ. You're not responsible actually, to force them to believe. You can't! You are rewarded for witnessing, no matter if they reject it or accept it.
- **Thus, Jeremiah had as great a reward as any other prophet who may have turned the nation around and brought them back to God.** Because he was faithful in warning and witnessing the message that God gave him, to the people. Don't be weary and don't be discouraged, if you don't have a lot of people that you can point to and say, "Well I led him to Jesus Christ, and I led her, and I led them." If you can look around and say, "Well I've witnessed to them, and that heathen over there, I witnessed to him." Great! That's what God requires, is that you bear witness of His truth, and the results have nothing to do with your reward. You need to be faithful in your witness. That's all!

Jer 45:1 The word that Jeremiah the prophet spoke to Baruch (means blessing!) the son of Neriah (The LORD is my lamp), when he had written these words in a book at the instruction of Jeremiah, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, saying,

- **Chapter 45 is a very short chapter.** This was about 25 years, earlier in the prophesies of Jeremiah, in fact it goes back to the fourth year of Jehoiakim. (605 B.C) So it takes you quite a ways back, now, almost to the beginning of Jeremiah's time of prophecy. Jeremiah was probably in his late twenties by this time.
- **Jeremiah speaks now to his scribe.** Baruch wrote the prophecy of Jeremiah, and Jeremiah is talking to him now as a father to a son, or as a friend to friend.

Jer 45:2 "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, to you, O Baruch:

- **Don't you wish that God would speak to you sometime like that?** It would be an exciting thing! From a prophet of God, "And here's what God is saying to you", and what God says to one, He often says to many. The message of God to Baruch is an important message for us today. God's saying the same thing to you. We could say, "This is the message of God for you." What would God say to you right now?

Jer 45:3 'You said, "Woe is me now! For the LORD has added grief to my sorrow. I fainted in my sighing, and I find no rest." (Psa 56:8) You number my wanderings; Put my tears into Your bottle; Are they not in Your book?

- **God knows what we are thinking, in fact He know our thought even before we think them.** God is saying there isn't a tear that was shed that I have not only noted but have recorded! There are times, even when we are in the center of God's will of God, that we can get discouraged!
- **Baruch has now been identified with Jeremiah, which will cost him favor in the king of Judah's court.** He will not rise in position of power. He is discouraged – *Woe is me now!* This something that believers today in this nation will be experiencing more as our culture will be looking down on followers of Jesus Christ!

Jer 45:4 "Thus you shall say to him, 'Thus says the LORD: 'Behold, what I have built I will break down, and what I have planted I will pluck up, that is, this whole land.

- **That was Baruch's complaint, "Oh man, I have no rest. Woe is me. I am just, I'm overwhelmed. I'm fainting in my sorrow."** When Baruch, as a younger man, read the scroll publicly, he hoped to gain reputation by it, that it would make him to be taken notice of and employed; but when he found that, instead it exposed him to contempt, and brought him into disgrace, he cried out, "I am undone; I shall fall into the pursuers' hands, and be imprisoned, and put to death, or banished:
- **Baruch was astounded at the prophecies, that which God was going to do.** He fainted! He thought, "Oh no! How could this be?" God said, "Look, I built it. I've built the nation, I've made it strong, and now I'm going to tear it down. I planted the nation, and now I'm going to pluck it up."
- **I wonder if God isn't saying something similar to that concerning the United States.** "I've planted it, and now I'm going to pluck it up. I've built it and made it strong, and now I'm going to tear it down." But then, here's the message to Baruch, the personal message, and it's one to each of us tonight.

Jer 45:5 And do you seek great things for yourself? Do not seek them; for behold, I will bring adversity on all flesh," says the LORD. "But I will give your life to you as a prize in all places, wherever you go. (Heb 13:5) *Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU. (1Ti 6:6-9) Now godliness with contentment is great gain. [7] For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. [8] And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. [9] But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. (Rom 12:16) Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.*

- **Don't seek great things for yourself.** What good is greatness in a wicked society. What good is greatness when in order to be great for God, it results in persecution against you. That's always a sign of culture that has God's judgment hanging over it. But God is saying, "I'll watch over you and I'll keep you wherever you are, but I'll take care of you wherever you go, but **don't seek great things for yourself.**" Ambition for God is always encouraged in the Bible. What is condemned is selfish ambition! Desire to be great for God and the Kingdom of God
- **We should seek great things for God. We should be living for God's glory. We shouldn't be looking for glory for ourselves, or great things for ourselves,** that our name might become popular, we might become well known. God says, "No, no. Don't seek that. Don't seek great things for yourself. Just trust in me, I'll take care of you wherever you go. I'll be there to take care of you. Just keep your eyes on Me. Live for My glory."
- **May God help us, to commit ourselves to Him in such a way that Christ might be magnified in my body, whether it is by life or by death, for to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.** Just commit your ways to the Lord. Don't worry about taking care of yourself. Don't seek great things for yourself, just seek to do and to be, do what God would have you to do, and be what God would have you to be.
- **That's sufficient. If we do that, our lives will be successful** Seek spiritual things, not physical things! Prayer; Scripture; Worship; Family; Service; purity; truth. the things that the world is saying are totally unimportant and unnecessary. He must increase and I must decrease! God is saying in the middle of all that. I see it! I feel it!—even to a greater degree than you do! You're serving a great purpose! Be content! Your life is in My hands and it's going to be a prize for you wherever you go! I will preserve you! I will never leave you or forsake you! Just think of the security we have in Christ!
- **If we fail to do that, no matter how much success we achieve, as far as the world's standards, our lives will be a failure.** If when I come to the end of the road. If when they pull the plug on the respirator or whatever, and I've taken my last breath, if I have fulfilled the purposes of God for my life, even though as Jeremiah, there was nothing to show for it. My life has been successful, because I've done what God has called me to do.
- **If I have sought great things for myself and have omitted God from my life; my life will be a dismal failure!** Commit your ways to the Lord! Trust always in Him, that He might bring to pass His will and His purpose in your life!

Application:

- **Mankind hasn't changed! Since the fall mankind is inherently sinful!** Christ comes, we experience regeneration and are born again! Then there is a struggle! Are you wrestling, which is a proof of your new birth! That shouldn't discourage you, but rather turn you in to a spiritual tiger, because dead men don't wrestle!
- **You were not humbled! Vs:10 They have not been humbled...nor have they feared...they have not walked in My law or in My statutes...!** This will always lead to disaster! The remnant has changed location, but there has been no change in their hearts. How about us?
- **May we be godly men and godly women, in accordance with Biblical teaching!**
- **Sin is destructive, in any form. It's wise to consider: "If it can't do you any good, but it can do you harm, then don't do it."** But if it can't do you any harm, but it can do you good, then let's go for it! Be ready to do something that could do you good and couldn't do you harm.
- **Since we stopped burning incense to the queen of heaven...we have lacked everything! Self-deception!** The people were so self-deceived, mistaking the calamity of God's judgment as being the result of their not praying to the queen of heaven, when in fact the judgment was the result of their idolatry, exemplified in worshipping her! The worst deception that can happen to our lives is self-deception! It is the word of God that keeps us from being self-deceived! Beware of deceiving yourself!
- **We're walking right now in more spiritual light than Jeremiah and Baruch walked in! But humanity hasn't changed.** Most people are still saying, I don't care what you say, I don't want to hear that word of the Lord stuff. I'm not going to listen to it! I'm going to live however I want to live! But God is on the throne! He is merciful! We need to tell the lost! What we are praying for are going to reach many for Christ! May we have His wisdom and His heart! May they see Jesus in us! May we prize the plan God has for each one of us. Lord, help us to be faithful and finish well!
- **Don't seek great things for yourself, seek great things for God!"** Ambition for God is always encouraged in the Bible. What is condemned is selfish ambition! Desire to be great for God and the Kingdom of God

Closing Song:

Amazing Grace— Newton – sung by Judy Collins (2:32)

1. *Amazing grace! How sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now I'm found; Was blind, but now I see.*
2. *Through many dangers, toils and snares, we have already come;
Was grace has brought us safe thus far, And grace will lead us home.*
3. *When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.*

Closing Prayer: