



Sermon Series Notes

“Surrendering To The Will Of God” (Jeremiah 24-25)

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I. THE TEXT

* 24:1-7 Why would God consider those taken captive to Babylon “good figs” and those left in the land “bad figs?” See Jer.21:8-10. The people who were left in Jerusalem thought that those who had gone to Babylon were “far from the Lord” (see Ezekiel 11:14-15). They had a completely wrong perspective of the temporary suffering this remnant had chosen in order to ultimately be saved and blessed by the Lord. God sometimes saves believers out of tragic future events through death (See Isa. 57:1-2).

* 24:10 See II Kings 25:1-7, 18-21

* 25:11 Why 70 years?

- Lev.25: 3 For six years sow your fields, and for six years prune your vineyards and gather their crops. 4 But in the seventh year the land is to have a sabbath of rest, a sabbath to the LORD. Do not sow your fields or prune your vineyards. 5 Do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the grapes of your untended vines. The land is to have a year of rest.

- The Jewish people ignored this law for almost 500 years!

- II Chron.36: 20 He carried into exile to Babylon the remnant, who escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. 21 The land enjoyed its sabbath rests; all the time of its desolation it rested, until the seventy years were completed in fulfillment of the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah.

* 25:29 See I Peter 4:17-19

* 25:32-33 Rev.6:7-8 predicts that one fourth of the world’s population will die during The Great Tribulation, with another third dying as things get even worse on this planet (Rev. 9:15, 18). The population of the world at 12:08 p.m. today was 6,957,588,047. One fourth equals 1,739,397,011. A third of the population left equals this same number, which means that 50% of the people in the world will die. To put those numbers in a little better perspective, the population of the U.S. at 12:08 p.m. today was 312,058,785. That means that based on current population statistics, over 11 times the population of the U.S. is dead, and within a very short period of time.

II. LESSONS

A. There Is A Day Of Judgment For All Nations

* In light of coming judgment, the best thing I can do is surrender to the will of God before its too late.

B. God Will Use Any Means He Can In An Effort To Get Me To Surrender To His Will.

* God sent messengers like Jeremiah to year after year warn these people that judgment was coming if they did not repent. God used the likes of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon in an attempt to get their attention. Don't you think God wants through followers of men like Osama Bin Laden to get our attention in order that we might repent?

* God used Balaam's donkey to get Balaam's attention (and he's used many a donkey since!).

* Amos 4:6-12

* Earthquakes yesterday in California (no surprise there), but also in Colorado, and of the most shocking, Virginia. The magnitude 5.8 midday quake yesterday was centered about 30 miles northwest of Richmond and about three-and-a-half miles deep into the earth. It was felt as far north as Detroit and Toronto, and as far south as Georgia. Government buildings and monuments were evacuated in Washington, DC. Cracks are reported in the Washington Monument. Buildings were seen swaying in Cleveland, Cincinnati and Chicago. Virginia nuclear reactors had to be taken offline for safety reasons until the danger passed. Ground stops were implemented at major airports in the Northeast, including JFK Airport in New York and Newark Airport in New Jersey. Air control towers in those airports were evacuated. Several school systems are closed even today as a result of the quake. President Obama held an afternoon conference call with the heads of the Department of Homeland Security and FEMA to discuss the quake. He was informed there were no reports of significant infrastructure damage. However, the President and officials also discussed another potential natural disaster. They talked about preparations for Hurricane Irene, which is projected to hit North Carolina over the weekend.

* I Cor.11:29-32; Psalm 119:67

C. Surrendering To The Will Of God

1. Requires faith, self-denial, & some degree of suffering

* Jeremiah's surrender to the will of God certainly required all these. Saul of Tarsus was told ahead of time how much he would have to suffer (Acts 9:16). Jesus made this clear to Peter as well (John 21:18-19). Numerous verses and Bible examples make it very clear that surrendering to the will of God involves personal sacrifice of many kinds.

2. Involves submission to God-ordained authority

* Romans 13:1-7; I Peter 2:13

* Except when it would mean compromising submission to the Lord, Daniel, Hananiah, Azariah, & Mischael submitted to the rulers over them in Babylon. As a matter of fact, Daniel was one of the best workers Babylon ever had (Daniel 6:1ff).

3. Opens the door for a real personal relationship with the Lord (Jer.24:7).

* God promised that he would give those who surrendered to His will a heart to know Him.

* Paul the apostle said that it was through sufferings that his fellowship with Christ deepened (Phil.3:10).

4. Enables the Lord to work on our behalf (rather than working against us).

5. Gives hope for the future

* Their captivity in a foreign land would not be forever. In the fulfillment of God's prophetic calendar they would one day be liberated from captivity and brought home. As a Christian, anywhere I live on planet earth is not my home (Phil.3:20). But my sojourn here is not indefinite. I will one day go home, and how I'm looking forward to that day! Until then, may I daily surrender to His will for my life.

* Hebrews 11:13-16