

NEW YEAR  
IS THERE ANY WORD FROM THE LORD? THERE IS!  
JEREMIAH 37:1-21 (Vs. 17)

INTRODUCTION

The setting for this portion of **SCRIPTURE** is that **JUDAH** was under the rule of her last king in the line of **DAVID** prior to going into **CAPTIVITY!**

The **LORD GOD** had enough of rebellious **JUDAH** and her kings! In fact, the **LORD GOD** had already given king **ZEDEKIAH** of **JUDAH** **HIS WORD** by the **PROPHET JEREMIAH** in **Chapter 32 and 34.**

That **WORD** from the **LORD** stated that because of her sin and rebellion against **HIM, the people of JUDAH,** including king **ZEDEKIAH,** would be taken captive by the **CHALDEANS/BABYLONIANS** and that **JERUSALEM** would be burned with fire!

**ZEDEKIAH** didn't like what the **LORD** had to say by **JEREMIAH** in that first **MESSAGE!** So, he went about to try to subvert **GOD'S WORD** by making an alliance with **EGYPT** to rebel against **BABYLON!**

Note very carefully in *verse 2* how **ZEDEKIAH** and the people did not want to listen to the **WORDS** from the **LORD** by the mouth of **JEREMIAH.** Then notice in *verse 3* how they wanted **JEREMIAH** to pray for them.

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I run into people like that sometimes as a **PREACHER.** I'm talking about people whose lives are a royal mess! I talk with them and find out that most of the time they are not in **CHURCH** and that they are living in wickedness. They will acknowledge that they need to be in **CHURCH.** Most will even acknowledge that the kind of life that they are living is displeasing to the **LORD.** But, they don't want to heed the **WORD OF GOD!**

And then it comes. They say, *"Preacher, will you just pray for me?"* Now understand that they don't normally want me to pray that they might get back in **CHURCH** or that they might **REPENT** of their wickedness and come back to **GOD.** They want me to pray that their circumstances might get better.

**You know what I tell them most of the time?** I tell them that their lives will continue to be a mess until they get sick and tired enough of their sin and its consequences to return to **GOD.**

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I tell them that I will pray that **GOD** will make them sick enough of their sin that they will return to **HIM!** Is that being hard?! I don't think so!

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**Back to the text.** In *verses 6-8,* the **LORD** sent **ZEDEKIAH** a message that his alliance with the king of **EGYPT** was destined for failure. Listen to me, **no matter how you try, you cannot successfully subvert the WORD OF THE LORD!**

In *verses 6-10,* **GOD** said that **EGYPT** was going to pull out and go back home and the **CHALDEANS (BABYLONIANS)** were just going to come again and **FULFILL THE WORD** that **HE** had given the first time!

In fact, **GOD** said that even had the **EGYPTIANS** been able to help **JUDAH** to smite the whole army of the **CHALDEANS** and even if all that were left were wounded men, those men would have **FULFILLED** the **WORD OF THE LORD!**

After delivering this message, **JEREMIAH** left **JERUSALEM** and went into the land of **BENJAMIN.** There he was falsely charged with treason and beaten and thrown in prison.

We see in *verse 17* that **ZEDEKIAH** took **JEREMIAH** out of prison and brought him to his house. He secretly asked **JEREMIAH** the question, *"Is there any Word from the LORD?"* **JEREMIAH'S** response was, *"There Is."* Then we see that **GOD'S WORD** had not changed! **HE** said again that **BABYLON** would come and be victorious over the king and the city of **JERUSALEM!**

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**There is always a WORD FROM THE LORD! It may not always be the WORD we want to hear, but there is always a WORD for us! And if we don't like the WORD, IT is not going to change! We must change!**

Tonight, the **LORD** has a **WORD** for each of us! It doesn't matter who you are or what your present relationship with **HIM** might be—the **LORD GOD** has a **WORD** for you! Let's take a moment as we begin 2022 to hear the **"WORD FROM THE LORD".**

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**I. UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS STILL A WORD FROM THE LORD CALLING US TO PREPARE FOR ETERNITY!**

*Amos 4:12b*– “...Prepare to meet thy God.”

Many folks put off preparing for eternity thinking that they have plenty of time. But the truth of the matter is that none of us know!

**A. Preparation Is Needed Now Because Life Is Uncertain!**

*Proverbs 27:1*–“Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.”

*James 4:14*–“Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”

**B. Preparation Is Needed Now Because Death Is Certain!**

*Hebrews 9:27*–“...it is appointed unto men once to die. . .”

*Psalms 89:48*–“What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death? shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave?”

Many folks can and do spend a fortune in medical bills to try to put death off and live, but when our appointment with death comes there is nothing on earth and no one on earth that can keep us alive! (*e.g. COVID vaccinations*)

**C. Preparation Is Needed Now Because Judgment Is Certain!**

*Hebrews 9:27*–“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”

**There are no second chances to get it right!** This isn't the playground! There are no “do overs!” **What we do to get right with God we will do here while we have breath!**

**After death, there comes the judgment!** Are you ready for that? If you don't have **JESUS** in your life you aren't ready! If you aren't living for **JESUS** or have some unconfessed sin in your life you aren't ready either!

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**D. Preparation Is Needed Now Because Jesus Is Coming Again!** (People are questioning this, but HE'S still coming!)

**Jesus Is Coming For His Saints. (The Rapture of the Church!)**

If you are not one of His saints, you will be left behind to go through the Tribulation period.

The Tribulation Period will be seven years of horrors.

*UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS STILL A WORD FROM THE LORD CALLING US TO PREPARE FOR ETERNITY!*

**II. UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS STILL A WORD FROM THE LORD CALLING US TO SERVE HIM! (ROMANS 12:1-2)**

**We know what these verses say, but have we done what they say?**

If you have been saved any length of time, you have heard these verses before.

And guess what, if the **LORD** allows you to live for any length of time, you will hear them again, because it is **GOD'S WORD** for **EVERY BELIEVER!**

Many of us could probably quote these two verses. But understand that **KNOWING** what they say and **DOING** what they say are two completely different things!

In *James 1:22*, the **BIBLE** says that we are to be doers of the **WORD** and not hearers only!

We should all say “*Amen!*” right there because it is so anyway!

**A. The Christian Life Is Still To Be A Life Of Consecration!**

*1 Peter 1:15-16*–“15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; 16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”

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*Consecration is the act of separating from a common use to a sacred use, or of devoting and dedicating a person or thing to the service and worship of God.*

*Consecration* does not make a person or thing *holy*, but rather it declares it to be sacred, that is, it declares it to be devoted to God or to divine service.

For us to be “*holy*” means that we are to be **separated from sin AND separated unto God for service!**

The **BIBLE** says that this is our reasonable service to God after what He has done for us. Think about it!

What could be more reasonable?

He loved us enough to die for us!

He saved us from an eternity in the Lake of Fire!

We ought to be willing to live our lives for Him!

That is only reasonable!

**B. The Christian Life Is Still To Be A Life Of Transformation!**

1. Not conformed, or pressed into the mold of this world.
2. But transformed, by the renewing of our minds.
3. Our minds are renewed through the indwelling Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

**C. What Are The Results Of A Consecrated, Transformed Life?**

- a. The will of God is known.
- b. The will of God is done.
- c. The will of God is proved.

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**III. UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS STILL A WORD FROM THE LORD TO THE BACKSLIDER!**

*Jeremiah 3:22—“Return, ye backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings.”*

**A. What Is The Mind Set Of The Backslider? (2 Peter 1:9)**  
*Verses 5-8* of this passage talk about things we should be adding to our faith. If we are not *progressing*, then we are *backsliding!*

**1. Blindness! “Cannot see afar off”**

A backslider does not see eternity.

A backslider does not see the tragedy of a wasted life.

A backslider does not see souls slipping into hell.

**2. Forgetfulness!**

He has forgotten where he was before God saved him.

He has forgotten why God saved him.

He has forgotten what his goal in life is supposed to be.

He has forgotten what would have happened to him apart from Christ.

He has forgotten the mercy and the grace of God!

**B. Who Can Backslide? Any Believer!**

1. Has there ever been a time when you were more concerned for the lost than you are now?
2. Do you find it a chore to read your Bible, pray, witness, and serve?
3. Listen, you can be in Church every Sunday and you can even be a leader in the Church and still be backslidden!

**C. What Is The Cure For Backsliding? (Revelation 2:4-5)**

1. **Remember!**
2. **Repent! (i.e. Return to the LORD!)**
3. **Repeat!** With all your heart determine that you are going to serve Him and rededicate your life to Him.

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Repeat the “*first works.*”

**D. What Will It Take To Bring You Back To God?**

1. For the prodigal son it took rags, hunger, and poverty!
2. For Jonah it took a storm and the belly of a whale!
3. For David it took the death of his newborn son and having his peace taken from him!
4. What will it take for you?

Come back to God, that is the message for the backslider today.

**Conclusion:**

Zedekiah asked Jeremiah, “*Is there any word from the LORD?*”

The answer then was “*There Is!*” **GOD** was not silent then! **HE** had spoken through **HIS WORD!** **He is not silent now...we have HIS complete WORD!**

The question is, will we **listen to** and **heed GOD’S WORD?** It may not always be what we want to hear, but it is the **MESSAGE** that we need to both hear and obey.

Are you ready for eternity? Are you right with God? This would be a great time to get ready and get back in fellowship with HIM!

If you are saved, have you presented your body as a living sacrifice unto God? Give the LORD your life! Turn it over to Him and allow Him to use you in His service as He sees fit. Present yourself a living sacrifice! Do it today!