



Jeremiah 24-25

JEREMIAH 24

Jeremiah tells us,

The LORD shewed me, and, behold, two baskets of figs were set before the temple of the LORD, after that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had carried away captive Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah, with the carpenters and smiths, from Jerusalem, and had brought them to Babylon.

This is during that first invasion of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar when Jeconiah was carried away as a captive and it was not the first but the second. He saw these two baskets of figs. They were there before the temple. Now, one basket had very good figs.

One basket had very good figs, even like the figs that are first ripe:

The fig tree is an interesting tree as far as the bearing of fruit. If you have fig trees you are probably aware of this that there are times when there are figs that will start to develop very early in the spring. Not many but they become around the first part of July. These first ripe figs are much larger and really more flavorful than the figs that will become ripe at the end of August/September. The abundance of the fig crops comes later. But there are these first ripe figs and it seemed like the energy of the tree is going into a few of them and so they are really large and full of flavor. These were very good figs like those first ripe figs.

and the other basket had very naughty figs, which could not be eaten, they were so bad.

Figs are extremely perishable. That is why you do not find them much in the market place. They just will perish so rapidly once they are picked. They are very perishable and thus these were bad.

Then said the LORD unto me, What seest thou, Jeremiah? And I said, Figs; the good figs, very good; and the evil, very evil, that cannot be eaten, they are so evil. Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Thus saith the LORD< the God of Israel; Like these good figs, so will I acknowledge them that are carried away captive of Judah, whom I have sent out of this place into the land of the Chaldeans for their good.

Among those who were carried away were Daniel, Ezekiel. They both prophesied in Babylon. There were many people that were carried away. Some were good people such as Daniel and his three friends and Ezekiel and many others. But there were others that were carried away that were just rotten. Now, the fig is being used as a symbol of the nation of Israel. And some of the people were carried for their own good.

Jerusalem was to go through a horrible siege. The siege that was going to take place would be as a living death. The people would sink to a state of anarchy. There would be powerful gangs that would roving through Jerusalem. By force they would take what food a person may have stored up or saved for themselves. Robbing, pillaging, killing. And it was going to be a horrible experience for those that were in Jerusalem which would end in death as the Babylonian army finally broke the walls of Jerusalem and entered the city, it was going to be mass carnage. Those that were carried away as captive really were going to be much better off than those who had remained in Jerusalem to experience this siege that was going to take place by the Babylonians.

I have sent out of this place into the land of the Chaldeans for their good.

For those that were carried away and taken as slaves to Babylon, they probably did not realize that this was for their good. They probably thought the Lord has forsaken us. Oh, it is so tragic, here we are taken away as captives and all. But it was really for their good that God did it. There are many times as God is working in our lives for our good because we do not understand what the future holds we sometimes think that God has failed us. We sometimes look at the work of God in our life as the sign that God does not love us or that God has forsaken us. When so many times God is working for our good. "All things are working together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose." And so these that were carried away, the good ones were carried away for their good.

For I will set mine eyes upon them for good, and I will bring them again to this land: and I will build them, and not pull them down; and I will plant them, and not pluck them up. And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart.

The experience of the hardships will cause the righteous people to turn to God. Evil people only become more resolute in their evil it seems as they begin to experience the judgments of God as the Pharaoh. They just harden themselves. A person who is good in his heart, he may be straying, God will deal with him and it will cause them to turn to God. So these people that were taken as captives, God was going to deal with them. He would watch over them and He would bring them back and establish them in the land and give them a heart to know that He is the LORD. "They shall by My people, relationship, I will be their God for they shall return with their whole heart." However on the other hand.

And as the evil figs, which cannot be eaten, they are so evil; surely thus saith the LORD, So will I give Zedekiah the king of Judah, and his princes, and the residue of Jerusalem, that remain in this land, and them that dwell in the land of Egypt: And I will deliver them to be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth for their hurt, to be a reproach and a proverb, a taunt and a curse, in all places whither I shall drive them. And I will send the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, among them, till they be consumed from off the land that I gave unto them and to their fathers.

So the good figs were really those that were carried away captive. The evil figs were those that remained in rebellion. Jeremiah had advised them to surrender to the Babylon army. But they rebelled against the word of God and thus they were so evil that there was no recovering.

In our Thursday night study this week, we are going to be studying concerning the unpardonable sin as we are there in John 12:38. When a person gets to that place where God gives up on them. When they have set their hearts so against God that God no longer deals with them. That He withdraws His Spirit from them. As God said to Noah in the time of the flood, "My Spirit will not always strive with man." And when a man comes to that place where God's Spirit ceases to strive with them, where God looks upon him as a rotten fig, so to speak, so rotten that there is no recovery, there is no more sense of dealing with them. Thus were the people that remained with Zedekiah. God promises His judgment that is going to come. He is not going to try to recover them from their evil, whereas those who have been taken to Babylon, God is going to watch over them, He is going to take care of them, He is going to draw them back to Himself because they are going to turn to God and yet this other group will be scattered for their hurt. The one was scattered for their good, or taken away to Babylon for their good, these will be scattered for their hurt.

JEREMIAH 25

The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, that was the first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon;

He is giving us a lot of things by which we can date this prophecy. First of all, it was the fourth year that Jehoiakim was the king. He was the son of Josiah. When Jeremiah started to prophecy it was in the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah. Josiah continued for another nineteen years and then his son reigned for only three months when his second son, Jehoiakim came to the throne and he has now been reigning for four years. So this would be the twenty-third year of Jeremiah's prophesying.

I point that out to you to give you a little insight into the situation. Here the fellow has been faithfully declaring God's word to the people for 23 years. Now some of you have been witnessing to your family for a year and nothing has happened yet. And you feel very discouraged because it seems like you have been talking to them for a whole year and they are still the same. They are not interested in the things of the LORD.

Well, here is Jeremiah in the fourth year of the reign of Jehoiakim. Now, Nebuchadnezzar was the general of the Babylonian army and had already been to Jerusalem before this time. But he was not the king at that time. His father was the king and he was the general over the Babylonian armies. But now in the fourth year of the reign of Jehoiakim, Nebuchadnezzar came to the throne. So it was the first year of Nebuchadnezzar's reigning in Babylon as king.

The which Jeremiah the prophet spake unto all the people of Judah, and to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, From the thirteenth year of Josiah the son of Amon king of Judah, even unto this day, that is the tree and twentieth year, the word of the LORD hath come unto me,

He had said when the LORD called him he was just a child and that no one would listen. They figure that he was about seventeen years old at that time. Now, twenty-three years later he is about forty years old. He has been speaking all this time, "The word of the LORD has come unto me."

and I have spoken unto you, rising early and speaking; but ye have not hearkened.

I think that I would be a little discouraged at that point. If I had been preaching for twenty-three years and the people were not paying any attention. They were not listening.

And the LORD hath sent unto you all his servants the prophets,

So, the many prophets that the LORD had sent. Hosea and Uricha and Zedekiah.

rising early and sending them; but ye have not hearkened, nor inclined your ear to hear.

God had warned them. He was faithful in warning them of the judgment that was coming. God is always faithful in warning people. Our problem is that we always listen to the warning of God. We so many times just ignore the warnings of God. In your own life you can look at those places where you were trapped by Satan, where you fell into the enemies and you will have to confess that God warned you. You had that warning but you chose to ignore the warning.

And thus to these people, God was faithful. He sent His prophets. Jeremiah had been there for twenty-three years. The other prophets had been speaking to them but they chose to ignore the warnings that God had sent by the prophets. "You have not listened."

They said, Turn ye again now every one from his evil way, and from the evil of your doings, and dwell in the land that the LORD hath given unto you and to your fathers for ever and ever:

Turn that you might dwell here. If you will serve the LORD then the LORD will preserve you. He will take care of you. Now, if you listen to those prophets that God has sent to the United States. Billy Graham and some of these other men that God is using, their message is much the same as the prophets' message to Israel. The deal with the social evils that exist in the United States today. They talk about the problems that we have. And the reason for those problems is because we have turned our backs on God. We are teaching the children that they are products of evolutionary processes. That there is no Creator.

Right now a school teacher in the Capistrano District is involved in a suit against the school system because they insisted that he teach in his science class that evolution is a fact. He said, "You give me the facts and I will teach them. But I am not going to teach it as a fact until you give me evidence that proves that there is an evolution from one species to another. Yes, evolution within a species but show me transitional forms of one species to another and I will teach it to the class. But I am not going to teach them something that you do not offer proof for." He has of course been relieved of his duties as the result of that.

The result is children who have no sense of purpose for life except fun, excitement, parties. And the whole nation is suffering today because we have forsaken God. The Laws of God and the ways of God. And there is an anarchy that is developing, gangs are anarchy. They make their own rules. We have just serious problems that we are facing in the nation today and the prophets of God, Billy Graham, he is warning the nation of the need to repent. But much like Judah the nation is not listening.

And go not after other gods to serve them, and to worship them, and provoke me not to anger with the works of your hands; and I will do you no hurt.

What were the other gods? They were gods of pleasure. They were gods of power, money, processions. And these were the things that the people were living for. They were living for pleasure, to amass fortunes and that was their life. God is saying, "Don't follow or serve or worship them."

Yet ye have not hearkened unto me, saith the LORD; that ye might provoke me to anger with the works of your hands to your own hurt.

Sin always is destructive to the person who is sinning. You cannot sin without it affecting you, without it hurting you. And thus again the LORD is warning that sin is destructive. Sin is so destructive, it destroys you. As I have said before, if you will really look at the laws of God you will find that God has not prohibited not one good thing. I would like me to show me or tell me one good thing that God says that you should not do. And you can't. God has not forbidden you to do one good beneficial thing. If it is good for you, if it is good, God says to go for it. But if it is destructive, if it can hurt, if it can destroy you then God says, "don't do that." And the only things that God has prohibited are those things that if you do them and persist in them they will destroy you and they will destroy relationships and others around you. Sin is always hurtful. If you are rebelling against the laws of God, if you find a rebellion in your heart against the Law of God you are rebelling against your own good. For the Law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul. God will keep you from those things that will bring hurt and those things that would destroy.

Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Because ye have not heard my words, Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the LORD, and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations. Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones, and the light of the candle.

Now, here it is interesting that the LORD calls Nebuchadnezzar His servant. Earlier on at a later period Isaiah was prophesying of Cyrus the king of Persia that was to defeat the Babylonians and the LORD referred to Cyrus as His servant. It only indicates that God is in control even of the evil empires or nations and rulers that come into power. God rules. Now, Nebuchadnezzar, we are told in the book of Daniel, thought that he ruled. And he was exalting himself. He was filled with pride because of the greatness of the city of Babylon. The towers of Babylon, one of the wonders of the ancient world. And the LORD gave him a warning, gave him a dream where this tree that was so great and all of the birds that nested in it and the animals found shelter in it. The tree was cut down to the roots. But there grew out of the roots a new tree. And he told the dream to Daniel, "Daniel said, oh, watch out, that is dream is one that will please your enemies. Because God has been watching you and your heart has been filled with pride. You have a great kingdom and it stands the world and people have found shelter under the branches of your power but you need to walk carefully before the world not to be filled with pride."

And about a year later Nebuchadnezzar forgot the warning of the prophet and he walking in the midst of the hanging gardens and said, "Is this not the great Babylon that I have built?!" And that was it. He went insane and for seven years he lived like a beast with the oxen in the field. He was out there eating grass, he was insane. He was totally mad. After the seven seasons his sanity came back to him and he acknowledged that there was a God in heaven who sets over the kingdoms those whom He wills.

Recognize the sovereignty of God. And thus he is referred to as a servant of God. So Nebuchadnezzar will be God's instrument to bring His devastation and destruction and judgment upon these people taking from them the voice of the parties and the gladness.

And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

Here is the prophecy that the Babylonian captivity is to last seventy years. Daniel, who was one of the captives, and we will get to his book when we move along a little further in the Bible, that fascinating prophecy of Daniel. We will find that Daniel said that he was in the ninth chapter, reading the prophecies of Jeremiah and he understood from the prophecies of Jeremiah that the seventy years would be the length of captivity and he knew that the seventy years were almost over. And thus he was seeking the LORD because he had been reading the prophecies of Jeremiah and understanding from it that it would be a seventy year period of captivity.

We are told in another scripture that the reason for the seventy years was that when they had come into the land, under the law God had told them to let the land rest every seventh year. In order that there might be a rejuvenation of the soil so that they for six years they were to plant their fields and all but the seventh year they were not to plant anything but just let everything grow wild. God would give them enough in the sixth year to carry them through the seventh year and have enough seed to plant again. But they were to cycle and every seventh the land was to have a sabbath. Just as God had set a six and one pattern for the rest so the land was to rest.

Now they had been in the land for 490 years but they had not given the land rest. They had not given the land its sabbaths. So God said, "I will just move you out of the land. The land has seventy years of sabbaths that they missed. So I will take you out of the land for seventy years in order for the land to get its rest." God will exact His toll one way or the other. So the seventy years was for the one year for every sabbath that the land had missed.

And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the LORD, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it

perpetual desolations.

When the Persians and the Medes conquered Babylon it was under Cyrus, the Persian king, that they were able to go back from their captivity. And of course the Babylonians were defeated so the Chaldeans were punished. The empire fell and it was replaced by the Medo-Persians.

And I will bring upon that land all my words which I have pronounced against it, even all that is written in this book, which Jeremiah hath prophesied against all the nations.

This is a reference to a book that Jeremiah had written in which he had given these prophecies against the nations and that book will be incorporated in the later writings of Jeremiah that we will come to in chapters in 45.

For many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of them also: and I will recompense them according to their deeds, and according to the works of their own hands.

Be not deceived, God is not mocked. Whatsoever a man sows that shall he also reap. And the LORD said that He will repay them according to their deeds. According to the works of their own hands. They are going to get what they deserve. That is justice. Thank God that He deals with us in mercy. If you do not call upon God He will deal with you justly. God will be very fair and just in His dealing with you if you don't call upon Him. But if you call upon Him He will be merciful and He will show you mercy. But that all depends upon you, whether you want the justice of God or the mercy of God. A man is a fool who wants the justice of God.

For thus saith the LORD God of Israel unto me; Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it.

He is going to tell now of these nations upon whom the judgment of God is going to fall.

And they shall drink, and be moved, and be mad, because of the sword that I will send among them. Then took I the cup at the LORD'S hand, and made all the nations to drink, unto whom the LORD had sent me: To wit, Jerusalem, and the cities of Judah, and the kings thereof, and the princes thereof, to make them a desolation, an astonishment, an hissing, and a curse; as it is this day;

So the first was to be to Jerusalem. In the New Testament we read that the judgment must begin at the house of the LORD. But if it begins at the house of the LORD then where shall the unjust and the ungodly appear? Here judgment begins in Jerusalem, the city of God. But then it is to pass on to Pharaoh.

Pharaoh king of Egypt, and his servants, and his princes, and all his people; And all the mingled people,

Now, Pharaoh Haprah had hired a lot of mercenaries for his army. The people of Egypt ultimately rebelled against the Pharaoh because of the mercenaries and Egypt was weakened and was conquered to Babylon. So the mingled people were those mercenaries in the Egyptian army that created the problems later.

and all the kings of the land of Uz,

Now, this is not Uz of the area of Babylon. There was an area there known as Uz. But the area of the Negev was known as Uz in those days also. And so it is that area just south of the Gaza Strip.

and all the kings of the land of the Philistines, and Ashkelon, and Azzah, and Ekron, and the remnant of Ashdod,

It is interesting that they would say that because Ashdod had been besieged by the Egyptians for twenty-nine years. And so there was not much left of Ashdod. But the remnant that were there, they were going to get it anyhow. Gath had been conquered anyhow, so it was not listed as one of the major Philistine cities but it had already fallen to Salmaneucous the ruler of Egypt at that time. Then moving over to Edom on the east bank of the Jordan in the southern part. Then coming a little north to Moab. The children of Ammon and of course the modern capital of Jordan is Amman that comes directly from this Ammon from the Scriptures which was the territory within Moab. And all of the kings of Tyrus, now you are moving over to the coast and just north of the Israel. And you hear a lot today of Tyrus which is there in southern Lebanon. And the kings of Sidon. And these cities exist to the present time. And the kings of the isles which are beyond the sea.

And then on over to the area of Saudi Arabia. Dedan is a part of Saudi Arabia and Tema and Buz. These are areas in the Arabian Peninsula there.

Edom, and Moab, and the children of Ammon, And all the kings of Tyrus, and all the kings of Sidon, and the kings of the isles which are beyond the sea, Dedan, and Tema, and Buz, and all that are in the utmost corners, And all the kings of Arabia, and all the kings of the mingled people that dwell in the desert.

The word mingled there is a different word than the mingled up above and this word is literally motley people. It was probably a reference to the Bedouin type people who still dwell there in the desert.

And all the kings of Zimri, (Kuwait) and all the kings of Elam, and all the kings of the Medes, (moving north). And all the kings of the north, far and near, one with another, and all the kingdoms of the world, which are upon the face of the earth: and the king of Sheshach shall drink after them.

This is a cryptic name for Babylon. It could be that Jeremiah knew that Nebuchadnezzar was giving his writings and the prophecies that he was making and so he gives a cryptic name for Babylon, Sheshach.

Therefore thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Drink ye, and be drunken, and spue, and fall, and rise no more, because of the sword which I will send among you. And it shall be, if they refuse to take the cup at thine hand to drink, then shalt thou say unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Ye shall certainly drink.

He promised that the judgments were going to come, the fury of God, the judgment of God, the cup of His indignation. And people will say, "Oh no, we will not take of that." But God says, "Oh yes you will. You may think that you can escape the judgment of God, no you can't."

For, lo, I begin to bring evil on the city which is called by my name, and should ye be utterly unpunished?

In other words, "If I am going to punish Jerusalem, the city that is called by My name, do you think that you are going to escape. If judgment begins in the house of God, do you think that you will escape the judgment of God?"

Ye shall not be unpunished: for I will call for a sword upon all the inhabitants of the earth, saith the LORD of hosts.

Now, at this point Jeremiah's prophecy begins to span the ages down to the period of the Great Tribulation. And he is talking now about the judgment of God that is going to come upon all the earth during the period of the Great Tribulation which period I believe, we are on the border of at the present time. I believe that the world is ripening now for the judgment of God. I believe that already that we are beginning to see indications of events that will only escalate during the Great Tribulation period. And on New Year's Eve at our New Year's Eve message this year we are going to be looking at so many things happening in the earth today that are a prelude, there are just the beginnings, as one place in the Scripture says that these are the beginnings of sorrows. And surely we are in the beginnings of sorrows now and we will show you where they are going to lead for those who are so foolish as to reject Jesus Christ and to be here during that time of God's judgment.

Therefore prophesy thou against them all these words, and say unto them, The LORD shall roar from on high, and utter his voice from his holy habitation; he shall mightily roar upon his habitation; he shall give a shout, as they that tread the grapes, against all the inhabitants of the earth. A noise shall come even to the ends of the earth; for the LORD hath a controversy with the nations, he will plead with all flesh; he will give them that are wicked to the sword, saith the LORD.

The Great Tribulation period. Now, in the book of Revelation you will read of the Lord coming and roaring as a lion roars. Here again a reference to Joel also speaks of the Lord roaring mightily. It is the shout of a lion about ready to destroy its prey. As God is coming to judge and the wickedness of the earth has just exceeded the boundaries and thus the LORD will come to bring His righteous judgment upon the inhabitants of the earth and there will be a shout like people who are in the winepress. But we read His garments that are stained like He had been trampling in the wine press as He brings His judgment and crushes the nations because of their wickedness. And He will plead with all flesh and give those who are wicked to the sword.

Notice, them that are wicked, but you don't read about the righteous and the righteous will escape. Our sins were judged. Jesus bore the judgments for your sins and thus there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus for God has not appointed us unto wrath. We talk about being saved. We are saved from this judgment of God that is going to come upon this wicked world. From the destruction, the desolation, the sword of God that is going to smite the earth, you are saved from that. Saved is a wonderful thing. You are saved from the judgment of God on the unrighteousness and the corruption of sin.

Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth. And the slain of the LORD shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth:

Now people talk about being slain in the Spirit and this is the only Scriptural reference that I can find for it. And it will be pretty widespread in those days. The Lord will blow on them with His breath but it is a far cry from what you see today.

they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried, (their carcasses are just going to lie on the earth) they shall be dung upon the ground.

Howl, ye shepherds, and cry; and wallow yourselves in the ashes,

Now it used to be that when they went into mourning they would put little ashes on their foreheads and you see a guy walking around with ashes on his forehead it was a sign that a guy was going through deep sorrow. Don't tell me any jokes, I feel really miserable, I went through a lot of sorrow. This was

wallow in the ashes. Not just a little ashes on your forehead but wallow in them.

ye principal of the flock: for the days of your slaughter and of your dispersions are accomplished; and ye shall fall like a pleasant vessel.

Like a delicate glass. You drop a delicate glass and man it shatters. That is the way you are going to be just shattered.

And the shepherds shall have no way to flee,

Now Zedekiah tried to flee but he was caught by Nebuchadnezzar. Down towards the city of Jericho, between Jerusalem and Jericho the Babylonian soldiers caught up with him and captured him and brought he and his family to Nebuchadnezzar and as he was watching king Nebuchadnezzar had his sons beheaded and then he gouged out Zedekiah's eyes and they led him back to Babylon. He was there as a captive but he never saw it because his eyes were put out. The warning is that there will be no way to flee. The rulers are going to come into judgment because they did not lead the people from their sin and iniquity onto a righteous standing for God.

A voice of the cry of the shepherds, and an howling of the principal of the flock, shall be heard: for the LORD hath spoiled their pasture. And the peaceable habitations are cut down because of the fierce anger of the LORD. He hath forsaken his covert, as the lion: for their land is desolate because of the fierceness of the oppressor, and because of his fierce anger.

The prophet is just warning the people that this is what is going to happen. Now, you remember earlier that he said to turn to the LORD, serve the LORD, do what is right and you can be spared, you can live in this land. Earlier even than that he said God has set before you the way of life and the way of death and you make your choice. And it is that way perpetually.

Tonight God is setting before you the way of life and the way of death. And you choose which path you are going to walk. You are going to walk in a path of righteousness following after God and serving God or you are going to walk in rebellion against God, the path of destruction, the path of sin and you will face the judgment of God. The fierce anger and wrath of God. There are people who try to say, "Well, that is the God of the OT Wrath, fire, judgment. I like the love, everything and everyone of the NT" Well, you have not read the whole NT Yes, Jesus came to reveal to you the fact that God loves you but that only makes your rebelling against God all the more sinful. All the less excusable.

Thus the wrath of God shall come against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who hold the truth of God but in unrighteousness. And if you want to know about the wrath of God you need to read the book of Revelation. As we read in amplification of what Jeremiah has just told us as the cup of God's indignation is going to come all over the world. You get a clarification and you get a lot of the details of what just will happen when God begins to judge the world in the fierceness of His anger for the condition of the world in its rebellion against God and the things of God.

You have the choice. You can surrender your life to God and live for God and you can ask God to come in and take over. And you can do those things that will please Him. And you can seek to please the Lord. Or, you can choose your own path of unrighteousness, living after the flesh and the desires of your flesh. Shutting God out of your life and out of your mind. And going against the commandment and the word of God. But know this, oh man, that one day you will stand before God to give an account of your life. And those whose names are not written in the Book of Life will be cast into the lake that is burning with fire. This is the second death.

Jeremiah said, "Take the cup and drink of it." They said that they would not drink of it. "Oh yes you will. You may not want to." But every man will give an account of himself one day before God. And thus God warns. Now, you can heed the warning of God or you can ignore the warning of God. If you ignore it, it is to your own destruction.

Father, we thank You that You are so faithful when we go astray You warn us. And in love you draw us back to the path. We see those who ignore the warning, there are determined to go their own way, they are determined to walk after their own flesh instead of walking after the spirit and we watch them as they destroy themselves and are being destroyed by their sins. Oh, Lord, we ask that You would awake people to the seriousness of the days in which we live. Lord, wake people up to what is happening. Let them see what is going on in our world. Lord, bring them out of their stupor and out of their lethargy, that they might realize that we are going down fast. And our only hope is to turn our lives over to Jesus Christ and begin to live for him. Lord, may we go out this week to just live recklessly for You. Lord, may we lay our lives on the line for Jesus' sake and in His name we pray. Amen.

I am so glad that I am a child of the King and that therefore is now no condemnation because Jesus took the guilt of my sin and died in my place and all that I am going to face is the favor of God and the blessings of God and the glory of forever living in his presence. That is my choice, I am sticking with it. May the Lord bless you and may his love be showered upon you as you walk with him. The word of the Lord to Asa the king was the Lord will be with you if you will be with him. But if you will forsake him he will forsake you. But if you seek him you will find him. That is perpetual. If you want to be with the Lord tonight he will be with you. If you want to walk your own way he will let you but if you seek the Lord you will find him. May the Lord bless you as you seek him and his will, his plan, his purpose for your life. May you live in such as to please him.