

Jeremiah Ch 21–22 • “Was This Not Knowing Me?”

- Background Left off w/ J. lamenting – which is understandable given length of ministry!
- v1-2 God promised (15v11) that J’s enemies would seek him out! Fulfillment!
Zedekiah = last king of Judah. Starting c. 588BC and working backwards!
See 2 Kings 23-24; 2 Chron 35–36 for historical background.
- 612BC the Babylonians defeat the Assyrian empire
609BC Josiah (last good king) killed in battle vs Egypt.
609BC Jehoahaz is king for 3 months; Neco replaces w/ Jehoiakim.
605BC Babylonians defeat Egypt & capture Jerusalem (1st wave of deportation)
601BC Jehoiakim tries to push back vs. Babylon.
597BC Jehoiakim is killed; Jehoiachin rules for 100 days (2nd wave deportation)
Nebuchadnezzar puts Zedekiah on the throne.
588BC Zedekiah considers alliance w/ Egypt vs Babylon
Nebuchadnezzar’s army first blockades then lays siege.
586BC Jerusalem falls (3rd wave of deportation)
- C. 588–586BC Zedekiah reaches out to Jeremiah: “Ask God for help!”
- v3-4 God’s answer: “I’m not on your side! Babylon is MY weapon vs. you!”
- v5-6 “Outstretched hand and mighty arm” – call back to the Exodus.
“Pestilence” – call back to the plagues of Egypt. Except now in reverse!
- v7 Fulfilled (brutally) in 2 Kings 25:6-7.
- v8-10 Too late for Judah’s leaders; not too late for the people if they surrender.
- v11-13 How did we get here? God fills in the backstory...
King’s job was to minister justice, defend oppressed, oppose exploitation.
Kings didn’t do their job (did the opposite despite being warned).
- v14 Poetic references: “valley” speaks of Mt. Zion being brought low;
“rock of the plain” refers to temple site originally being threshing floor,
“forest” could refer to palace or temple (both built with cedar).
- 22v1-2 Time warp: Jeremiah goes back to previous prophecy vs. earlier kings.
As if to say: “Let’s talk about how we got here.”
Initially addresses house of David (royal family) in general.
Possibly a warning given in days of Josiah (last good king)?
- 22v3-5 Familiar message: obedience / blessing; disobedience / judgment.
- 22v6 Same message or different? Either way the message is clear...
Judah had a choice. Made the wrong choice. Now it gets ugly.

- 22v7 "Forest" (cf 21v14) – poetic reference to temple / palace (2 Sam 7:2).
- 22v8-9 Cause & effect clear: rebellion vs God ☹ city reduced to ashes!
But at this point still POSSIBLE for Judah to turn (esp under Josiah).
- 22v10-12 After Josiah things go downhill FAST.
Jehoahaz aka Shallum chosen by people after Josiah dies in battle.
Lasts 3 mos until Necho sends him into exile in Egypt where he dies.
2 Chron 36 / 2 King 23 have details.
- 22v13-17 After Jehoahaz deposed, Necho puts Jehoiakim in power (609-597).
Thoroughly wicked, self-indulgent guy who Jeremiah confronts!
Basically compares Jehoiakim to Mannasah (worst king of Judah).
- 22v18-19 Judgment pronounced! Note: no real contradiction @ 2 Kings 24:6.
Could have been buried and then dug up, or never buried!
- 22v20-21 Jeremiah addresses Jerusalem: trusted lovers more than God!
Lovers here = political allies (cf Hosea 8:9-10).
Judgment coming because listened to selves, nations, anyone but God!
- 22v22-23 Hint of dual fulfilment? Applies to future Israel's treaty w/ Antichrist!
- 22v24-30 Finally Jehoiachin (because we already covered Zedekiah in Ch 21).
Blood curse @ v30 – will explore more deeply next week!
- Application* *What do these chapters remind us about the character of God?*
Look especially at 22v16-17, and then circle back to 22v3.
Law of Moses required compassion. God is merciful, just, and kind.
Josiah pursued those qualities bc knew God and wanted to know God!
Compare Micah 6:8 and consider implications for the church!