

God's Message to the World

Repent or Perish

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Bible Text: Jeremiah 38:1; John 3:18

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Jeremiah chapter 38. Our subject this morning is God's warning to the world and the individual.

Now this portion of the Word of God is a tremendous chapter and I have found in it these doctrines that are set forth. And so I challenge you, if you go home sometime and read them. First of all, there is a picture of the gospel. Secondly, there is a picture of particular redemption. Thirdly, there is a picture of the total depravity of man. Fourth, there is a picture of God's Holy Spirit conviction. Fifth, there is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ. And, sixth, we find there is also a picture of the Christian life. And, then, last of all, there is a world conditions and then finally there is a picture of procrastination.

Now all of these doctrines are found in this portion of the Word of God and I challenge you. You see if you can find them when you go back and reading. And now for a few moments this morning I want to share with you God's warning to the world and to the individual.

Jeremiah chapter 38 beginning with verse one.

Then Shephatiah the son of Mattan, and Gedaliah the son of Pashur, and Jucal the son of Shelemiah, and Pashur the son of Malchiah, heard the words that Jeremiah had spoken unto all the people, saying, Thus saith the LORD, He that remaineth in this city shall die by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence: but he that goeth forth to the Chaldeans shall live; for he shall have his life for a prey, and shall live. Thus saith the LORD, This city shall surely be given into the hand of the king of Babylon's army, which shall take it. Therefore the princes said unto the king, We beseech thee, let this man be put to death: for thus he weakeneth the hands of the men of war that remain in this city, and the hands of all the people, in speaking such words unto them: for this man seeketh not the welfare of this people, but the hurt. Then Zedekiah the king said, Behold, he is in your hand: for the king is not he that can do any thing against you. Then took they Jeremiah, and cast him into the dungeon of Malchiah the son of Hammelech, that was in the court of the prison: and they let down

Jeremiah with cords. And in the dungeon there was no water, but mire: so Jeremiah sunk in the mire.¹

So Jeremiah sunk in the mire.

Now when Ebedmelech the Ethiopian, one of the eunuchs which was in the king's house, heard that they had put Jeremiah in the dungeon; the king then sitting in the gate of Benjamin; Ebedmelech went forth out of the king's house, and spake to the king, saying, My lord the king, these men have done evil in all that they have done to Jeremiah the prophet, whom they have cast into the dungeon; and he is like to die for hunger in the place where he is: for there is no more bread in the city. Then the king commanded Ebedmelech the Ethiopian, saying, Take from hence thirty men with thee, and take up Jeremiah the prophet out of the dungeon, before he die.²

Now that is all there is to it. The story is this. Jeremiah was in the dungeon. Ebedmelech the Ethiopian asked the king for deliverance. The king delivered Jeremiah and that was it.

But there was a whole lot more to it than that.

In our lesson to day we are going to show you, first of all, God's message to the world today. And then, secondly, we are going to show you the traumatic experience in redemption.

Now remember one thing. Salvation is not walking an aisle. Salvation is not being baptized. Salvation is not turning over a new leaf. Salvation is not simply uttering a prayer, but salvation is an experience between the individual and the Lord God of heaven.

Nobody can equal it and I should say nobody can surpass it and nobody can deny it when it takes place because it is the greatest thing that can ever take place in the heart and life of an individual.

Now what am I talking about? Well, today salvation has become a simple acceptance to a simple truth. Beloved, that is not salvation. Salvation is an experience between the individual and the Lord God of heaven and I will make no bones about it. It is a traumatic experience. It happens one time and one time only and the results are eternal.

Now I hope you will follow along with me as we look today at the Word of God, as we see this morning God's message to the world today.

Now here you have the situation. Nebuchadnezzar had surrounded the city of Jerusalem. Zedekiah and the army were inside the city and the city was facing starvation. Jeremiah

¹ Jeremiah 1:1-6.

² Jeremiah 1:7-10.

was in that city also and Jeremiah was giving a message to those people and this is what he said.

“Now if you will surrender to Nebuchadnezzar, you will save your life and the city. If you don’t surrender, you will perish and the city also will be burned with fire.”

Here is the lesson today for our learning. Number one, God’s message to the world today is repent or perish. Now God doesn’t ask an individual to repent. He commands an individual to repent and every individual, I don’t care who they are, religious or otherwise, has to repent before God or else he will die and go to hell.

Now I am dogmatic about it and for the times that I have been coming here I have mentioned it before. I was a Baptist preacher for eight years before God ever saved me.

Now someone might say, “How in the world can that be?”

Well, all you have got to do is go back and read Acts chapter nine and you will find out that the apostle Paul was in the same condition. Paul was just as religious as he could be and I was telling some of the folks last night what was happening when I was in Bible school and everything like that, but I didn’t know the Lord. But what happened was this. God brought me through Bible school, taught me some of these things and then he put me in the pastorate and I pastored three churches, three Baptist churches before I got converted.

In one of them I lasted only eight months. Now if you think... one of them only eight months. The other one, five years. The third one, two years and then when I got converted they fired me. They didn’t want a Baptist preacher that was converted to preach to them.

All right. When the Lord gave me the next church, I pastored that same church for 35 years. So I know what it is. And we find God’s message today is what? Repent or perish.

Now Jeremiah was in that city and we find out what happened was this. Jeremiah was telling them, point blank, “There is only one way for you to be saved and that is this. You have got to surrender to Nebuchadnezzar.”

Now how come?

Now you listen. Nebuchadnezzar was God’s servant to take care of Jerusalem. And Nebuchadnezzar, listen now, Nebuchadnezzar was the individual that the people in Jerusalem had to trust. And so Nebuchadnezzar here was a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ. The people today in this world, they have got to trust the Lord Jesus Christ. But they have got to repent. And we find what happened is this. They didn’t want to do it in those days. The same thing is true at this present hour.

The second thing is this. They were told to repent or perish. And when Jeremiah preached that message this is what they said. “You are preaching treason.”

Well, when anybody is preaching any other message except the true gospel, they are also preaching treason. And we find there is a lot of that going on at this present hour.

Now why do I tell you this? Because are you listening? If it was regards to Jeremiah and the city of Jerusalem there was no one else that could save them. That was Nebuchadnezzar. With regard to today, there is no one else that can save an individual and that is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ.

And people today don't want to hear that, but it is still the same. And when we preach that we become politically incorrect. But I would rather be politically incorrect and correct with God than politically correct and incorrect with God. How about you?

Then we find a second thing is this. Listen carefully now. There was a time limited for each one. Nebuchadnezzar was bound and determined to conquer that city. All right. What time did they have with regard to Jeremiah? Take your Bibles if you will and turn to Jeremiah chapter 39. And you will see what it says in verse one.

“In the ninth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the tenth month, came Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon and all his army against Jerusalem, and they besieged it.”³

Now listen.

“And in the eleventh year of Zedekiah, in the fourth month, the ninth day of the month, the city was broken up.”⁴

In other words, they had two years to repent. They didn't do it. All right? How long a man today has time to repent, only God knows. But I am going to tell you right now. Every individual outside of the Lord Jesus Christ is living under a reprieve. We are not going to be condemned. We are already condemned.

Now you say, “Can I prove that?”

I most certainly can. So take your Bibles and keep your finger in Jeremiah chapter 38 and go back with me to John chapter three. I said it the other night when I was preaching along these lines, I said, “In the third chapter of John—and I challenge you to find it—in the third chapter of John there are 13 things that describe the depravity of an individual.”

And we find John is known as the love chapter or the love book, but we find in John chapter three and we see in verse 18 the Word of God tells us these things. Listen to it, if you will.

³ Jeremiah 39:1.

⁴ Jeremiah 39:2.

He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.⁵

Then in another verse we find, again, John 3:36.

“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”⁶

Now why do I tell you these things? Beloved, in the days of Jeremiah and in the days of King Zedekiah there was a time limited, given to them by God to repent or perish. The same thing is true at this present hour.

Now I am 87 years old. The young lady behind... before me is in her 90s. Well, I live in a rest home and the youngest... in fact the oldest lady there is 108 years old and she can walk better than I can. The lady down the hall from me is 102. All right. I feel like just a kid because here we have this lady is old enough to be my mother.

All right. Now God has given us a long life, but God may not give that to everybody. You are here today, if you are here today without Christ—and only you and God know—all right, this may be the last time you will ever hear the truth. Now the Lord impressed upon me come down this time and I don't know why. I still don't know why, but I know that he impressed me to come down here and I just recently come out of the hospital and I am having a bout yet with pneumonia, but the Lord said, “You have got to go to Conyers.”

Well, when Bill found out I was coming to Conyers he said, “You have got to come to Bethel.” And this is Father's Day and I don't know how many years I have been coming here, but every time I have come here it is has been a Father's Day. And I appreciate very much.

But now why do I tell you? Are you listening? Look around, if you will, at our world condition. The time is limited for everyone.

Now in the book of the Revelation you find four horsemen ready to ride across the stage of human history. All right. We find the first one stands for domination. The second one stands for destruction. The third one stands for depravation. And the fourth one stands for death. And I will tell you right now. The world is not getting any better. It is getting

⁵ John 3:18-21.

⁶ John 3:36.

worse and worse and worse, because the world is like the city of Jerusalem. It is under the judgment of God and the Lord God of heaven is about direct judgment on this earth.

Now you can put it down. You may say, "Well, preacher, I don't believe you."

That doesn't change it any. These are facts. And you look around today and you will find out that the earthquakes and the hurricanes and the tornadoes and the droughts and everything like that are a warning of God that this world is entering what is called a time of sorrows.

As I said these things I want to ask you a question. Are you ready to meet the Lord? Now what are you depending on to get you to heaven? Good works? It is not going to do it because nobody can say by works.

It is not by works of righteousness that we are saved, all right?

Are you depending upon your deeds? None whatsoever, because we are saved by grace through faith and that not of ourselves. It is the gift of God, not of works lest any man should boast.

If I could have worked my way to heaven as a Baptist preacher, I would have done so. Let me tell you something. I worked hard at it. I was known as a great soul winner. And I will tell you right now. I could preach and I emptied two churches while in an unsaved condition.

Now how come? The message that I preached was law conviction and they wouldn't have it.

Well, now after the Lord God of heaven saved me, I don't preach law conviction. I preach Holy Spirit conviction. And we find this is also set forth in this portion of the Word of God.

But now look again. God's message to the world today is repent or perish because the time is limited of each individual. Then we find the message of the gospel is still being proclaimed.

We had a great prayer meeting this morning and I will tell you right now. I praise the Lord for this little lighthouse that is here. It is faithful. And when we stand before the Lord God of heaven, the results will be given unto the Lord, because the Lord didn't tell us to have big churches. The Lord told us to do what? To be faithful unto him with the message that he has given us. And this church has been faithful unto the Lord God of heaven with the message that has been given them. And praise the Lord the message of the gospel is still being proclaimed from these walls.

And I will tell you right now. You be glad that you are here because churches today are closing up by the score. Wherever you go they are closing up. I mentioned the other night

Bellview Baptist Church in Memphis, one of the greatest churches in America at one time under R G Lee and then also Bellview Baptist Church under the leadership of Adrian Rogers was a great church. It is no longer in existence.

Now you think of it. Great big church, 27,000 members. It is gone. Now how come? Because it was centered around towards the lusts around mankind. And the same thing is happening across America wherever you go. Churches are dying one by one and yet we find the world conditions are getting worse and worse and so we find the message of the gospel that is being proclaimed, hallelujah, is still going forth because, are you listening? God has put the responsibility on every individual.

Now I am going to tell you something. You will never be the same for being here today.

You say, “What are you talking about?”

You will either agree with me or disagree with me from what I am saying because I am telling you the absolute truth. The Word of God is plain. You have to repent or perish. The time is limited for you and for me.

All right. Thank the Lord he has brought me down the road of repentance, revealed the Lord Jesus Christ to me and I will tell you right now I am ready to go. I am ready to go any time and I hope and pray that every one of you are in the same condition.

The fourth thing is this. The responsibility rests upon every individual.

You see, when we leave this meeting this morning, all right, no longer will anybody say, “The blood of a sinner rests upon the hands of the preacher.” No, sir. It is not going to be that. I am preaching to you the truth of God and I am going to tell you right now. It is still being proclaimed in this world, but the responsibility rests upon you.

Now where do we find that? Jeremiah chapter 38. Look with me, if you will, and we find it in verse 17. Listen to what it says.

Then said Jeremiah unto Zedekiah, Thus saith the LORD, the God of hosts, the God of Israel; If thou wilt assuredly go forth unto the king of Babylon’s princes, then thy soul shall live, and this city shall not be burned with fire; and thou shalt live, and thine house: But if thou wilt not go forth to the king of Babylon’s princes, then shall this city be given into the hand of the Chaldeans, and they shall burn it with fire, and thou shalt not escape out of their hand.⁷

There is the responsibility.

Now I want to ask you a question. Do you know the Lord Jesus Christ today as your Lord and your Savior? Yes or no? If there is any question of doubt—and I am going to

⁷ Jeremiah 38:17-18.

tell you point now—you don't know him. God doesn't leave an individual in a vacuum. We believe and preach and the gospel teaches it. It is a [?] salvation.

“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”⁸

I don't care where you go, who you are. It is the responsibility of the individual to do what? You think on what I am saying this morning and you ask yourself this question. Are you ready to meet the Lord right now? You have to be any moment because our life is nothing but a vapor. The responsibility rests upon each individual.

In this portion of the Word of God, Jeremiah warned King Zedekiah. He said, “King,” he said, “The responsibility is resting upon you.”

The king didn't listen. And the result was the last thing he saw was the death of his sons, the King of Babylon put out his eyes and later on he roasted him with fire. But there he was. He perished.

It was his own fault. And are you listening? If you want... if you die and go to hell it is your fault. It is not the preacher's fault. It is not this church's fault. It is your fault because you have a responsibility to repent before the Lord God of heaven and come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as your Lord and your Savior.

Now there is a second thing I want to leave with you. And what is that? We find the second thing is this. Here is a traumatic experience in redemption. I preach that wherever I go because I find out that so many people today do not know what it is. All right. Now I want you to notice Jeremiah chapter 38. Look at verse three.

Thus saith the LORD, This city shall surely be given into the hand of the king of Babylon's army, which shall take it. Therefore the princes said unto the king, We beseech thee, let this man be put to death: for thus he weakeneth the hands of the men of war that remain in this city, and the hands of all the people, in speaking such words unto them: for this man seeketh not the welfare of this people, but the hurt. Then Zedekiah the king said, Behold, he is in your hand: for the king is not he that can do any thing against you. Then took they Jeremiah, and cast him into the dungeon.⁹

Here you have the traumatic experience in redemption. Number one, we find Jeremiah was apprehended because of what they said was his sin. They told King Zedekiah, “He is preaching treason.”

He was not and we find what happened. They came to the king and they said, “Put that man to death.”

⁸ John 3:36.

⁹ Jeremiah 38:3-6.

All right. The king said, “He is in your hands.”

Now you get this. Suddenly, positively, absolutely and indelibly they grabbed a hold of Jeremiah and threw him into prison because of what they said was his sin.

Now in Holy Spirit conviction suddenly, positively, absolutely and indelibly the Holy Spirit of God gets a hold of the individual and that individual is suddenly been made to realize that the Lord God of heaven is dealing with him.

We go a little bit further. I will show you this. God calls that individual by name. And when he calls that individual by name, they know it. It is an inward call. It is a call that reaches down into the deepest recesses of the individual. And I will tell you right now. When God begins to deal with that person, that person becomes deathly afraid.

I am going to ask you a question. Do you know what I am talking about? Have you been there?

If you have, my friend, you know that there came a time in your life that suddenly God spoke to your heart. Suddenly you realized that the Lord God of heaven was dealing with you personally. You didn’t know if he was dealing with anybody else or not, but you knew and you knew that you knew it, that he was dealing with you.

But that is not salvation. That is Holy Spirit conviction. The second thing is this. Jeremiah was appointed unto death. And are you listening? Under Holy Spirit conviction not only does God apprehend us, but he appoints us unto death. Now how does he do that? He takes the law of God and the law of God becomes a weapon against us.

Now you say, “Preacher, what are you talking about?”

All right. Take your Bibles, if you will, and you turn to Galatians chapter three and look with me at verse 10. And listen to what it says. Here is what the law of God does when it is quickened and put alive into the heart of an individual.

“For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.”¹⁰

Now hold your seat. Nobody has ever kept the law entirely except the Lord Jesus Christ. And when God apprehends the sinner, he comes upon that individual and he calls that individual by name and that person knows that God is dealing with him.

All right. The second thing is this. The individual is appointed unto death.

Now wait a minute. What are you talking about?

¹⁰ Galatians 3:10.

God shuts up that individual in death robes and the law of God becomes the school master to bring us to Christ. But the law of God becomes the weapon that God uses to open our hearts and open our understanding and cause us to realize that we stand before God under condemnation.

Paul went through the same thing on the Damascus Road. So did you if the Lord God of heaven ever reached down and saved you.

Then the third thing is this. When God does this, he does it... he puts the cry in the heart of that individual.

“What must I do to be saved? Where can I find Christ? How can I get converted?”

And when that takes place at first the individual will go to one person here and one person there and they will tell him this and they will tell him that and it is always the wrong thing and finally the individual is brought to the realization—are you listening—nobody can help me except God. And that is exactly what he does. And he does it completely and he does it absolutely because there is only one Savior that can save. It is not mankind. And I have said it before. I will say it again. I can't lead a sinner to Christ. You can't either. No man can confess Jesus is Lord, but how? Through the Holy Ghost. And when the Lord God of heaven reveals himself to the individual it is done between the Lord God of heaven and the individual and nobody else.

And Paul said it again in Galatians chapter one where he said:

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood.¹¹

And are you listening? Your salvation is personal between you and the Lord Jesus Christ. And under Holy Spirit conviction you are not only are you appointed unto death, but I will tell you right now. You are appealing for mercy.

Now did Jeremiah appeal for mercy? He did. Read Lamentations three. He was shut up in the prison and the first 10 verses of Lamentations tell us how Jeremiah felt when the Lord God of heaven shut him up. He put him, enclosed him and we find out he shut out his prayer. He became to him as an enemy and are you listening? That takes place spiritually in the heart of an individual because this is what God does. He shows us that we are not only to be apprehended because of sins, we are appointed unto death and then when the Lord God of heaven shows us these things, at the same time he will put a cry in our heart for mercy. Mercy. Mercy. That is why that song that Neil sang this morning, one of my favorites.

I am just a beggar, a sinner saved by grace,

¹¹ Galatians 1:15.

No man of any kind, but my Lord took my place.
He is all I have and all I need throughout eternity.
I am just a beggar, a sinner saved by grace.

I want to tell you right now. You have gone through that if you have been really converted. You really probably didn't realize it so much at the time, but when you hear some preaching about, I will tell you right now, you sit back and you review and you say, "You know, that is exactly what happened to me when I got converted."

And if you are like.... or you almost feel like you got converted all over again.

But then there is a fourth thing and what is this? When an individual is being to appeal for mercy I will tell you right now. They recognize and they know that they know it, that assistance has to come from an outside source.

Jeremiah was shut up in that dungeon. He was in mire up to his arm pits. He couldn't get out by himself. All right. The dungeon was covered by a rock. He was in total darkness. And there he was and he was on his road to death. And we find but what happens?

Ebedmelech the Ethiopian, the black man, what did he do? He is a picture of God the Holy Spirit. He appealed to the king and he said, "King," he said, "We need to rescue Jeremiah."

And are you listening? That is a spiritual picture, because every individual has been touched by the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit of God works in conjunction with God the Father because God the Father has a definite time for every individual to become saved if they ever... if they ever are. Only God knows when that is.

Well, here Jeremiah was shut up, appealing for mercy. It was his only recourse.

And I will tell you right now. Under Holy Spirit conviction the individual is the same thing. We become like the publican. And what did he do? He smote himself upon his breast and cried out and said, "God, be merciful to me the sinner."

All right. Have you ever been there? Have you ever sought the Lord God of heaven? And then we find what happened. The appealing for mercy was the only recourse and assistance had to come from the outside source.

All right. Now how did it come? With regard to Jeremiah it came by the command of the king and the... the also the work of Ebedmelech, the black man and then also there were 30 people with him.

Now how come 30? Thirty in the Scriptures is the number of blood. And how are we saved? We are saved by blood and power. And what did these men do? Under the leadership of Ebedmelech they did what? They let down old cast clouts and told ... and

put them under the cords of Jeremiah and what did they do? They picked him up by supernatural force.

And what happens when God saves us? The same thing. Here we are in the dungeon, darkened. Nobody can help us. And what can we do? The only thing we can do is appeal for mercy and then what happens? Suddenly, mysteriously and positively, all right, the same thing happens to us.

Listen now as it did to Jeremiah.

Jeremiah was here, shut up in a dungeon, in darkness.

All right. Here he was crying for mercy. Suddenly and positively they removed the stone and immediately light shown into that dungeon. And are you listening? The same thing takes place in the heart of a sinner. At the command of God and only God can do it, the stone is removed from the dungeon of sin that we are in and we find what happens. The light shines in our hearts.

Well, it is a fulfillment of 2 Corinthians chapter four verses three and four. Unless you be misunderstood, turn to there with me if you will. Listen to what it says.

“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost.”¹²

That is the way I was. No man noticed.

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.¹³

Now let's describe that. Jeremiah was in the dungeon. The dungeon was covered by a rock. All right. Suddenly what happened? There was a movement and we find that stone was rolled away. The light shone in. All right. What happened then? Jeremiah heard the word of Ebedmelech. He said, “Put these cast clouts underneath your arms,” because he was held up by cords there. And what were they? They were the cords of love and they were the cords of blood and power as is set forth in the Scriptures. And then we find what happened... All right, what did they do?

They sucked Jeremiah out of the dungeon by supernatural force. One moment he was hopeless, helpless and hapless. The next moment he was drawn up out of that dungeon and standing there free from the condemnation that he was under.

¹² 2 Corinthians 4:3.

¹³ 2 Corinthians 4:4-6.

The same thing takes place with regard to the Lord God of heaven. Did Jeremiah know when he was rescued? He most certainly did. All right. The absolute assurance is given to the one rescued. The spiritual assistance is set forth and we find what happened. All right. God not only gives us a different mind, he renews us because like the book of Romans tells us, we are mentally renewed. We have a renewed mind implanted. All right. We have... we are set forth different physically. We exhibit physical aspects that we don't have before. Because what happens? The old sin that we were under has dropped off.

The third thing is this. We have a desire to serve the Lord God of heaven and it is the fulfillment of Romans chapter 12 verses one and two.

Now I am going to ask you a question. Do you know what I am talking about? I hope and pray that you do. And remember. If you don't understand what I am preaching, it is because you are lost. And you don't know, because if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost. And all I have been doing this morning is describing to you what happens when the Lord God of heaven reaches down and saves you.

Now how long does it take? It takes place in an instant of time. But the conviction may take a long time. I don't know. It is in the hands of the Lord God of heaven.

But then why do I tell you this? Because did Jeremiah know that he was rescued?

Well, go back again, if you will, to Jeremiah chapter 38. And let me show it to you, if I may. Jeremiah is talking with the king and in verse 14:

“Then Zedekiah the king sent, and took Jeremiah the prophet unto him into the third entry that is in the house of the LORD: and the king said unto Jeremiah, I will ask thee a thing; hide nothing from me.”¹⁴

Then in verse 16:

“So Zedekiah the king sware secretly unto Jeremiah, saying, As the LORD liveth, that made us this soul, I will not put thee to death, neither will I give thee into the hand of these men that seek thy life.”¹⁵

And what do you have here? Absolute assurance that we are what? We are redeemed of the Lord God of heaven and never again can we come under condemnation.

You see, we are under condemnation once and then when it is removed it is removed forever and ever and ever. And I will tell you right now. You never get over it. All right?

You say, “Preacher, how secure was Jeremiah?”

¹⁴ Jeremiah 38:14.

¹⁵ Jeremiah 38:16.

Take your Bibles again if you will. Turn to Jeremiah chapter 39. And I want you to notice what it says in verse 13.

So Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard sent, and Nebushasban, Rabсарis, and Nergalsharezer, Rabmag, and all the king of Babylon's princes; Even they sent, and took Jeremiah out of the court of the prison, and committed him unto Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan, that he should carry him home: so he dwelt among the people.¹⁶

What happens? Jeremiah was spared. King Zedekiah and the princes were all put to death.

Now what are you talking about? Spiritually what happens? One moment we are under condemnation. The next moment we are not under condemnation. And forever the book of Romans tells us, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit."¹⁷

Now why do I tell you these things? My friend, this takes place personally to you. Do you know what I am talking about? Has God ever reached down and delivered you? Your salvation experience is personal to you, but it has the same general characteristics have set forth before you today. And there is no other way. There is no other Savior but the Lord Jesus Christ and there is no other way to heaven but through him. And my hope and my prayer is that you know him as you Lord and your Redeemer.

Why? Because the time for redemption is now.

Friday night I closed out a meeting in Conyers and I preached on the days of Noah. And I laid out before them the fact that are before us. We are living in the days of Noah and the next event is this. God is going to carry away his people and then he is going to judge this world. He said he would and you can put it down.

"Preacher, I don't believe it."

It doesn't change any. They didn't believe that God would send a flood on the earth because it had never rained until the days of Noah. They didn't believe it, but it didn't change it whatsoever and those who didn't believe perished and those that did believe and at that time there were only eight of them. Today we find the number of true believers are fewer and fewer and fewer. And as I mentioned before, churches are closing their doors by the dozens across America.

Why? This world is going downhill and Holy Spirit conviction is not as powerful today as it was many years ago. God is doing the same thing to this world that he did to Noah's world. He said, "My spirit shall not strive with man."

¹⁶ Jeremiah 39:13-14.

¹⁷ Romans 8:1.

Oh, because he said his years are [?]. All right, Holy Spirit conviction for the most part is unknown, unpreached, and unexperienced in a religious world at this present hour.

But I am going to ask you a question. What about you? What about you? Are you ready at this moment to meet the Lord? If you are not ready, you better get ready because you are living under a reprieve as Jeremiah and the city of Jerusalem was living under a reprieve for two years. We find God gave them an opportunity to repent. They didn't do it. All right. Nebuchadnezzar came in, wiped them out, destroyed that whole city, killed hundreds of people, took others to Babylon.

Zedekiah perished along with them, but Jeremiah was saved because he believed what God said.

And the only way to heaven is to believe what the Lord God of heaven says and he says today, "Repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ," because our salvation consists of repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now there are people also that they profess to know the Lord but there has never been a change in their life. Let me leave this with you.

A saloon keeper got converted. Before he got converted he was as mean as he could be to his family. He had beaten his wife. He took his little girl one day, put her arm against a hot stove and burned it, burned it so she almost lost it.

Well, the Lord God of heaven got a hold of that man and we find for a short time afterwards he still is running that saloon, but God convicted him of it and so one night at the close of the meeting, at the close of the day he shut the saloon down, closed the doors, pulled down the shades of the windows and we find what did he do? He wrecked that think completely, destroyed every bottle of liquor and beer and everything like that he had. And when he left there was nothing but a conglomeration of broken glass and liquid.

He turned to shut the door on it, walked home. When he walked home he opened the door and we find his wife and daughter had gone upstairs. He called them. He said, "Honey, come downstairs."

When they used to hear that they would come fearfully. They came down again fearfully. And this is what he did.

He went to his little girl and he said, "Sweetheart, would you please sit on my lap?"

When he did it before he was going to beat her. She came again, trembling, afraid, wondering. And then what happened. He set her on his lap. He held up that arm that he had caused to be burned like it was and he began to cry. He cried like a baby. He said, "Honey, this is what I did to you when I was nothing but a rotten sinner." He said, "You have got a new daddy now. Can you forgive me what I have done to you?"

He did the same thing to his wife. He took his wife and he said, “Honey, please come here.” He put his wife around him. He looked at the scars that he had caused and he wept again like a baby. He said, “Can you people ever forgive me for what I have done to you?”

And do you know why? He said, “This is the reason I am saying it to you.” He said, “I am a new man. You don’t have the same daddy that you had before. Jesus Christ has made the difference.”

And he went on to become a stalwart servant of God until the day took him home and he died.

Now what are you talking about?

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”¹⁸

Shall we sing?

Our Father, today thank you, again, for this opportunity and privilege that we have had of setting forth thy truth as it is to men and women and boys and girls as they are. Lord, we believe there are some here that don’t know you and, oh, we just ask you, Spirit of God, move upon that heart, whoever they may be. Maybe more than one. We don’t know. But move upon that heart, oh, we pray. Apprehend them and then, Lord, show them that they are appointed unto death and put a cry in their hearts so that they will begin to appeal to thee for mercy and then, oh God, reach down and rescue them and give them an assurance that you have reached down and delivered them. The glory is all thine and the privilege is ours when we hear about it. We commit this service to thee and ask you, Lord, thy will be done. We pray, Lord Jesus, for thy sake. Amen.

Brother pastor.

¹⁸ 2 Corinthians 5:17.