

Jeremiah 39

Read Jeremiah 39:1-10: When the day of judgement finally comes there will be no escape. Jerusalem must have had a couple of years' worth of food and water stored up to survive a two year siege. That bought some time; but did not resolve the problem. Supplies are not the ultimate strategy. God repeatedly told the people to return to him with all of their heart. The only reason that God sent the catastrophe was to turn hearts away from idols; and back to faith and dependence in God. Likewise, we are discussing prepping strategies and ammunition storage for survival for various eventualities. Our strategy should be to dive into God's word prayerfully every day today...not to buy more guns and survival packages. The people were starving themselves by not following God's directives.

"I have nourished and brought up children, And they have rebelled against Me; -The ox knows its owner And the donkey its master's crib; But Israel does not know, My people do not consider." (Isaiah 1:2b-3)

Sin is like a drug that makes the cause and effect thinking fuzzy.

People keep sinning because they think that they have time before the hammer falls.

Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. (Ecclesiastes 8:11)

Nebuchadnezzar unknowingly brought in an immediate re-distribution of wealth. The poorest were given the vineyards and fields to tend. The wealthy were exiled or killed. America is losing its sustainable resources as if we were under a siege as well. The evil princes are taking their seat in places of authority as we leave our Christian roots.

so that you may not sin.” -So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was. (Exodus 20:18-20)

We need to be on a short leash to remain obedient.

-And I have led you forty years in the wilderness. Your clothes have not worn out on you, and your sandals have not worn out on your feet. -You have not eaten bread, nor have you drunk wine or *similar* drink, that you may know that I *am* the LORD your God. (Deuteronomy 29:5-6)

Read Jeremiah 42:7-22: This section is another bi-lateral covenant. When a group of people are out of relationship with God; they have a lot of rules. The Law of Moses is more like a master-slave relationship. It is only for the law breakers.

What purpose then *does* the law *serve*? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; *and it was* appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator. (Galatians 3:19)

It is like directing a laborer who is not asked to think for himself; because he has not demonstrated an ability to make right decisions on his own. Slaves generally do not consider the consequences or ramifications of their current actions. They only live in the moment. If the Jews stayed in Israel; and did not venture into Egypt; they

This was written in the ninth year of King Zedekiah. The book of Jeremiah only continues until the eleventh year of King Zedekiah. A handful of the poor would be spared to tend the crops.

Blessed *are* the meek, For they shall inherit the earth. (Matthew 5:5)

You would think that those poor beggars who were suddenly gainfully employed would respect God and be appreciative. The remaining chapters of Jeremiah are about how this little remnant would continue. We too are poor, blind beggars before God. Our needs are being met in the same way. God always leaves a remnant. The remnant is a central theme throughout the Bible. It began with physical Israel. Many were taken away; and less than a tenth returned to their home land.

These *are* those who were numbered of the children of Israel: **six hundred and one thousand seven hundred and thirty.** (Numbers 26:51)

The whole assembly together *was* **forty-two thousand three hundred and sixty.** (Ezra 2:64)

I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, *of* the tribe of Benjamin. -God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying, -“LORD, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life”?-But what does the divine response say to him? “**I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.**” Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant **according to the election of grace.** (Romans 11:1-5)

The remnant theme illustrates that God is faithful to us; and that we are a special and chosen and protected people.

-And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues. (Revelation 18:4)

The other side of this remnant theology is about those masses who have denied the faith; and left us when standing with God's people require sacrifice.

They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but *they went out* that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us. (1 John 2:19)

The proud will be publically humiliated. The fierce will die in panic and attempt to run. God will protect his people. We do not need to run or hide.

More-importantly, the saints will experience heavy chastisement just before this happens. In fact; we are bringing this evil upon unbelievers.

For the time *has come* for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what will *be* the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? (1 Peter 4:17)

Read Jeremiah 39:11-14: Nebuchadnezzar took Jeremiah out of his courtyard incarceration, and allowed him to return to the remnant. In fact, Jeremiah was even protected by Nebuchadnezzar! He also told his servants to follow Jeremiah's instructions. How did Jeremiah gain this status with a foreign tyrant? The same thing happened to Daniel. Daniel received high favor from the Babylonians as well as the Medo-Persians.

Read Jeremiah 39:15-18: Ebed-Melech the Ethiopian eunuch who helped rescue Jeremiah was given a message by God, telling him that he would be safe and delivered. Our involvement in the Kingdom will save our lives too.