

## Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 306 – Go To The King Through No Prosperity (Jeremiah 22:1-30)

### 1. What did the king of Judah have to do to preserve the throne of David?

Execute righteous judgment, do no wrong, keep the covenant of God, don't worship idols, etc.: *"(1) Thus saith the LORD; Go down to the house of the king of Judah, and speak there this word, (2) And say, Hear the word of the LORD, O king of Judah, that sittest upon the throne of David, thou, and thy servants, and thy people that enter in by these gates: (3) Thus saith the LORD; Execute ye judgment and righteousness, and deliver the spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor: and do no wrong, do no violence to the stranger, the fatherless, nor the widow, neither shed innocent blood in this place. (4) For if ye do this thing indeed, then shall there enter in by the gates of this house kings sitting upon the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, he, and his servants, and his people. (5) But if ye will not hear these words, I swear by myself, saith the LORD, that this house shall become a desolation. (6) For thus saith the LORD unto the king's house of Judah; Thou art Gilead unto me, and the head of Lebanon: yet surely I will make thee a wilderness, and cities which are not inhabited. (7) And I will prepare destroyers against thee, every one with his weapons: and they shall cut down thy choice cedars, and cast them into the fire. (8) And many nations shall pass by this city, and they shall say every man to his neighbour, Wherefore hath the LORD done thus unto this great city? (9) Then they shall answer, Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD their God, and worshipped other gods, and served them"* (Jeremiah 22:1-9).

- Prophets often spoke to the king (**I Samuel 15:16**, **I Kings 12:22-23**, **I Kings 21:17-18**, **Ezekiel 31:2**, and **Hosea 5:1**).
- It is a scary ordeal to approach a king (**Proverbs 19:12** and **Proverbs 20:2**).
- Similar things said of Jehoiakim later as are here and later in this chapter (**Jeremiah 36:30-31**; cf. **Jeremiah 22:29-30**).
- Kings were expected to be good and to be fair judges (**II Samuel 23:3**, **Proverbs 16:10-15**, **Proverbs 20:8**, **Proverbs 20:28**, and **Proverbs 29:14**).
- Proper rule of a king of Judah established the throne (**I Kings 9:1-5**).
- On the other hand, improper rule destroyed the throne (**I Kings 9:6-9**).
- Gilead and Lebanon had been considered beautiful, fruitful country (**Genesis 37:25** and **Deuteronomy 3:25**). Though, not always in a spiritual manner (**Hosea 6:8**).
- Instead of a beautiful land, they're going to become a wilderness (**Ezekiel 33:26-29**).
- God sends the destroyer on them (**Isaiah 54:16**).
- Other nations will notice and be surprised (**Psalms 44:14-15** and **Jeremiah 18:16**).
- The question of why God did this to Judah would be answered by saying because they forsook His covenant and served idols (**Deuteronomy 31:16-19** and **II Kings 22:16-17**).
- God foretold of this (**Deuteronomy 29:24-25**)!

2. Why should they have wept for him that went away rather than for the dead?

*“(10) Weep ye not for the dead, neither bemoan him: but weep sore for him that goeth away: for he shall return no more, nor see his native country. (11) For thus saith the LORD touching Shallum the son of Josiah king of Judah, which reigned instead of Josiah his father, which went forth out of this place; He shall not return thither any more: (12) But he shall die in the place whither they have led him captive, and shall see this land no more” (Jeremiah 22:10-12).*

- In light of what was to be faced, it was better to have died (**Jeremiah 8:1-3** and **Lamentations 4:9**). This might be a cause not to weep for the dead, but rather for the living that would suffer.
- Shallum (**I Chronicles 3:15**).
- Josiah’s children did not have a good life (**II Kings 23:34**).

3. Was the end of one who built his house by unrighteousness a good end?

Oh no: *“(13) Woe unto him that buildeth his house by unrighteousness, and his chambers by wrong; that useth his neighbour’s service without wages, and giveth him not for his work; (14) That saith, I will build me a wide house and large chambers, and cutteth him out windows; and it is cieled with cedar, and painted with vermilion. (15) Shalt thou reign, because thou closest thyself in cedar? did not thy father eat and drink, and do judgment and justice, and then it was well with him? (16) He judged the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well with him: was not this to know me? saith the LORD. (17) But thine eyes and thine heart are not but for thy covetousness, and for to shed innocent blood, and for oppression, and for violence, to do it. (18) Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah; They shall not lament for him, saying, Ah my brother! or, Ah sister! they shall not lament for him, saying, Ah lord! or, Ah his glory! (19) He shall be buried with the burial of an ass, drawn and cast forth beyond the gates of Jerusalem” (Jeremiah 22:13-19).*

- Unrighteous gain (**Proverbs 1:19**, **Proverbs 13:11**, **Proverbs 15:27**, **Proverbs 22:16**, **Micah 2:1-3**, and **James 5:1-5**).
- Don’t think that big house can save you (**Psalms 49:1-20** and **Luke 12:13-21**).
- There was a difference between Josiah (**II Kings 23:23-28**) and his heirs (**II Kings 23:36-37**).
- He [Josiah] was a just king that only wanted to do right and this cause it to be “well with him” (**II Kings 22:11-20**).
- His son however, he was covetous and she innocent blood (cf. **Isaiah 59:7-8**). He was evil (**II Chronicles 36:5**).
- There was lamentation for Josiah (**II Chronicles 35:25-26**), but not this idiot.
- He would not receive the burial of a king (**II Chronicles 24:15-16**), but of an ass (**Jeremiah 36:30**).
- This act of despite against the remains of this king is likened to that of a heathen king whom the Lord hated in Babylon (**Isaiah 14:18-20**). That is a statement for sure!

4. Were those of Lebanon and Bashan willing to hear the Lord in times of prosperity?

No: *“(20) Go up to Lebanon, and cry; and lift up thy voice in Bashan, and cry from the passages: for all thy lovers are destroyed. (21) I spake unto thee in thy prosperity; but thou saidst, I will not hear. This hath been thy manner from thy youth, that thou obeyedst not my voice” (Jeremiah 22:20-21).*

- Prosperity, coupled with foolishness (**Proverbs 1:32**), are not good ingredients for faithfulness (**Ezekiel 16:49-50** and **Revelation 3:14-22**).
- From their youth (**Deuteronomy 9:24**).

5. Were the leaders or idols going to prevent the inhabitants of Lebanon from being carried into captivity?

Of course not: *“(22) The wind shall eat up all thy pastors, and thy lovers shall go into captivity: surely then shalt thou be ashamed and confounded for all thy wickedness. (23) O inhabitant of Lebanon, that makest thy nest in the cedars, how gracious shalt thou be when pangs come upon thee, the pain as of a woman in travail! (24) As I live, saith the LORD, though Coniah the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah were the signet upon my right hand, yet would I pluck thee thence; (25) And I will give thee into the hand of them that seek thy life, and into the hand of them whose face thou fearest, even into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, and into the hand of the Chaldeans. (26) And I will cast thee out, and thy mother that bare thee, into another country, where ye were not born; and there shall ye die. (27) But to the land whereunto they desire to return, thither shall they not return. (28) Is this man Coniah a despised broken idol? is he a vessel wherein is no pleasure? wherefore are they cast out, he and his seed, and are cast into a land which they know not” (Jeremiah 22:22-28)?*

- Time to reap the whirlwind (**Hosea 8:7-8**).
- Where will her lovers be now (**Lamentations 1:2**)?
- They thought they were graciously sitting on high, but were about to be brought down (i.e. **Obadiah 1:1-4**).
- Pain like childbirth is coming (**Jeremiah 4:30-31**).
- From a seal on His right hand to plucked up (**Deuteronomy 28:63**).
- God gave them to those who wanted to kill them and bring desolation (**Jeremiah 34:21-22**).
- Coniah [**Jeremiah 37:1**] a despised vessel that no one cared for (**Hosea 8:8**).

6. What message did God declare to the earth?

The fall of the physical throne of David in Judah: *“(29) O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the LORD. (30) Thus saith the LORD, Write ye this man childless, a man that shall not prosper in his days: for no man of his seed shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah” (Jeremiah 22:29-30).*

- Earth to witness (**Jeremiah 6:19** and **Micah 6:2**).
- This seed is over, but would not have been if faithful (**Psalms 21:7-11**).