

The Response of Judah Jer. 36:1-26

Introduction:

As we continue to study throughout the book of Jeremiah, we see the great importance placed on the repentance of the children of Judah. If they refuse to repent, they will be taken captive by Babylon. However, if they repent, they will be saved from this captivity. It is up to Judah to decide what they want to do.

I. God commanded Judah to repent (1-3).

- A. All throughout the book, Jeremiah encourages the people of Judah to repent.
 - 1. God wanted the people to repent.
 - a. **Jer. 18:11** - "Now therefore, speak to the men of Judah and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, 'Thus says the LORD: "Behold, I am fashioning a disaster and devising a plan against you. Return now every one from his evil way, and make your ways and your doings good.'""
 - b. **Jer. 25:3-8**
 - 2. God wants us today to repent.
 - a. **Lk. 13:3** - I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.
 - b. **Acts 26:19-20** - Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, {20} but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.
 - c. **II Pet. 3:9** - The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.
- B. We need to understand that there is a punishment for us if we do not repent.
 - 1. The children of Judah were taken as captives to Babylon.
 - a. **Jer. 25:8-9** - Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Because you have not heard My words, {9} behold, I will send and take all the families of the north,' says the LORD, 'and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land, against its inhabitants, and against these nations all around, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, a hissing, and perpetual desolations.'
 - b. **Jer. 52** tells of the destruction of Jerusalem and the captivity of Judah.
 - c. This was the worst period in the history of the children of Judah.
 - 2. Today, there is an eternal punishment from God if we do not repent.
 - a. **Lk. 13:3** - I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.
 - b. If we do not repent, we have sin in our lives which will separate us from God.

II. Jeremiah made sure that the people were taught the word of the Lord (4-10).

- A. Even though Jeremiah could not go, he sent someone who could.
 - 1. It was so important that the message of God got out that someone had to go.
 - 2. If the people did not hear this message of repentance, they would have no hope of turning to God.
 - 3. Baruch is sent to the house of God and preaches the word that Jeremiah commanded him.
- B. We all have our responsibility to spread the word of God.
 - 1. Jesus Himself tells us to go and proclaim the word of God.
 - a. **Mt. 28:19-20** - Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, {20} teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.
 - b. Without this message of Jesus, others in this world have no hope.
 - 2. The early church continued in that teaching; and we can know this because of the growth that they experienced.
 - a. **Acts 2:41** - Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.
 - b. **Acts 4:4** - However, many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.
 - c. **Acts 5:14** - And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women,
 - d. **Acts 5:42** - And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.
 - 3. We have a responsibility to teach others about God, just as Jeremiah and Baruch had for the children of Judah.

III. There were different reactions to the reading of the scroll (11-20, 21-26).

- A. Some of the princes wanted to have the scroll read in the presence of the king.
 - 1. When they heard the words of Baruch, they were afraid (16).
 - 2. They immediately wanted the king to know about this book.
- B. When the king heard just 3 or 4 columns, he burned it (20-26).
 - 1. Jehoiakim did not like what he heard from God.
 - 2. Notice especially 36:24:
 - a. Jer. 36:24 - Yet they were not afraid, nor did they tear their garments, the king nor any of his servants who heard all these words.
 - b. Even though Others tried to encourage the king not to burn the scroll, he did it anyway.
- C. Today, when the word of God is taught, there are different reactions to it.
 - 1. Acts 17:32-34 - And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, "We will hear you again on this matter." {33} So Paul departed from among them. {34} However, some men joined him and believed, among them Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.
 - 2. Acts 26:28 - Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You almost persuade me to become a Christian."
 - 3. We need to make sure that we are still teaching the truths of God.

Conclusion:

The main idea of Jeremiah is repentance. Since the children of Judah were not willing to repent, they had to suffer as captives of Babylon. Today, if we are not willing to repent and tell others of the great salvation that we have through Christ, then we, too, are going to suffer. The difference is that their suffering lasted for 70 years; our will last for eternity.