

Jeremiah: It's the Last Hour
Bargaining with God
Jeremiah 34:1-22
July 30, 2017

Desperate **TIMES** call for Legitimate **REPENTANCE**.

When you are desperate...

1. Submit to **GOD'S WILL**. Jeremiah 34:1-7

Jeremiah 34:1-22 — 1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord, when Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and all his army and all the kingdoms of the earth under his dominion and all the peoples were fighting against Jerusalem and all of its cities:

...Revelation 20:7-9 — 7 And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will come out to deceive the nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. 9 And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them,

People of God, desperate times call for submission to the will of God...

2 "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Go and speak to Zedekiah king of Judah and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord: Behold, I am giving this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall burn it with fire. 3 You shall not escape from his hand but shall surely be captured and delivered into his hand. You shall see the king of Babylon eye to eye and speak with him face to face. And you shall go to Babylon.'

4 Yet hear the word of the Lord, O Zedekiah king of Judah! Thus says the Lord concerning you: 'You shall not die by the sword. 5 You shall die in peace. And as spices were burned for your fathers, the former kings who were before you, so people shall burn spices for you and lament for you, saying, "Alas, lord!" ' For I have spoken the word, declares the Lord."

6 Then Jeremiah the prophet spoke all these words to Zedekiah king of Judah, in Jerusalem, 7 when the army of the king of Babylon was fighting against Jerusalem and against all the cities of Judah that were left, Lachish and Azekah, for these were the only fortified cities of Judah that remained.

2. Obey from the **HEART**. Jeremiah 34:8-10

8 *The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord, after King Zedekiah had made a covenant with all the people in Jerusalem to make a proclamation of liberty to them, **9** that everyone should set free his Hebrew slaves, male and female, so that no one should enslave a Jew, his brother.*

Deuteronomy 15:12 — **12** *“If your brother, a Hebrew man or a Hebrew woman, is sold to you, he shall serve you six years, and in the seventh year you shall let him go free from you.*

10 *And they obeyed, all the officials and all the people who had entered into the covenant that everyone would set free his slave, male or female, so that they would not be enslaved again. They obeyed and set them free.*

3. Keep our **WORD**. Jeremiah 34:11-16

11 *But afterward they turned around and took back the male and female slaves they had set free, and brought them into subjection as slaves.*

12 *The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah from the Lord: **13** “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: I myself made a covenant with your fathers when I brought them out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, saying, **14** ‘At the end of seven years each of you must set free the fellow Hebrew who has been sold to you and has served you six years; you must set him free from your service.’ But your fathers did not listen to me or incline their ears to me.*

15 *You recently repented and did what was right in my eyes by proclaiming liberty, each to his neighbor, and you made a covenant before me in the house that is called by my name, **16** but then you turned around and profaned my name when each of you took back his male and female slaves, whom you had set free according to their desire, and you brought them into subjection to be your slaves.*

4. Turn to the **PROMISE KEEPER**. Jeremiah 34:17-22

17 *“Therefore, thus says the Lord: You have not obeyed me by proclaiming liberty, every one to his brother and to his neighbor; behold, I proclaim to you liberty to the sword, to pestilence, and to famine, declares the Lord. I will make you a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth.*

21 *And Zedekiah king of Judah and his officials I will give into the hand of their enemies and into the hand of those who seek their lives, into the hand of the army of the king of Babylon which has withdrawn from you. **22** Behold, I will command, declares the Lord, and will bring them back to this city. And they will fight against it and take it and burn it with fire. I will make the cities of Judah a desolation without inhabitant.”*

1 Corinthians 1:9 — **9** *God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

...**John 1:12** — **12** *But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,*

COMMUNION

Let's talk about bargaining with God...

1. Why would God allow Nebuchadnezzar and his army to fight against Jerusalem, the city that was supposed to declare the glory of His name (v.1)?
2. Zedekiah used his influence to bring Judah to the point of absolute destruction (v.2-3). How have you used the influence that God has given you for good in the lives of others?
3. What does God's word to Zedekiah about what would happen to him in the future tell you about what God will do in your life even when you rebel against Him (v.4-5)?
4. In times of desperation, where have you turned to find relief (v.6-7)?
5. What kind of promises have you made to God in times of desperation (v.8-10)?
6. How can you know if the promises you have made to God are genuine and from your heart (v.11)?
7. Why is our obedience to God's word so important (v.12-14)?
8. When was the last time you made a promise that you didn't keep and what was the impact of not keeping your word (v.15-16)?
9. How do you deal with the consequences of not keeping your word (v.17-20)?
10. Describe a time in your life when you felt like whatever was causing you to feel desperate had passed and you reverted to your old ways even after making promises to God (v.21-22)?