**Jeremiah: It’s the Last Hour**

**What Do You See**

**Jeremiah 1:11-19**

**March 1, 2015**

**Jeremiah 18:11 — 11** *Now, therefore, say to the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: ‘Thus says the Lord, Behold, I am shaping disaster against you and devising a plan against you. Return, every one from his evil way, and amend your ways and your deeds.’*

God is **WATCHING**, so get to **WORK**!

**Jeremiah 1:11–19 — 11** *And the word of the Lord came to me, saying, “Jeremiah, what do you see?” And I said, “I see an almond branch.”* ***12*** *Then the Lord said to me, “You have seen well, for I am watching over my word to perform it.”* ***13*** *The word of the Lord came to me a second time, saying, “What do you see?” And I said, “I see a boiling pot, facing away from the north.”* ***14*** *Then the Lord said to me, “Out of the north disaster shall be let loose upon all the inhabitants of the land.* ***15*** *For behold, I am calling all the tribes of the kingdoms of the north, declares the Lord, and they shall come, and every one shall set his throne at the entrance of the gates of Jerusalem, against all its walls all around and against all the cities of Judah.* ***16*** *And I will declare my judgments against them, for all their evil in forsaking me. They have made offerings to other gods and worshiped the works of their own hands.* ***17*** *But you, dress yourself for work; arise, and say to them everything that I command you. Do not be dismayed by them, lest I dismay you before them.* ***18*** *And I, behold, I make you this day a fortified city, an iron pillar, and bronze walls, against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests, and the people of the land.* ***19*** *They will fight against you, but they shall not prevail against you, for I am with you, declares the Lord, to deliver you.”*

***3 Motivations for Faithfulness…***

1. God is at **WORK**. **Jeremiah 1:11-12**

So the point is that God wants us to know that He is wide awake, watching…working to make sure that everything He has promised, everything that He has declared comes to pass. **Isaiah 55:10–11 — 10** *“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,* ***11*** *so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.*

1. Judgment is **CERTAIN**. **Jeremiah 1:13-16**

The LORD invites Jeremiah to another show and tell. This time when He asks Jeremiah what he sees, it must have been dinner time because Jeremiah sees a boiling pot that is sitting on the ground in the midst of a fire and it’s tilted away from the north. This was a picture of imminent judgment, trouble is brewing on the horizon and God is the One doing the judging. **V.15** – I am calling all the tribes of the kingdoms of the north…**v.16** – I will declare My judgments against them.

…**Jeremiah 39:1–3 — 1** *In the ninth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the tenth month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and all his army came against Jerusalem and besieged it.* ***2*** *In the eleventh year of Zedekiah, in the fourth month, on the ninth day of the month, a breach was made in the city.* ***3*** *Then all the officials of the king of Babylon came and sat in the middle gate:*

1. Opposition will not **PREVAIL**. **Jeremiah 1:17-19**

This is a repeat of God’s call to Jeremiah. Sometimes, important things need to be repeated…***17*** *But you, dress yourself for work; arise, and say to them everything that I command you.* God’s saying, “Jeremiah, I’m working to perform my word, and my word says that judgment is certain; now, put on your big boy pants and get to work. And don’t pull any punches.”

***18*** *And I, behold, I make you this day a fortified city, an iron pillar, and bronze walls, against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, its officials, its priests, and the people of the land.* ***19*** *They will fight against you, but they shall not prevail against you, for I am with you, declares the Lord, to deliver you.”*

**Romans 8:31–39 — 31** *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?* ***32*** *He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?* ***33*** *Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies.* ***34*** *Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.* ***35*** *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?* ***36*** *As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”* ***37*** *No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.* ***38*** *For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,* ***39*** *nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

God’s way is not to stop the fight, but to stand by the fighter!

God’s at work (we’re not in this alone)…Judgment is certain (we are urgently needed)…Opposition will not prevail (we are destined for victory while we work from victory).

To the church of Jesus Christ in America in the 21st century, I would say…prepare for persecution.

To the believer in Jesus Christ, I want to ask you to share with someone you care about how you came to recognize God’s judgment on your sin…why you are living with confidence as you look towards the future.

To the unbeliever, I want to plead with you to heed the warning; judgment is certain; turn to the One who absorbed God’s condemnation, satisfied His wrath so that you could be redeemed.

God’s at work…Judgment is certain…Opposition will not prevail…Let’s get to work!

Let’s talk about the strength to say what needs to be said…

1. What did Jeremiah see in v.11 and what was the significance of it from God’s perspective?
2. What has God promised in His word that you struggle to see Him fulfilling in your life?
3. What did Jeremiah see in v.13 and what was the significance of it from God’s perspective?
4. What did God promises would come upon His people from out of the north (v.14)?
5. Who would God eventually use to bring this disaster upon His people (v.15)?
6. What do you think the judgment of God would look like on America?
7. How would you know if an event were part of God’s judgment on our country?
8. Why was God judging His people (v.16)?
9. What were God’s people doing that brought this judgment (v.16)?
10. If you are not a believer (or think back to before you came to faith in Christ), what kinds of things are you trusting in?
11. Why would God have to tell Jeremiah not to be dismayed at those he was sent to minister to (v.17)?
12. What would be the response of the leaders and the people of Judah to Jeremiah’s message from the LORD (v.18-19)?
13. What did God tell Jeremiah that would encourage him to be faithful in fulfilling the mission that God had called him to (v.19)?
14. How does it make you feel to know that God will bring judgment upon people for forsaking Him?
15. If somebody came to you and told you the kind of message that Jeremiah was told to share with the people of Judah, what would you think about them?