

Kings and Prophets 16-08-11b

We pick up our study now looking at these two sides of the message that God has given to Jeremiah to deliver to his people, and Jeremiah is faithfully doing so. And oddly enough, he isn't prosperous, successful, admired, lifted up, treated with reverence and respect. He is instead rejected, vilified, arrested, imprisoned, slapped around, ill-spoken of, mocked, and generally treated the way the Lord Jesus was during his arrest and trial.

The outcome in terms of public opinion polls for living our lives faithfully isn't always going to reflect truth. Just as the arm of flesh will fail you, the evaluation of flesh is very fallible, and there are people who are going to think you are doing it all wrong, that you are off track, that you're... I've been told I'm the member of a cult, if not the leader of a cult, that I'm backwards, that I'm uneducated, that I'm unscientific, that I need a crutch, that I'm psychologically weak, that I can't cope with life if I don't have some mystical genie in the sky to solve my problems for me, and every other lie that Satan can concoct has been launched at one time or another. We choose what we believe.

You can choose to believe peers, you can choose to believe uninformed people's judgment, you can choose to believe people whose opinion of you is low, and when you look at them, their life's a complete catastrophe. It's a wreck. And why am I assigning weight to the evaluation of someone who can't even keep their own train on the tracks? Commands to the faithful or consequences to the faithless.

This is the central message of the Word of God. Believe, trust, be blessed, be delivered, enter into eternal life in its fullness, enter it now, enter into its fullness in days to come. There's nothing not to like about this, but we are perverse, we are corrupt, we have a deceitful heart, and a deceitful heart tells us lies.

I would love to believe that Twinkies are health food. There are people who try to convince themselves that things that are incredibly bad for them are actually good for them, that it's a higher moral plane, that it's a healthier and better and more mature, I don't know what all. The heart is deceitful.

So we have covered the first 13 of these points concluding with, there are those who despite repeated warnings and despite perhaps conversations with you, refuse to turn. They don't see it, they don't get it. They know Him as God, they don't glorify Him as God, they're not thankful, they become empty in their imagination, their foolish heart is darkened.

Be not deceived, God is not mocked. What you sow, you will reap. Sow to the flesh, you're going to reap corruption.

You're not going to see flesh the day after you sow, you're not going to see corruption and rottenness and putridity as you sow. It's going to hide in the ground, it's going to mature, it's going to come up and bite you where it hurts. He that sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap

life everlasting.

You reap it now, you reap it in the future. It's a multiple harvest, it's a trans-dimensional, three-dimensional harvest. You have peace, happiness, contentment, fulfillment, closeness with God and closeness with fellow believers now and it is exponentially amplified, magnified beyond what you can ask or think in the eternal future.

So, number 14, in this dichotomous message, there's good sides and bad sides and they alternate. This is why I've given you my ultimately confusing numbering system. Just stick with it.

Number 14, this is a command to the faithful and this is the 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8th point on this list to the faithful. The nation will be winnowed. Just plan on it, prepare for it.

There is going to be a division. How many times does the Bible illustrate this? Depict it, predict it, emphasize it. There is a separating.

God is in the process of sorting, filtering, separating. Here it is winnowing. Look at chapter 12, verses 13 through 15.

Jeremiah 12, 13 through 15. We're going to do this quickly. You shall say to them, Thus says the Lord, Behold, I will fill all the... I'm reading it wrong.

Am I reading it right? I'm not. I'm in chapter 13. I want to be in chapter 12.

Let me tell you something. If there is ever a Bible that I publish, that I have any hand in publishing, the numbers in the upper right hand and upper left hand corners of the page are going to be the chapter that that page begins with, not the next big bold faced chapter. It is the most confusing thing.

I've edited so many sermons where Dr. Criswell announced the wrong chapter and verse because he was looking at that. Who came up with this? Oh well. Point 14.

The nation will be winnowed. Chapter 12, verses 13 through 15. They have sown wheat, but reaped thorns.

They have put themselves to pain, but do not profit. Be ashamed of your harvest because of the fierce anger of the Lord. Thus says the Lord against my evil neighbors who touch the inheritance which I have caused my people Israel to inherit.

Behold, I will pluck them out of their land. I will pluck them out of the house of Judah from among them. Notice, plucked out from the midst.

This is a winnowing. This is a separating. This is a dividing.

It shall be after I have plucked them out, I will return and have compassion on them and bring

them back, everyone to his heritage and everyone to his land. Pay attention here. God says there's a mix and he says, I'm going to pluck them out and judge them and then I'm going to bring them out and bless, bring them back and bless them.

I'm going to pluck them out and judge them. I'm going to bring them back and bless them. To the same people? No.

This dividing, the judgment is the judgment and the blessing is the blessing. There is dividing first. So confusing.

It sounds like, well, I'm going to judge you and spank you and scatter you. Then I'm going to take you same people. I'm going to gather you and put you in the land.

I'm going to bless you. And I'm going to like, like, you know, sort of a schizophrenic God. I'm going to judge you today.

I'm going to bless you tomorrow. This makes perfect sense to an ancient near Eastern mind. And in Middle Eastern storytelling to this day, it's just, it's like Chinese music.

You can't figure it out as, as a native born American. I don't care how long you listened to Chinese music. It is going to sound like cacophony to you till the day you die.

You'll never figure that music out. And the same thing is true that we have to sort of take it for granted that this makes wonderful sense to the original audience. When I say I'm going to winnow you, I'm going to judge you and I'm going to bless you.

They, they get that I'm going to judge the chaff and I'm going to bless the wheat. It just flows. It's very difficult for us to enter into it.

Now, this is not as bad as Chinese music. We can understand this, but, but we've got to, we have to learn how to watch for these clues. And anytime you see something that looks contradictory, well, he just got through saying he was going to judge them.

Now he says he's going to bless them. Look for this dividing. It's always there.

Jesus says, I'm, you know, I've come that they might have life and, and have it more abundantly. And he says, I've not come to bring peace, but a sword. Well, which is it? Did you come to bring life and bring it more abundantly? Or did you come to not bring peace, but a sword? There is a dividing there.

This is groups. This part here, no peace. What does God say about the wicked? There is no peace saith my God to the wicked.

I've come that they might have life and have it abundantly have peace. Who's that for? Not the wicked. So, but we we've, it's, it's not a wonderfully Western postmodern mindset telling these stories.

We have to dig a little and that's, you will seek me and find me when you seek for me as, as treasure search, search, you know, dig Proverbs chapter two. So that's what this is. There's a winnowing flip over to chapter 15, verse seven.

I will winnow them with a winnowing fan in the Gates of the land. I will bereave them of children. I will destroy my people since they do not return from their ways.

Their widows will be increased to me more than the sand of the seas. I will bring against them against the mother of the young men, a plunderer at noonday. I will cause anguish and terror to fall on them.

And suddenly now he just said, I'm going to winnow them. What do you do when you winnow? What, what, what we don't, what do winnowers do when they winnow? A winnowing fan is like a, think of it as a grass rake, you know, long bunch of long tines. What does that do? Heavy stuff falls through chaff.

You, you, you get it up in the air so that it will blow, blow to one side or blow away. The heavier wheat falls to the ground, the chaff and the light straw and the bits of leaves and stuff, the air separates them. Right? So when he's, if he's got a winnowing, why would he bother to winnow if he's just going to judge everybody and make everybody's mother a widow and, and, uh, uh, kill all their sons and whatnot.

There's a winnowing here. This is what's happening to the chaff people. This is a judgment.

Notice it's in the gate. The gate is the place of judgment, the place of adjudication. This guy's guilty.

This guy's innocent. This guy must pay. This guy goes free.

Right? So whenever you see these things and you say, well, that just seems kind of unfair. Look in the context. You will find the winnowing.

You will find the judgment. You will find the God of grace and mercy and the God of righteousness and justice. He is both.

What is it? James 4.6. God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. There is an adjudication process. Who is proud and who is humble? Proud, unteachable, humble, teachable.

I turn when I'm reproved. I learn from my mistakes. God thumps me and I know better next time.

And I'm grateful. A lot of people that had strict, uh, childhood upbringing look back and say, I thank God I had strict parents. I am so glad they trained me, taught me self-discipline, gave me self-control, taught me to take the long view, not react and go six ways to Sunday in the short term.

So this is 14. The nation's going to be winnowed. Chapter 12, verses 13 through 15, chapter 15, verse seven.

And the remnant, the wheat is going to be delivered. You saw what's going to happen to the chaff here. Look at 15.11. Flip the page.

The Lord says, surely it will be well with your remnant. I will cause the enemy to intercede with you. Look, even if you get captured by the enemy, the enemy is going to treat you well.

Even if you get hauled to Babylon, like, like Mishael and Daniel and Azariah and, and Mishael, it's going to go well with you. They're going to favor you. Remember Joseph in the house of Potiphar? Potiphar loved Joseph, raised him, gave him privileges and opportunities and training, uh, and education and all of that.

Uh, Joseph before Pharaoh, Pharaoh makes him second in the land and he's a stranger. And why God, even in adversity, even if, if we go out with the nation, God's got his eye on us. He's got his mark on us.

He has his seal on us. And he says, it will be well with you. 15.11 of Jeremiah, I will cause the enemy to intercede with you in the time of adversity, in the time of affliction.

Can anyone break iron, the Northern iron and the bronze, your wealth and your treasures? I will give us plunder without price because of all your sins through all your territories. Now, who's he talking to? He says, you remnant guys, don't worry. You're going to be in the land of the enemy and it's going to go well with you.

The rest of you trying to hang onto the stuff in the land, iron is going to come and bust you up and you cannot resist it. You're going to try to hang on and try to not go. You don't trust the enemy.

You're, you're afraid of the enemy and you'll cling here no matter what. I'll defend my property to the last man. You know, I don't care what God says.

Jeremiah has told them comply. This is judgment and Nebuchadnezzar is my guy. You, it seems bad that the nation is going out.

This is a deliverance comply. When he takes you, you go. These people say, no, I'm smarter than that.

Well, this is the judgment on them. So the remnant will be delivered. Look at verses 16 through 21 here in this same chapter, your words were found and I did eat them.

And your word was to me, the joy and rejoicing of my heart. Which kind of people are we talking about now? Any question, any doubt? This is the faithful, right? Your words were found and I ate them. And your word was to me, the joy and rejoicing of my heart, for I am called by your name.

Oh Lord, God of hosts. I did not sit in the assembly of the mockers, nor did I rejoice. I sat alone because of your hand.

Sometimes we're going to be by the Brook Cherith like Elijah. Sometimes we're going to not have many friends, many opportunities for fellowship. It's going to be a lonely road.

Have faith. God knows what he's doing. There's a reason for it.

Exploit it. If you don't have a lot of social life soaking up your time, what can you use that time for? Improve your mind, improve your spiritual understanding, spend more time in prayer, spend more time in reflection, spend more time on those identity things. What has God made me? What am I? Who am I? Why am I here? If I've got time, God must have given it to me for something.

Why has he given me this time that's not soaked up with friends and the high life? I sat alone because of your hand. You have filled me with indignation. What does that mean? I can't consort with the people around me.

It bugs me, their lack of respect for God. I don't share their values. I don't share their descriptions of what they're doing and who they're doing it with.

I have indignation when I get around. I've got to be by myself for my own sanity. Why is my pain perpetual and my wound incurable which refuses to be healed? Will you surely be to me like an unreliable stream as waters that fail? You remember when we did our overview of the book, we hit this passage.

And Jeremiah says, look, Lord, I need some encouragement here. I'm in mourning mode. I'm indignation mode.

I'm in alone mode here. I know that I'm wheat and you're going to look out for me, but I could sure use some comfort. Do you think God's not going to respond to that request? He will.

Count on it. Pray that prayer. The remnant will be delivered.

15, point 15 here on the same page, commands of the faithful, do not associate. Don't give up here. When you say I'm all alone and everything fills me with indignation, don't lower your standards.

Don't compromise. Don't say, uh, you know, forget it. I'm, I'm just going to do what everybody else is doing.

Chapter 16, verse two, you shall not take a wife, nor shall you have sons or daughters in this place. Don't compromise. Don't make permanent bonds.

Don't commit in ways that you can't uncommit from with people that don't qualify. You've got to maintain a distance. Hate the garment spotted by the flesh.

Do not associate. Look at verse five, chapter 16. Thus says the Lord, do not enter the house of mourning.

Don't go to lament or bemoan them. I have taken away my peace from this. People says the Lord, not only do you not pray for them, but don't, you've got to disinvest.

You've got to put some distance. Don't commit. Don't associate.

Don't get entangled. Look at verse eight. You shall not go into any house of feasting to sit with them to eat and drink.

I'm making a difference. I'm winnowing here and I'm going to do stuff to the chaff. You don't want to get implicated in.

So stand back. I know it's lonesome. I know it's hard.

Be faithful. This is part of your trust. Trust God that he knows what he's doing.

All right. The next four points are all consequences to the faithless. Number 16, chapter 17, verse 24, flip the page.

It shall be if you heed me carefully, says the Lord to bring no burden through the gates of the city on the Sabbath day, but how low the Sabbath day to do no work in it. You remember that God went to the simplest and most archetypal command. The very first part of the Bible says God himself rested on the seventh day.

You're made in the image of God. God rests on the seventh day. You rest on the seventh day.

It's a choice. If you can't do that, you are labeling yourself and making yourself chaff. It's simple.

You don't have to climb a mountain. You don't have to give money. You don't have to wear a hair shirt.

You don't have to climb the skull of Santa on your knees until they're bloody. You don't have to offer a sacrifice. All you have to do is sit down and quit moving on the Sabbath.

Is there any more simple way to say this is a choice? Just stop. Just rest on that day. Just halt.

They can't do it. They won't do it. If you heed, you would be delivered.

But look at verse 27. If you will not heed me to how the Sabbath day, not carrying a burden when entering the gates of Jerusalem on the Sabbath day, I will kindle a fire in the gates. It will devour the palaces of Jerusalem shall not be quenched.

Notice he kindles a fire in the gates nationally. It means your court system goes crazy. And that's just what has happened.

Anybody can go into any bathroom. Abortion is legal. Gay marriage is legal.

You name it. There is a fire that has been set in our gates. And what does it mean when it consumes the palaces? It's going to destroy all of the leadership functions.

It's going to destroy the executive and the legislative and all the other branches of our government. Federal, state, and local. As this stuff gets worse, there's a fire in the gates because people will not put God's values first.

That's number 16. Number 17, right below it, consequence to the faithless. Persecutors.

Look at chapter 18, verse 18. They said, come and let us devise plans against Jeremiah. He's doing what he's supposed to.

He's faithful. He's following God's commands. He's separating himself from us.

He's not like us. He's the hen with the spot on her wing. Let's peck him to death.

Let us devise plans against Jeremiah, for the law shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet. See, our law is fine. Our priests are fine.

Our counsel is wise. We've got these functions. We don't need him.

We've replaced him. We've replaced what he says the priesthood should be. We've replaced what he says prophets should be.

We've got substitutes for that. We've got counterfeits for those. That's what they're saying.

Let us devise plans against Jeremiah. The law will not perish from the priest. Our funky priesthood with its goofy practices and idolatry and all the rest of it is just fine.

He's not wise. Our false counselors are wise, nor the word from the prophet. They've got these prophets that are saying, oh, be strong, resist.

You can fight off the Babylonians. It'll all be great. Right? Jeremiah is the only one telling the truth.

And they say, our stuff's all good. You're the odd one out. You're the weirdo.

We've got to get rid of you. Come and let us attack him with the tongue and let us not give heed to any of his words. What do you think is going to happen to you when you stand up for Christ? The exact same thing.

Do not be daunted. Do not be surprised. Jesus said, they hated me.

They're going to hate you. They hated Jeremiah. They're going to hate you.

You do what you're supposed to. You can expect flack. You can expect mockery.

You can expect to be attacked with the tongue. Little clicks are going to form and try to belittle you and make you feel bad. Persecutors, but look at what will happen to them.

You want some fuel for your motivation. You want some consolation for your persistent faithfulness. Look at chapter 19 verses 10 and 11.

You shall break the flask in the side of the men who go with you and say to them, thus says the Lord of hosts. Even so, I will break this people and this city as one breaks a potter's vessel, which cannot be made whole again. And they shall bury them in Tophet.

That's the garbage dump till there is no place to bury. Don't be wounded and have your feelings hurt by these people. You should feel sorry for them.

This is what their fate is. They are going to be shattered. That's point 17 point 18.

God will fight against them. This is chapter 21 verses four through six. And I will type these up and post them later.

If you miss any of the points, you can, you'll eventually be able to check. I'll put it up on the website, but this is now point 17 out of 27 persecutors will be shattered. Point 18.

God will fight against them. This is chapter 21 verses four through six. This is us.

Now we're not talking about just ancient Judah people. This is us. This is now 21, uh, four through six says, thus says the Lord God of Israel.

I will turn back the weapons of war that are in your hands, which you fight against the King of Babylon and the Chaldeans who besiege you outside the walls. This is bad. These people are going to try to fight Nebuchadnezzar.

And God says, I'm going to bend your weapons. I'm going to bend your muzzles. I'm going to bust your spears.

I'm going to dull your swords, break your shields. I, myself will fight against you with an outstretched hand and with a strong arm in anger and fury and great wrath, because I have given you warning after warning, after warning, rebuke, after rebuke, after rebuke, I've sent you profit after profit, you would have none of it. You were stiff necked and hard headed and hard hearted and adamant that you wanted to go your own way.

You're so smart. You've got it all figured out. Now you're going to march out there and fight against the King of Babylon.

You're not just fighting against him. You're fighting against God. You think you're going to win that battle? Unlikely.

That's point 18, 21, four through six point 19. You're getting down to the nubs here. Are you

going to choose the way of life or the way of death? Look at 21 verse eight.

Now, after God turns your points all backwards and your weapons are blowing up in your own face, now you shall say to this people, this is Jeremiah's instruction. Thus says the Lord, behold, I set before you the way of life and the way of death. This is our two lists.

It's the way of life, commands for the faithful. It's the way of death, consequences to the faithless. God says, in case you haven't gotten there, now that we're more than halfway through the list, I'm setting before you life and death.

Kind of like the tree in the garden. Kind of like Moses in the wilderness. Kind of like Joshua.

It's a way of life or it's a way of death. The Lord Jesus Christ is either a rock of salvation or is he a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense. It's one or the other.

He's a rock either way, but he's either the rock on which we build our lives and our faith to be vindicated, to be blessed, to be rewarded, or we are underneath that rock, ground to powder. What determines that? Your image of God, absolutely free, unfettered choice. You choose.

So this is 19. Way of life or way of death, 21.8. Look at verse 14 and circle it and put a star by it. I will punish you unfaithful according to the fruit of your doings, says the Lord.

I will kindle a fire in its forest and it will devour everything around it. Kind of reminds you of the fire in the gate that devours the palace, right? Does there need to be any question or any uncertainty or any, I didn't get the word. Nobody sent me the memo about being unfaithful here.

Jeremiah has proclaimed this over and over loudly. He's notorious for it. He's famous for it.

Nobody will talk to him because of it. But is there anybody that didn't get the word? God says, I'm fighting against you and if you don't turn, I will punish you according to the fruit of your doings. It's not, I'm going to punish you according to my anger and my petty jealousy.

It's the fruit of your doings. You did these things. Punishment ensues.

We'll devour all things around you. That is 19. Now 20 and 21 are back on the commands of the faithful.

The remnant is going to be gathered. That wheat that was winnowed, that those that have the mark of the marking angel who sigh and cry over Jerusalem as we saw, they're going to be chapter 23 verses three through six. I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries.

Remember now when we saw he's, he's going to punish and then he's going to suddenly gather and bless and you say, well, he's the same people. No. Here, this tells you who's going to be gathered the remnant of my flock out of all countries where I have driven them.

I will bring them back to their folds and they shall be fruitful and increase. The faithful were told, go to Babylon, right? God says, because you were faithful and you went and I didn't have to kill you and kindle a fire in your gates and burn your forest down and utterly destroy you. You still exist for me to bring back.

You were obedient in this time of national judgment. You as individuals have been preserved. You've been protected.

I've spoken a favorable word to the enemy on your behalf and now you're coming back. Why are you coming back? Because you were obedient and didn't die by my judgment. You had a time of trial.

This is our time on earth. This is the slings and arrows. This is a momentary light affliction working for us an eternal weight of glory.

I will bring you back. I will attend to you for the evil of your doing says the Lord. That's the chaff, but I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries where I've driven them, bring them back to their folds and they shall be fruitful and increase.

I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking says the Lord. The days are coming. I will raise to David a righteous branch, a branch of righteousness.

A king shall reign and prosper, execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. Isn't that a wonderful thing? You look around now, there's no righteousness. There's no justice.

Everything is topsy-turvy upside down. Good is evil. Evil is good.

Up is down. Down is up. Female is male.

Male is female. Right? I will raise a king who will reign and prosper and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In his days, Judah will be delivered.

Judah will dwell. Israel will dwell safely. This is his name by which he will be called the Lord, our righteousness, not just the Lord of righteousness.

He's the Lord, our righteousness. This is the Lord Jesus Christ in prospect. The days are coming.

They shall no longer say, as the Lord lives, and you saw that. The new deliverance is going to be more meaningful. Being raised from the dead, being put in the millennial kingdom will overshadow the deliverance from Egypt.

So that was number 20. Number 21, command to the faithful, while you wait for this, don't fall for false teaching. 2310, the land is full of adulterers.

Because of a curse, the land mourns. The pleasant places of the wilderness are dried up. Their

course of life is evil, and their might is not right.

Skip down to verse 21. I have not sent these false prophets that he's been describing earlier in the chapter, yet they ran. I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied.

If they had stood in my counsel and had caused my people to hear my words, they would have turned them from their evil way and from the evil of their doings. Those who have an ear to hear will hear the truth when it's spoken. If they don't have an ear to hear, they're chaff.

Don't pray for them. Don't mourn for them. Don't associate with them.

Stand back from them. You pay attention to the good word, and you will return and prosper. That was 21.

22, consequence to the faithless, you are either a good or a bad fig. We've already talked about this. That's chapter 24, verses 6 and 10.

Again, are you faithful or faithless? Are you a good or a bad fig? 24, 6 through 10. Last chance, faithless. You can be a good fig if you change your mind.

Bad figs are going to be pitched. Good figs are going to be preserved and useful. 23, look at chapter 25, verse 8. After all of this, we've gone through 25 chapters of here's the carrot, here's the stick, right? That's pretty much what it is.

Look at 25, verse 8. Thus says the Lord, because you have not heard my words, everything that follows is because you would not listen, you would not respond. This is here in the sense of respond. I will send and take all the families of the North, and you can read all the consequences.

It's more bad stuff. But 25, 8 is the key. Because you would not hear and turn.

You got no excuse. You made a bad choice. Point 24 is on the good side, good list.

Chapter 25, verse 11. Recognize that these things that you're undertaking and undergoing, the time is limited. Be patient.

It's not going to last forever. Chapter 25, verse 11. This whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon 70 years.

God says, look, I'm not giving you some indefinite pie in the sky. I'm telling you 70 years. That's how long this is going to last.

You can count on it. Daniel counted these weeks. Daniel had a copy of Jeremiah, and he began to petition the Lord when he knew the 70 weeks were close to ending.

The people of the Lord will know the times and the seasons. And you know that this is going to be a time and a time and half a times, time times and a half a time, which ends up being three

and a half, or it's going to be 3,260 days or whatever it might be. The faithful that are paying attention, God gives them the information they need.

They know how long to count. They know how long to wait. Here's the thing.

In a nutshell, if you are faithful, you will know what you need to know. If you don't think you know it now, trust God. Look at how he gives people exactly the information they need to negotiate and navigate this historical circumstance.

There's no doubt. There's no lack of information. Jeremiah is replete with information.

Trust God. When we need to know it, we'll know it. We are the faithful.

If we don't know it now, we don't need to know it. When we need to know it, we'll know it because God is in his heaven and we are faithful. Bank on it, count on it, and relax.

If you don't know it now, you don't need to know it. Notice we're in chapter 25 before he says there's going to be 70 weeks. That's when they need to know it.

They're starting to leave now. The 605, 597, 586. They need to know this.

They may not hear Jeremiah again, so he says, look, 70 weeks, write it down. This may be information for your kids. 70 weeks, count on it.

Solid information. God will give us the information we need when we need it. If you don't have the information, you don't need it.

If you think you've got to make a decision right now and you don't have information, don't make the decision because God will give you the information when it's time to make the decision. Make sense? Command for the faithful. That is number 24.

Recognize the times, 25, 11 and following. 25, there's still a chance that some will listen and turn. This is chapter 26, verse 3. Perhaps everyone will listen and turn from his evil way that I may relent concerning the calamity which I purpose to bring on them because of the evil of their doings.

Notice even at this late date, we're in chapter 26. God says some of these people may still turn. Jeremiah, you keep speaking, keep proclaiming.

You faithful believer, keep on observing and fulfilling your responsibilities. Whoever you are and whatever you are supposed to do, keep on keeping on. Don't flag, don't fail, don't falter, don't wilt.

Keep on keeping on. Don't mourn, don't get discouraged, don't quit. You know, the hardest part of the race is right before it's time for your kick.

And when you say, well, I've rounded the last turn, time for my kick. Mysteriously from

somewhere, adrenaline pulls energy from someplace and you finish strong, right? That's if you're trained. That's if you know what you're doing.

That's if you know not to believe what your body is telling me. I cannot tell you the lies my body tells me at a certain part of my run. You know, I think this is serious.

You may be doing some actual internal damage here. I think your spleen has come loose. I think your pancreas is bleeding.

You'd better stop. You'd better quit. You keep on keeping on because you know that none of that is true if you're smart.

Otherwise, you say, oh, oh, the stitch in my side. Sorry, I just had to quit. You're never going to cross the line.

Keep on keeping on. God says, look, you leave it to me. Perhaps everyone will turn.

It is not the will of God that any should perish. He loves Israel. He loves Judah.

Even these recalcitrant, backward going, hardheaded, hardhearted, mocking, deriding, Jeremiah persecuting people. God says, perhaps everyone will listen and turn from his evil way. Maybe some of them still have a chance.

You do what you have to do. I'll watch. I'm going to delay this to the last possible moment.

That's 26, three that I may relent. Verse seven. So the priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the Lord.

Notice 26, seven. Everybody gets the word. No excuse for not getting the word.

Everybody gets it. But flip down to verse uh, that, that was a 25, 26. I will bring back, go down to chapter 30, verse seven, chapter 30 and verse seven.

This is 0.26. Only one to go. I said I would finish. I didn't say I'd finish on time.

So my integrity is intact. Chapter 30, verse seven. Alas, that day is great so that none is like it.

It is the time of Jacob's trouble. This is where we get the tribulation. This, this is not just for the present time in Jeremiah's day.

It's looking forward. These warnings pertain in the times of trouble, the tribulation, which is still future. Daniel 70th week.

You see how the, these principles pertain through it's, it's a thread that weaves through history and weaves through it. The principles are always the same. If you are faithful, you'll be preserved.

Uh, those who are paying attention will, when they see the abomination of desolation, they'll flee to the hills. They won't wait. They believe the word of God.

They'll be preserved. There's others that won't. Uh, look at verses 18 through 22 of this chapter.

Thus says the Lord, I will bring back the captivity of Jacob's tents and have mercy on his dwelling places. Listen up faithful. God says, whatever you see, whatever you experience, however bad it gets, I will bring back Jacob's tents.

I will have mercy on his dwelling places. The city will be built on its own mound. The palace shall remain according to its own plan.

What you have built by faith in your life, nobody can wipe out. It may seem like it's got gone. God will bring it back.

You lose one house. God's bringing back a hundred. You lose one opportunity.

God is bringing back a hundred. It will be restored to you a hundredfold. Jesus told his disciples in the days that are coming.

Why struggle for what you cannot keep when you can gain stuff that you cannot lose out of them shall proceed. Thanksgiving and the voice of those who make Mary, I will multiply them and they will not diminish. I will glorify them and they will not be small.

Their children will be as before their congregation shall be established before me and I will punish all who oppress them. Those persecutors, those guys that throw Jeremiah in the cistern, stand by. Fret not thyself because of evil men.

God has made promises to the faithful. I will bring back. Finally, in chapter 26, a little bit further back, there is the threat of death.

26.8, 26.11, it happened when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking all that the Lord had commanded him to speak to all the people. The priests and the prophets and all the people seized him saying, you will surely die. This is what you get for being faithful.

This is what you get for sticking to the long view and believing the promises of God. All the people around him and notice who it is, the priests and the prophets and all the people seized him and said, you're going to die. This is the time that determines whether your faith is real or whether you're going to throw it all down and say, I was just kidding.

I'm one of you. Look at verse 11, the priests and the prophets spoke to the princes and all the people saying, this man deserves to die. He has prophesied against the city as you have heard with your own ears.

Now look at chapter 30, verse 23 and 24. So last point for the night, chapter 30, verse 23 and 24. Behold, the whirlwind of the Lord goes forth with fury.

A continuing whirlwind, it will fall violently on the head of the wicked. The fierce anger of the Lord will not return until he has done it and until he has performed the intents of his heart. And in the latter days, you'll figure it out.

In the latter days, you will consider it. In the latter days, it'll begin to make sense. This is a God thing.

When our confidence is in God, our trust is in God, our foundation is in God, and our future is in God, nothing to worry about. We'll know what we need to know when we need to know it. What we do know, that's what we do.

Go with what you know. Do what you know you should do. I don't know if I should take on a new job or not, but I know what my current job is.

I know what my current responsibility is. I know the things that are already incumbent on me today. Right now, I'm going to keep on doing that.

I'll know what I need to know when I need to know it because I am the faithful. I have not turned back. I don't keep company with evil men.

I don't stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of the scornful. My delight's in the law of the Lord, and I reflect on it day and night. I check myself to see if I'm in the faith.

I'm the faithful. God's got it. I just need to do my commands.

This is the message of Jeremiah. This is the most practical information you can possibly have. Should I have a bug-out plan and store food for the coming apocalypse? I don't know.

God hasn't given me that information. He has certainly given me plenty of current information, and that's what I'm acting on. If I need a bug-out plan, and I need a bunch of food, and if God has told you that, God bless you.

You got your info, and I may be coming to see you, knocking on the door, and, hey, got a dry meal. He hasn't given me that information yet, but I fully expect that if I need to do that, I'll know it, and there will be the means, motive, and opportunity to do it. Those dang dry meals are expensive.

I've been watching the wise ads. Can you afford all of this? Not yet, but it will become clear. Relax.

Go to God. Pray. Ask Him to shine a light on the path.

That's what these people did. That's what the tribulational saints are going to do, and they'll be looking back at us to see what we did, just like we look back at Daniel and Mishael and those guys. We want to do what they did.

Wouldn't it be great to be an example that God can give the tribulational saints and the millennial saints in the Gog-Magog rebellion? Look at those folks. Do what they did. You don't think about it just like people in the Bible? You might be in a future Bible.

This is your chance to serve the Lord with gladness, come before His presence with singing. The Lord is God. He made us.

We're the sheep of His pasture. Be thankful. Bless His name.

He's good. His mercy is everlasting, and His truth will endure to all generations. Let's close here in a word of prayer.

Father, thank You for Your provision for our souls, first and foremost, through the Lord Jesus Christ, through the ministry of Your Holy Spirit, through the power of Your Word. We pray that as we seek to sustain ourselves and to accomplish our purposes and the things that You have tasked us with in this life, that God the Holy Spirit will guide us and lead us and reveal to us what Your will is so that it will be a simple matter of choosing and being faithful in the performance of it. We pray that in all things our Savior will be glorified both now and in the ages to come by our lives and by the things that You've taught us tonight.

We ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.