

Lesson 8: Jeremiah 34-44

To class: This week's lesson will combine some unfinished material from last week plus what was slated for this Thursday. It could all be titled, "Blatant Disregard for the LORD". As you do your reading, please be looking for examples of this disregard (typically involving not listening to/obeying the LORD's voice - 'shema') and note the related consequences in each case. Also be looking for the rare exceptions to this tendency. As we approach the close of our study soon, I'd like each of us to seriously be asking, "What is the LORD saying to me through Jeremiah's message, and how can I obediently respond?"

1. Words of the LORD to Zedekiah: Part 1 (34:1-22) - approx. 587 BC

- A. 1st word concerning Zedekiah's future (1-7)

- B. 2nd word concerning release of Hebrew slaves (8-22)

'Shema' that is not _____ is not 'shema'!

2. Symbolic act with the Rechabites (35:1-19)

- A. The act (1-11)

- B. The interpretation (12-19) The 'shema' of the Rechabites toward a dead _____ far exceeds the 'shema' of present-day Judah toward the _____ of Hosts!

- C. A possible consideration:

3. Words of the LORD to Judah and Jehoiakim (36:1-32) - approx. 604 BC

- A. Intro (1-10)
"Perhaps they will 'shema' and _____; then I will _____ their sin." (vs 3)

- B. Recipients' responses (11-26)

- C. The LORD's response (27-32)

4. Words of the LORD to Zedekiah: Part 2 (37:1-38:28) - approx 587-586 BC

- A. Preliminary context (37:1-2, 4)

- B. Zedekiah's inquisitiveness (37:3, 17, 38:14)

Asking for _____ and seeking _____ does not necessarily insure that 'shema' is taking place!

- C. Jeremiah's maltreatment (37:15, 38:6)

- D. Ebed-melech's courage (38:7-13)

5. **The Siege and subsequent Fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians (39:1-18) - ending in 586 BC**

A. Realities of siege warfare (Jer 6:6, 15:2, Dt 28:52):

B. Aftermath for certain groups:

- Zedekiah and sons (3-8):
- Remaining citizenry (9-10):
- Jeremiah (11-14, also 15:11 and 40:1-6):
- Ebed-Melech (15-18):

6. **Judah's short-lived Interim Government at Mizpah (40:1-41:18)**

A. Gedaliah:

B. The Ammonite Plot:

C. Emergence of Johanan:

7. **Inquiry at Bethlehem (42:1-43:7)**

A. A spiritual-sounding promise (42:1-6):

B. Word of the LORD through Jeremiah (42:7-22):

C. A promise broken (43:1-7):

Saying we will 'shema' and actually _____ with it are 2 different things!
Furthermore, what purpose is there in asking for the LORD's direction if our minds are
_____ made up on a certain course of action?

8. **The LORD's words to Judah's remnant in Egypt (43:8-44:30)**

In Egypt, the LORD chastens His rebellious people for repeatedly not _____ themselves before Him and not following in His ways (43:10). Therefore, they will not be allowed to _____ to Judah (44:14). They refused to 'shema' the LORD's words because they had a misplaced sense of who their true _____ was (44:16-19). To such an obstinate people, the LORD is _____ over their demise (44:27-30; 1:12).

9. **Concluding thoughts:**

- A primary way we can show disregard for the LORD is by not _____ His _____.
- Those with the most _____ seem to have the most difficulty with obeying the LORD.
- Who/what do we perceive to be our primary _____ and _____? This entity is most probably the primary _____ of our obedience and worship. This is our _____.
- In the tradition of the Rechabites, Ebed-Melech and Jeremiah: