**Jeremiah 27:1-22**

***“God Rules!”***

Introduction:

1. Do you know that God rules? God uses the ungodly and unlikely to accomplish His purpose.

2. Jeremiah 27:1-22 If God rules it should give us a new view of life.

**I. A WORLD VIEW 27:1-11**

 ***A. The Scene 1a***

**1.** *Jehoiakim* is most likely a scribal error due to the context and v. 3 says, *Zedekiah.*

**2.** In 597 B.C. the Babylonians and Nebuchadnezzar had down sized Jerusalem taking

 many valuables and many people back to Jerusalem. They set up Zedekiah as the

 puppet king of Judah.

 **3.** God carries out His purposes through the political scene of a country. Godly

 people may be inconvenienced. They may be uprooted. They may lose

 everything. They may even lose their lives.

 ***B. The Symbol 1b-2***

**1. The Director** *This word…from the Lord…Thus saith the Lord*

\*What follows isn’t Jeremiah’s idea.

 \*God is behind it. God is always at work behind the scene. God is at work

 in the negatives of your life. God has a bigger plan than our convenience.

 **2. The Direction** *Put a yoke around your neck.*

\*In Biblical times, a yoke was a long wooden crossbar laid across the neck of

 two oxen. Four pegs were then driven through the crossbar. Ropes or leather

 thongs were tied around the necks of the beasts to anchor them to the pegs. Once

 there they were ready to work.

 \*Symbolically it was a sign of submission, servitude and captivity. Jeremiah

 became a living illustration.

 \*God may permit a yoke to be placed around your neck to accomplish His purpose.

 ***C. The Scope 3***

**1.** At the time this was written, about 594 B.C. the city is bustling with diplomats from

 *Edom, Moab, Ammon, Tyre and Sidon.* Nebuchadnezzar seemed vulnerable.

 **2.**  There is no need to insist that Jeremiah made a yoke for each king mentioned.

 **3.** Judah was on the verge of a revolt against Babylon. Jeremiah wearing this yoke

 gave the message of the yoke to the Middle East representatives. This envoy had

 assembled to throw off the yoke of Babylon.

 **4.** The Lord through Jeremiah gave the message, submit to Nebuchadnezzar for their

 own good.

 ***D. The Significance 4,6,8*** *All nations shall serve him.*

**1.** Try as they might those nations would not be able to throw off the Babylonian yoke.

 They must surrender or perish.

 **2. What do you think they thought???** *Who does God think He is? How can the*

 *God of this puny nation claim the right to rule over us? What business does He*

 *have ordering us around? We are mighty nations!!*

**3. I am God:** *I give it to anyone I please. I have given it unto whom it seemed right to*

 *Me v. 5 My servant v. 6*

 *\**God’s audacious claim to world power challenges our perspective. Whenever

 there is a change in government the Lord is behind it. He sets up the presidents,

 premiers, rulers.

 \*What about Hitler *my servant* Stalin *my servant* Edi Amnin *my servant???*

 *\**Hitler…the holocaust gave rise to the nation of Israel. Stalin killed 20 million

 which led to the fall of Communism due to the weakness of leadership and cry of the

 people. Babylon gave us Daniel, Ezekiel… and Israel never worshipped idols again.

 \*God has a plan. It is BIG and bigger than our vision or our scope. Whatever

 negative you find in your life God wants to use it to produce a positive. God takes

 those things that Satan means for evil and turns them into good. At the time the

 experience may not be good or feel good.

  ***E. The Stirring 9-11***

**1.** The message wasn’t popular. False prophets were lying.

 **2.** Just because the message is good doesn’t mean it is from God. Many today are

 speaking in the name of the Lord, and they merely say what the hearer wants to hear.

 *You will not die of cancer. If you have enough faith you will be made whole. Send*

 *in $53, plant a seed and God will provide an abundant harvest.*

**3.** Many years ago Daniel Fleming wrote *Marks Of A World Christian*. Fleming

 meant a world Christian is someone who recognizes that God rules the kingdoms of

 the world. A world Christian is someone who takes a vital interest in the worldwide

 work of God and prays for the unbroken advance of God’s kingdom.

 **4.** David Bryant: *World Christian: God has a worldwide PURPOSE in Christ that*

 *encompasses all history, all creation, and all people everywhere, especially those*

 *yet to be reached by the Gospel.* If you are not a worldwide Christian…become one.

**II. A WISE VIEW 27:5-8 (Dan. 4:28-37)**

 As I said, if it were not for the Babylonian Captivity Daniel would never have been written.

 God can put down who He wants, when He wants. If God rules over Kingdoms, He must

 rule over kings. *Now I will hand all of your countries over to my servant Nebuchadnezzar,*

 *the king of Babylon.*

 ***A. His Providence 5,6***

**1.** Because He is Creator, He can do what He pleases. *I will do as I please…what is*

 *right to Me.*

**2.** *Now I have given all these lands to Nebuchadnezzar.* This is a remarkable

 statement: *You didn’t do it, I did! Nebuchadnezzar* was a cruel, wicked king. He was

 a Hitler or Stalin type. He crushed and devoured God’s people. He destroyed the

 Temple. God counted this fierce king as one of His servants.

 **3.** God uses the ungodly and unlikely to accomplish His purposes. Even the most

 powerful enemies are but instruments to accomplish His purpose and His will. God is

 not the Author of evil. God permits man’s will to accomplish His purposes. God can

 use the most evil, vile circumstance for His glory.

 ***B. His Plan Dan. 4:28-37***

**1.** Eventually, even Nebuchadnezzar realized he was God’s servant! *Is not this great*

 *Babylon I have built…by the might of my power, and for the honor of my majesty. 30*

 *The kingdom is departed from you…31 until you know…he giveth it to whomsoever*

 *He will. 32*

**2.** Nebuchadnezzar became a beast…read 35, 37 *Those who walk in pride God is able*

 *to humble 37* Hitler was charred in a bunker.

**3.** To regain your spiritual sanity, acknowledge that the God who rules over Kings and

 Kingdoms rules over you.

 **4.** Be a Daniel…stop fighting your circumstances, and grow where you are planted.

It’s not right!! ***It may not be God’s will for them, but it is God’s will for you for as***

 ***long as He sees fit.***

**III. A WILLING VIEW 27:12-22**

Exchange your yoke for His...become a Daniel and grow where you are planted. **How?**

 ***A. Submit To God’s Will 12-15***

**1.** *Bring your neck under the yoke of the king.*

**2.** *Why will you die…****the way of death was the road to life.*** *I am crucified with Christ*

 *nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ lives in me. And the life I now live, I live by*

 *faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me. (Gal 2:20)*

**3.** Watch avoiding what you don’t want just because it’s difficult and unpleasant. Just

 because it is difficult and unpleasant is no sign it isn’t God’s will. 14, 15

 **4.** We love to hear what we want to hear. **It may be a lie.** Good news is not always God’s news.

 ***B. Sacrifice To God’s Will 16-21***

**1.** What’s about to occur is devastating. What’s going to happen to the Temple vessels?

 **2.** Things were going to get worse before they got better.

 **3.** You may lose your most precious object or objects. God still rules!! 19-21

 Everything that was predicted happened. God knows the future!!

 ***C. Surprise Of God’s Will 22***

**1.** God is kind. God is full of grace and mercy. That which is taken will be restored.

 **2.** In 539 B.C. these were returned to Jerusalem.

 **3. The suffering will not last forever.** *This too shall pass.*

**4.** *(Matt. 11:28-30) Come, unto Me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will*

 *give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in*

 *heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and my burden is*

 *light.*

*Are you in bondage? Exchange your yoke for His. Bloom right where you are planted!*

***OUR GOD RULES!!!***