

Sermon Notes Jeremiah 22:1-16 Knowing God

3/4/2022

Introduction. Jeremiah 22 continues the themes of chapter 21 and focusses on the Kings of Judah, from the house of David. A descendent of David is required to act like him who, for the most part, was a 'man after God's own heart' (1 Sam.13:14; Acts 13:22).

Vs 1-3. *God commands the prophet, Jeremiah, to 'go down to the palace of the king of Judah and proclaim this message...'*

² *"Hear the word of the LORD to you, king of Judah, you who sit on David's throne – you, your officials and your people...'. Jeremiah is not giving his recommendations but is told to declare God's word.*

³ *'This is what the LORD says'. Note the repetition of the Lord's word. '... do what is just and right. They are to adhere to the covenant, (v 9), that God has with His people and their rulers. When justice and righteous prevail then the vulnerable, foreigners, widows and fatherless, are protected and cared for.*

Vv. 4-5. If the King and His officials carry out these commands, they will enjoy peace and the Lord's favour. If they do not obey, it will result in the ruin of the palace and its inhabitants.

Vv. 6-9. From a human perspective other nation will bring destruction on Judah if they disobey God, but behind this destruction is the active hand of God Himself. (v6b) *'I will make you a desert'; (v7) 'I will send destroyers' ; (v8) people will ask 'why has the Lord done such a thing to this great city?' The answer to why God will act if they are disobedient (v5) is, (v9) "Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD their God and have worshipped and served other gods."*

Vv. 10-12. Theme of mourning. In 609BC in the year that Josiah died (*'Do not weep for the dead'*) his son Shallum (*'weep bitterly for him who is exiled'*), who succeeded him for only a few months, was captured by Pharaoh Necho. Shallum died in exile in Egypt.

Vv. 13-16. Necho replaces Shallum with another son of Josiah, Jehoiakim (v.18). He is spoke about in 13-14, and to in 15-17. Verses 15-16 summarise what it means in practice to 'know God'.

Reflection/Response. To know God is to live in relationship with Him, acknowledging and obeying His will. How do our actions especially toward those who are vulnerable show that we 'know God? What is the link between trusting God and obediently serving Him?

BB