



## Jeremiah Preached That Exile Is Coming!

# Exile Is Coming!

God's People didn't want to do what He asked them to do. They wanted to do what they wanted to do, to take what they wanted even when it hurt people, and to worship other gods. As Jeremiah looked around, their disobedience made him sad.

Jeremiah was God's prophet, and he had an important message for God's people at a time when no one really wanted to listen to God. Jeremiah knew God loved His people too much to let them continue to disobey Him. They had been created in God's image, to reflect God's goodness, and their sin would lead to their death as a people. Jeremiah tried to warn them... "Exile is Coming!" Jeremiah said, but still the people disobeyed and did whatever they wanted.

Do you think it was hard for Jeremiah to continue to tell people the truth about God even when no one wanted to listen? It was probably very hard for him, but he was faithful because Jeremiah knew God. He knew that God's plans are always better than man's plans, and that His ways are always better than man's ways.

God had revealed to Jeremiah that the nation would be overcome by their enemies, the Babylonians, and that even God's temple would be destroyed. The people would be carried off to Babylon for 70 years as prisoners and slaves. "Exile is coming," Jeremiah declared again!

"Exile is coming!" wasn't a fun message, but Jeremiah was faithful to preach it. It was also a message of hope because God would not forget or abandon His people. His judgment would not last forever. One day, God would bring them back to the Promised Land. One day, God would not only change their address, God would change their hearts!

God told Jeremiah, "I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah..." When Jesus came, He established this new covenant by fulfilling the requirements of the Law. Jesus paid the price for our disobedience because He lived a perfect life, but He still faced death—death on a cross. But Jesus didn't stay dead. On the third day, He rose from the dead; and now He sits at the right hand of God the Father, and He is praying for us. The life and ministry of Jesus fulfilled the promise that God made through Jeremiah to God's people, "I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

Jeremiah's message that exile is coming teaches us that God will act to judge and discipline His people when needed, but He will also act to bring us into a gracious relationship with Him. We were all born wanting our own way. It's easy to sin, but God loves us too much to leave us in our sin. He sends the Holy Spirit to show us our sin, just like He sent Jeremiah to His people many years ago. Obeying is still hard, but now we are not alone. God sends His Holy Spirit and His Word to help us obey. Now, we can show God how much we love Him and thank Him for Jesus by obeying His Word.