

Missed Opportunities! {concluded}

by Wayne Goff

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Consequently the nation of Judah was destroyed within about 50 years time (587 B.C.)! The people died or were placed in servitude, and the nation and its temple were destroyed! The sad truth was that if it were all to be done over again, the people would have chosen the same path of destruction! People *then* and *now* are in **denial** about God and His will. It just amazes me to see it. It is sickening.

Didn't God Know?

God absolutely knew that Judah would not receive His message. But he sent Jeremiah to preach it anyway – just in case one poor soul could be saved. Listen further to God's instructions at the beginning of Jeremiah's ministry: *"But the LORD said to me: '... And whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you,' says the LORD"* (**Jeremiah 1:7-8**). *"They will fight against you, but they shall not prevail against you. For I am with you,' says the LORD, 'to deliver you'"* (**Jeremiah 1:19**).

Personally, I wouldn't have wanted Jeremiah's job. Then again, Jeremiah didn't want his job either! But God's word through Jeremiah accomplished exactly what God wanted it to accomplish. If there were any precious souls who listened and believed in his message, then they were saved when the nation was destroyed. But the majority of the people **hardened** their hearts against the truth, substituted lies instead, and found **it was easier to believe a lie than to believe the truth**. And that was their **fatal mistake**.

You can read the historical record of Judah's destruction by Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon in **2 Kings 24-25**. I suggest you read these two chapters to refresh your minds. Nations today are not immune from God's punishment. People are not immune today from God's judgment. The easy path is the road to destruction.

"And the LORD sent against him raiding bands of Chaldeans, bands of Syrians, bands of Moabites, and bands of the people of Ammon; He sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the LORD which He had spoken by His servants the prophets" (**2 Kings 24:2**).

The sins of Judah and Jerusalem are the sins of America and many churches of Christ today. Perhaps we should revisit the prophet Jeremiah, learn the lessons God spoke through him, and possibly avert our own personal and/or national doom.

It turns out that the "weeping prophet" had something to cry about! Dear reader, are you mourning our present spiritual condition?

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