

Outline

- God's judgment is real, measured, and long
- The real battle during times of discipline is over which word will rule us — the true Word of the Lord or the words of false prophets
- ****The Pivot Point of Jeremiah's Message (Chapters 25-29)****
 - Babylon is named as the source of divine judgment
 - The length of exile is announced
 - The conflict between Jeremiah and false prophets intensifies
 - The decisive question: Whose word are you going to believe?
 - Every life is governed by either the Word of God or the voice of the world
- ****Jeremiah 25 — Twenty-Three Years of Warning****
 - Jeremiah looks back over 23 years of faithful ministry
 - God sent prophets "again and again" — judgment is not rash or impulsive
 - Theological principle: delayed judgment does not mean judgment is not coming
 - The danger of assuming God's patience means God's indifference
- ****The Seventy-Year Exile (Jeremiah 25:8-11)****
 - Nebuchadnezzar named as God's instrument of judgment
 - The number 70 is deliberate and purposeful, not random
 - Connection to 2 Chronicles 36:20-21 — the land reclaiming its Sabbath years
 - 490 years of neglected Sabbath years = 70 years of exile
 - God is sovereign over pagan empires — Babylon is not freelancing
 - Warning against failing to give God what is His due

- ****The Cup of Wrath (Jeremiah 25:15-17)****

- Jeremiah given a vision of the cup of wine of wrath
- Judgment extends beyond Judah to surrounding nations
- God is not a tribal deity — He rules and judges all nations
- All people and all time are morally governed by the living God

- ****Jeremiah 26 — The Cost of Faithful Preaching****

- Jeremiah commanded to speak all God's words and hold nothing back
- Application for preachers: faithful testimony does not edit God for self-protection
- The people, priests, and false prophets demand his death
 - Reason: he threatened their religious game playing
 - People tolerate generic spiritual performance but resist the true Word
- Jeremiah does not back down — his first loyalty is obedience, not self-preservation
- The case of Uriah — another faithful prophet who was executed
 - God's faithfulness is not dictated by earthly outcomes
 - Some servants are spared, some are not — all are held in God's sovereign hand

- ****Jeremiah 27-28 — The Yoke and the False Prophet****

- God commands Jeremiah to wear a yoke symbolizing subjection to Babylon
- Submission to Babylon at this point equals submission to God
- Why false prophets hated Jeremiah's message
 - They wanted deliverance without discipline
 - They wanted freedom without repentance
 - They wanted quick restoration without deep heart change
- Hananiah — the poster boy of false prophecy (Jeremiah 28:1-4)
 - Publicly promised the yoke would be removed within two years

- Physically broke Jeremiah's wooden yoke as a dramatic act
- God's response: the wooden yoke becomes an iron yoke
- Resistance does not remove the yoke — it makes it heavier
- Rejection of God's truth does not produce freedom; it produces greater bondage
- The judgment of Hananiah (Jeremiah 28:15-17)
 - Declared a false prophet by Jeremiah
 - Died two months later, exactly as prophesied
- ****Jeremiah 29 — A Letter to the Exiles****
 - Warning against misusing this chapter by quoting isolated promises out of context
 - God's instructions to the exiles (Jeremiah 29:4-7)
 - Build homes, plant gardens, marry, have children
 - Seek the peace and prosperity of the city of exile
 - Their welfare is tied to the city's welfare
 - Warning against false prophets even in Babylon (Jeremiah 29:8-9)
 - The seventy years reaffirmed (Jeremiah 29:10)
 - Jeremiah 29:11 — "For I know the plans I have for you"
 - This is not a slogan for personal success
 - It is a covenant assurance that God's judgment does not cancel God's faithfulness
 - The plans include exile before restoration and discipline before deliverance
 - How God's people are to live in difficult places
 - Not in denial or panic
 - Not assimilated into the surrounding culture
 - Not embittered or contemptuous toward culture
 - In principled, faithful presence — laboring, praying, serving, bearing witness

- ****Five Lessons from Chapters 25-29****

- God's judgment is deliberate, measured, and real
- The deepest crisis in the people of God is always a crisis of whose word they will believe
- False prophets often promise shorter roads than God has promised
- Resistance to God's chastening can turn wooden yokes into iron ones
- God's people are to live in difficult places faithfully — not frantically, not assimilated

- ****These Chapters Drive Us Toward Christ****

- Jesus is the true Prophet whose Word never fails
- Jesus took upon Himself the path of judgment that Jeremiah announced
- Jesus was exiled on the cross so that we might receive restoration
- Jesus teaches His church how to live as exiles — seeking neighbors' good while refusing the lies of Babylon

- ****Closing Call****

- Refuse the quick promises of cultural prophets
- Refuse shortcuts that bypass repentance
- Accept the Lord's judgment
- Build, pray, endure, and hope