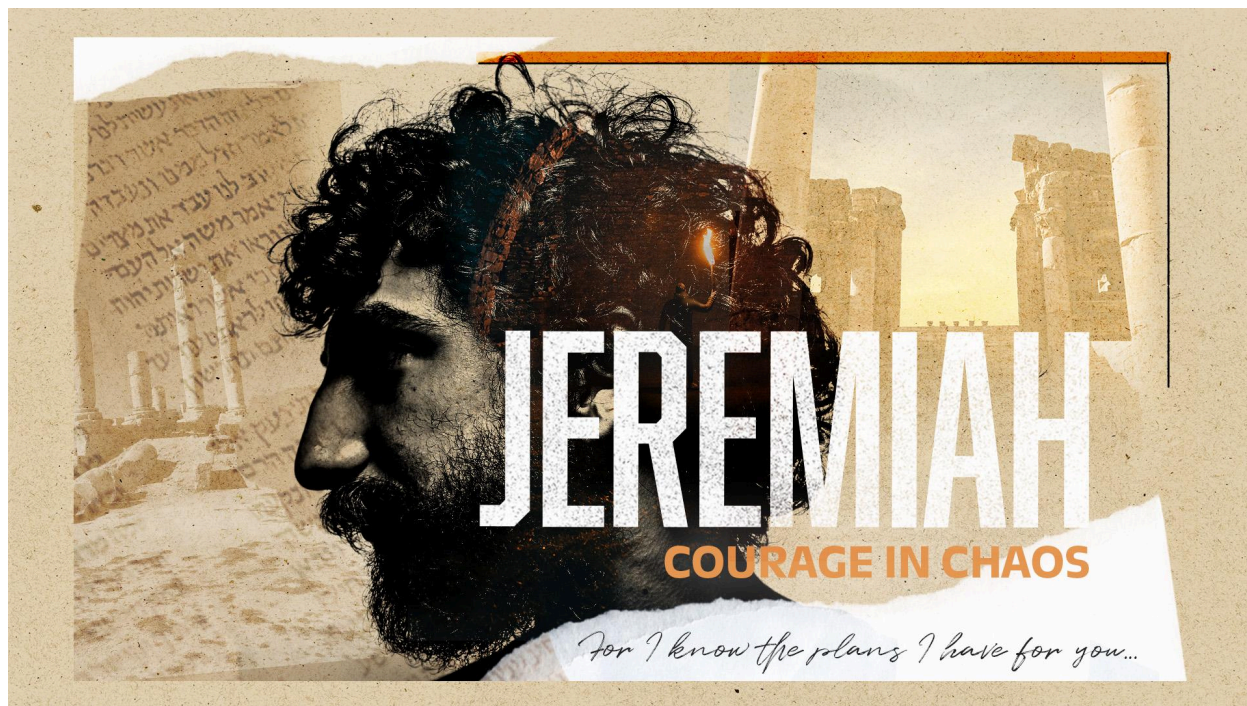


Jeremiah 21-25



Study Guide

Big Idea 1: The Lord has set before us the way of life and the way of death. It is found in surrender.

Big Idea 2: The Justice of God and Mercy of God are reconciled in Jesus on the cross.

Read Jeremiah 21:1-14

Have you ever been a Zedekiah? Playing with sin, or indulging your idols?

Tim Keller defined idols in this way:

An idol is anything more important to you than God, anything that absorbs your heart and imagination more than God, anything you seek to give you what only God can give. An idol is something else besides Jesus Christ that is your life. In other words, an idol is something or someone that takes the place of God in your life, and you look to it for ultimate meaning, hope, and happiness.

Materialism, our work, our family, leisure, comfort, celebrities can all be idols in our lives.

Discuss. Any idols in your life? Do you need to make any changes in your life?

Jeremiah 21:8-10

⁸“And to this people you shall say: ‘Thus says the LORD: Behold, I set before you the way of life and the way of death. ⁹

As a Christian how has the Lord set before you the way of life and death?

Consider Mathew 16:24-26 “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever would save his life^[a] will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

How does Matthew 16:24-26 relate to Jeremiah 21:8-10?

The Big Idea:

The Lord has set before us the way of life and the way of death. It is found in surrender.

Is this true? Discuss and explain.

Jeremiah 22:15b-16

Did not your father eat and drink
and do justice and righteousness?
Then it was well with him.

¹⁶ He judged the cause of the poor and needy;
then it was well.
Is not this to know me?
declares the LORD.

Knowing God: read and consider these verses.

Hosea 6:3

John 17:3

John 10:14

Jeremiah 9:23

Matthew 7:21-23

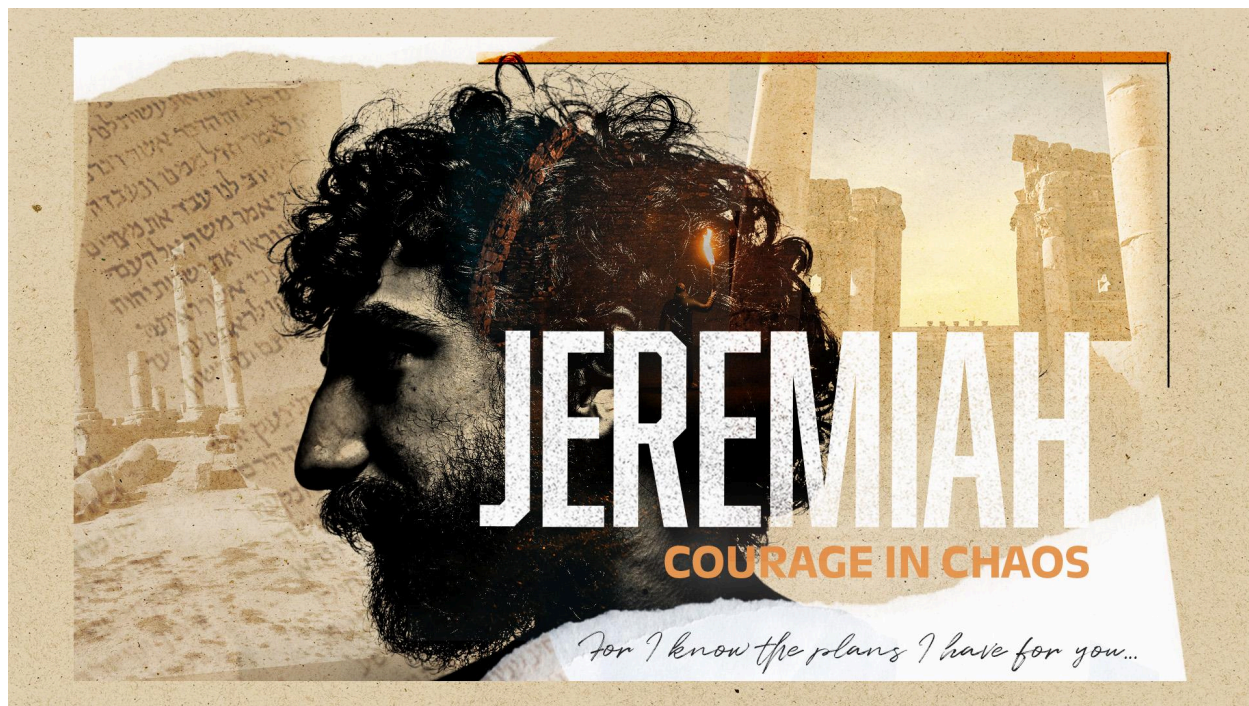
What is it to know God? What does this look like? What steps can we take to grow in knowing Him?

The Big Idea #2: The Justice of God and Mercy of God are reconciled in Jesus on the cross.

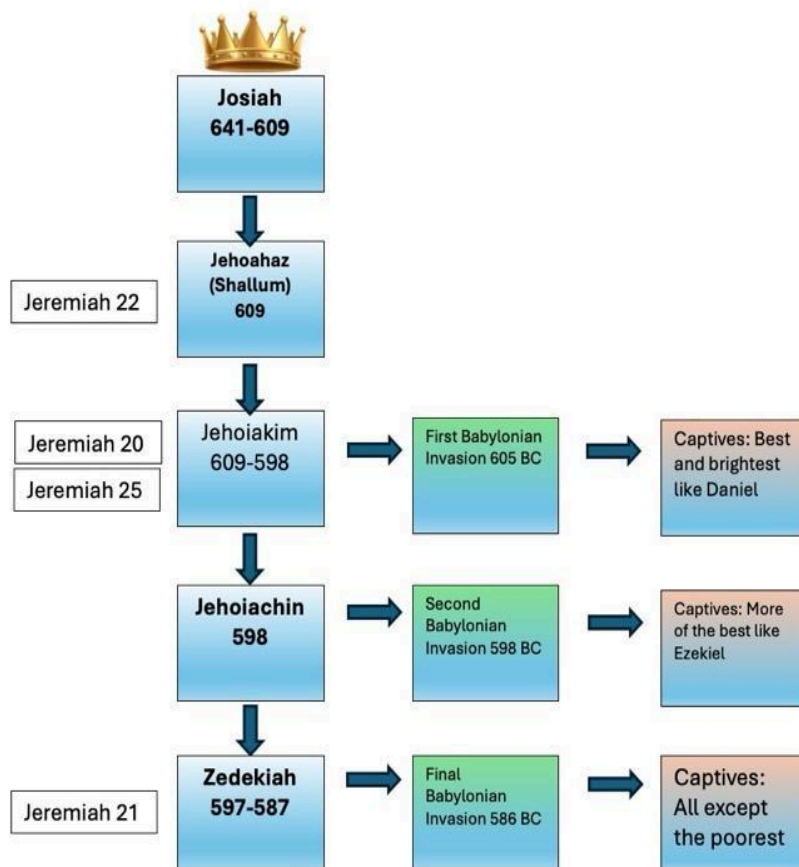
What cup was Jesus talking about when he said, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done."

Has Jesus drinking this cup benefited you? Discuss and explain. How should you live differently?

Jeremiah 21-25



Sermon Notes



Jeremiah 21:1-2

21:1 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, when King Zedekiah sent to him Pashhur the son of Malchiah and Zephaniah the priest, the son of Maaseiah, saying, ²“Inquire of the LORD for us, for Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon is making war against us. Perhaps the LORD will deal with us according to all his wonderful deeds and will make him withdraw from us.”

To Zedekiah the Lord responds:

Jeremiah 21:4-7

4 ‘Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Behold, I will turn back the weapons of war that are in your hands and with which you are fighting against the king of Babylon and against the Chaldeans who are besieging you outside the walls. And I will bring them together into the midst of this city. 5 I myself will fight against you with outstretched hand and strong arm, in anger and in fury and in great wrath. 6 And I will strike down the inhabitants of this city, both man and beast. They shall die of a great pestilence. 7 Afterward, declares the Lord, I will give Zedekiah king of Judah and his servants and the people in this city who survive the pestilence, sword, and famine into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and into the hand of their enemies, into the hand of those who seek their lives. He shall strike them down with the edge of the sword. He shall not pity them or spare them or have compassion.’

To the people the Lord says:

Jeremiah 21:8-10

8 “And to this people you shall say: ‘Thus says the Lord: Behold, I set before you the way of life and the way of death. 9 He who stays in this city shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence, but he who goes out and surrenders to the Chaldeans who are besieging you shall live and shall have his life as a prize of war. 10 For I have set my face against this city for harm and not for good, declares the Lord: it shall be given into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall burn it with fire.’

Mathew 16:24-26 “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. 25 For whoever would save his life[a] will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

The Big Idea: The Lord has set before us the way of life and the way of death. It is found in surrender.

Jeremiah 22:13-16 Is not this to know me?

Message to the sons of Josiah and in particular Jehoahaz (Shallum)

13 “Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness,
and his upper rooms by injustice,

who makes his neighbor serve him for nothing
and does not give him his wages,

14 who says, ‘I will build myself a great house
with spacious upper rooms,’

who cuts out windows for it,
paneling it with cedar
and painting it with vermilion.

15 Do you think you are a king
because you compete in cedar?

Did not your father eat and drink
and do justice and righteousness?

Then it was well with him.

16 He judged the cause of the poor and needy;
then it was well.

Is not this to know me?
declares the Lord.

Knowing God:

Hosea 6:3

John 17:3

John 10:14

Jeremiah 9:23

Matthew 7:21-23

Jeremiah 23:5-8: The Lord is our Righteousness.

5 “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 6 In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness.’

7 “Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when they shall no longer say, ‘As the Lord lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt,’ 8 but ‘As the Lord lives who brought up and led the offspring of the house of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven them.’ Then they shall dwell in their own land.”

Jeremiah 24:1-3 Good and bad figs

24 After Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had taken into exile from Jerusalem Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, together with the officials of Judah, the craftsmen, and the metal workers, and had brought them to Babylon, the Lord showed me this vision: behold, two baskets of figs placed before the temple of the Lord. One basket had very good figs, like first-ripe figs, but the other basket had very bad figs, so bad that they could not be eaten. And the Lord said to me, “What do you see, Jeremiah?” I said, “Figs, the good figs very good, and the bad figs very bad, so bad that they cannot be eaten.”

Jeremiah 24:5-7

“Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Like these good figs, so I will regard as good the exiles from Judah, whom I have sent away from this place to the land of the Chaldeans. I will set my eyes on them for good, and I will bring them back to this land. I will build them up, and not tear them down; I will plant them, and not pluck them up. I will give them a heart to know that I am the Lord, and they shall be my people and I will be their God, for they shall return to me with their whole heart.

Jeremiah 25:15,30-32

The cup of the wine of Wrath of God and the Cross of Christ

15 Thus the Lord, the God of Israel, said to me: “Take from my hand this cup of the wine of wrath, and make all the nations to whom I send you drink it. 16 They shall drink and stagger and be crazed because of the sword that I am sending among them.”

30 “You, therefore, shall prophesy against them all these words, and say to them:

 “ ‘The Lord will roar from on high,
and from his holy habitation utter his voice;
 he will roar mightily against his fold,
and shout, like those who tread grapes,
against all the inhabitants of the earth.

 31 The clamor will resound to the ends of the earth,
for the Lord has an indictment against the nations;
 he is entering into judgment with all flesh,
and the wicked he will put to the sword,
declares the Lord.’

 32 “Thus says the Lord of hosts:
 Behold, disaster is going forth
from nation to nation,
 and a great tempest is stirring
from the farthest parts of the earth!

Matthew 26:36-42

36 Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.” 37 And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. 38 Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.” 39 And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.” 40 And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with me one hour? 41 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” 42 Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.”

The Big Idea: The Justice of God and Mercy of God are reconciled in Jesus on the cross.

