

DOOM AND DISMAY

Introduction:

Jeremiah 29:10-14

I. PREPARATION FOR PRAYER (vs. 1-6)

A. The Timing (vs. 1)

"the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of Median descent"

"who was made king over the kingdom of the Chaldeans"

BABYLONIAN EMPIRE						MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE			
Nabopo- lassar	605 Net	Nebuchadnezzar 605 562			hazzar 539		8 Darius Mede	Darius I	Xerxes Queen Esther
DANIEL 605 536									
Jeremiah 627 574					Zerubbabel: rebuilder of Jerusalem Temple				
	605 Daniel deported	Ezekiel 593 586 Jerusalem destroyed	559			536 emple started	516 Temple finished		

B. The Trigger (vs. 2)

"I, Daniel, observed in the books"

"the number of the years which was revealed as the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet"

"for the completion of the desolations of Jerusalem"

"namely, seventy years"

C. The True Confession (vs. 3-6)

"so I gave my attention to the Lord God"

"to seek Him by prayer and supplications"

- "with fasting"
- "[with] sackcloth and ashes"
- "prayed...and confessed"
- "we have sinned"
- "committed iniquity"
- "acted wickedly"
- "rebelled"
- "turning aside from Your commandments and ordinances"
- "not listened to Your servants the prophets"

"Your servants the prophets...who spoke in Your name to our kings, our princes, our fathers, and all the people of the land"

II. PENITENCE IN PRAYER (vs. 7-14)

- A. From a Recognition of His Righteousness (vs. 7-14) "righteousness belongs to You, O Lord"
- B. From an Acknowledgment of Our Sinfulness (vs. 7-14) "to us open shame"

"because of [our] unfaithful deeds"

"so the curse has been poured out on us"

"yet we have not sought the favor of the LORD our God by turning from our iniquity and giving attention to Your truth"

"we have not obeyed His voice"

III. PETITION IN PRAYER (vs. 15-19)

A. Based on God's Concern for His Reputation (vs. 15)

You "have brought Your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand and have made a name for Yourself"

B. Based on God's Concern for His Previous Work (vs. 16-17)

[we] "have become a reproach to all those around us"

"for Your sake, O Lord, let Your face shine on Your desolate sanctuary"

C. Based on God's Compassion (vs. 18)

"incline Your ear and hear; open Your eyes and see"

"we are not presenting our supplications before You on account of any merits of our own"

"but on account of Your great compassion"

D. Based on God's Concern for His Own Name (vs. 19)

"O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and take action!"

"for Your own sake, O my God, do not delay"

"because Your city and Your people are called by Your name"

Conclusion:

1) Bible study is always a great preparation for prayer.

- 2) "A church that wants Christians to pray must be a church that teaches Christians to love and understand their Bibles." (Ken Gangel)
- 3) Before you worry about what the Bible means, you have to have a solid knowledge of what it says.
- 4) When we ask God to do something in our lives, let us remember that we do not deserve it.
- 5) God fulfills His prophetic word. He has, and He will!

Food for Thought:

- 1) What categories types of prayer may be observed in this chapter?
- 2) How does good Bible study play a part in good prayer?
- 3) How should we intercede on behalf of national and local leaders?
- 4) Do your prayers reflect selfish interests or divine values?