

## ***Lessons From Zedekiah's Quiet Prince***

I Cor. 10:11; Rom. 15:4

### • **Jeremiah's Prophecy**

- **1** The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiyah, of the priests that were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin: **2** To whom the word of the LORD came in the days of Josiah the son of Amon king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign. **3** It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, unto the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah the son of Josiah king of Judah, unto the carrying away of Jerusalem captive in the fifth month.
- The Theme: Stern warning against idolatry and of Babylonian Captivity. The Jews were to submit to the Chaldean yoke rather than rebel, since it was a just recompense of their sins. A Messianic Hope.
- Outline:
  - Prophecies under the reigns of Josiah and Jehoiakim (ch. 1-20)
  - Later prophecies under Jehoiakim and Zedekiah (ch. 21-39)
    - Nebuchadnezzar as the instrument of God to punish Judah.
  - Prophecies after the fall of Jerusalem. (ch. 40-45)
  - Prophecies against the heathen nations, including Babylon in ch. 50-51. (ch. 46-52)

### • **Setting For Lesson: Jer. 51:59-64**

- **59** The word which Jeremiah the prophet commanded Seraiah the son of Neriah, the son of Maaseiah, when he went with Zedekiah the king of Judah into Babylon in the fourth year of his reign. And this Seraiah was a quiet prince. **60** So Jeremiah wrote in a book all the evil that should come upon Babylon, even all these words that are written against Babylon. **61** And Jeremiah said to Seraiah, When thou comest to Babylon, and shalt see, and shalt read all these words; **62** Then shalt thou say, O LORD, thou hast spoken against this place, to cut it off, that none shall remain in it, neither man nor beast, but that it shall be desolate for ever. **63** And it shall be, when thou hast made an end of reading this book, that thou shalt bind a stone to it, and cast it into the midst of Euphrates: **64** And thou shalt say, Thus shall Babylon sink, and shall not rise from the evil that I will bring upon her: and they shall be weary. Thus far are the words of Jeremiah.

### • **The Message Seraiah Would Take To Babylon:**

- Babylon is going to fall. (50:1-3; 51:1-2; 49)
- The city will become desolate, a hiss. (50:13)
- The walls will be broken, the gates will fall. (51:44,58)
- God in His wrath is going to take vengeance because of Babylon's sins. (50:14-15,25)
- The gods, Bel, Merodach will be broken in pieces. (50:2; 51:44)
- Nebuchadnezzar is mentioned by name. (50:17; 51:34)
- The conqueror (Medes) is specified. (50:9-10; 51:11-12; 28)

### • **Applications:**

- We must be willing to proclaim the negative. (Jer. 51:60; II Tim. 4:2; Acts 24:25; 2:36)
- We must understand that the message is often rejected. Many will not like what we have to say. (I Cor. 1:22-23)
- We must be willing to teach all of God's word. (Jer. 51:61; Acts 20:20, 27)
- We must understand that what we proclaim is the word of God. (51:62; Jn. 16:13-16; I Cor. 14:37; II Tim. 3:16-17; II Jn. 9; Jude 3)
- We must illustrate our message by our lives. (Jer. 51:63-64; Titus 2:10)