

**The Justice and Mercy of God**  
**Jeremiah 24**  
**Guest Speaker Assistant Pastor Roland**

**1. Let's read Jeremiah 24 together**

Verses 4–7, the mercy of God. Verses 8–10 The justice (and wrath) of God

1. Jonathan Cahn was comparing Donald Trump to Jehu of 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings, chapter 9. The comparison was striking. I would suggest you watch it. It's entitled "The Reign of Baal," and the date is May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Like everything else, be a Berean and be discerning; make sure his facts line up and...
  - a. This message tonight is not going to be political.
2. But, in particular, Jonathan's teaching struck me regarding the structure of the mercy of God. There will be three examples from the Word that I will use to illustrate this biblical principle:
  - a. The Fall of man and subsequently The Flood
  - b. The Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah
  - c. Jeremiah's prophecy in chapter 24: the two baskets of figs.
    - (1). In Chapter 25 of Jeremiah, we see the justice of God.

**2. Adam and Eve in the Garden**

Adam and Eve were created perfect, but they were naïve and had free will, though (unlike their children) with no desire or inclination to sin.

The Lord had commanded them not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Eve quoted the Lord when she told the serpent,

**Genesis 3:3, NKJV**

As I said earlier, Adam and Eve were perfect, but they were also naïve. Eve accepted the serpent's questioning of the Lord's motives when he said,

**Genesis 3:5, NKJV**

Eve was deceived, but Adam went into this fully knowing that by disobeying God's command, they would "surely die."

1. This is where God's justice comes in: Because of our First Parent's naivete, they did not die that day, but they were driven from the Garden, clothed with animal skins and an ultimate day on which they would die.
2. Here are the results,
  - a. Death entered the world
  - b. The Lions and Tigers and Bears (oh my!), even T-Rex's were no longer vegans.

- c. The sin nature was passed onto their children.
  - d. Women would have painful childbirth.
  - e. People would have to work hard for their living.
3. God's mercy, God, by killing animals and covering Adam and Eve, showed a seminal concept of how He planned to resolve the sin problem.
- a. He didn't kill Adam and Eve. That was not his plan.

### **3. The Flood – God's Justice and Mercy**

#### **Genesis 6:5–7, NKJV**

- 1. The Lord was about to initiate the most traumatic event in human history (I emphasize "history" because the Great Tribulation has yet to take place).

Noah and his family **Genesis 6:8–10, NKJV**

#### **Genesis 6:18, NKJV**

- 2. The Lord had not forgotten His precious creation

#### **Genesis 6:19–21, NKJV**

- a. So God closed the door behind Noah and his family, and you know the rest. After the waters subsided, it wasn't very long until the earth was once again populated. And humankind's propensity to wickedness began again.
- b. But God's mercy was illustrated so clearly with His keeping of Noah and his family safe through this catastrophic event. Not just Noah, but all the creatures by their kinds, as well as their food. For a year.

### **4. God meets with Abraham in Genesis 18 and after the disclosure that Abraham and Sarah would have a Son, He contends with Abraham concerning the people of the "Cities of the Plains."**

Ultimately we know that his justice was dispensed and why. Abraham, concerned for his nephew Lot...Though Abraham was very intelligent, he naturally thought Lot would be among the dead.

God's mercy was illustrated in the saving of Lot and his family in the ensuing conflagration.

### **5. Jeremiah 24 an illustration once again of God's Justice and Mercy**

God's mercy is seen in the "good figs" whom the Lord said he would watch over those people taken to Babylon in the first group.

The second group (the bad figs) will be judged by the Lord (specifically, he names Zedekiah, the king), whom He will make an example of. In fact, Zedekiah's punishment is one of those things that has stuck with me since I first read it. It is found in 2 Kings 25:7. Where after being captured, his sons were executed before him at the order of Nebuchadnezzar, and then his eyes were poked out so that the killing of his sons would be the last thing he sees.

## **6. God's Solution comes, about 2500 years later, the coming of the Messiah!**

That a redeemer was necessary was known, as Job comments in chapter 19, beginning in verse 25. Actually, as we listen to Job, we realize that much more was known, though this was recorded somewhere between the time of the patriarchs and a few hundred years before.

### **Job 19:25–27, NASB**

The NIV84 version translates the last part of v. 27 to more accurately express Job's emotions when it says, "*How my heart yearns within me.*" I think that we can echo that same sentiment.

Another 2000+ years pass, and we are now in a society typified by Paul when he states,

### **Romans 3:9–18, NASB95**

This should sound familiar; it is as much (if not more) than Paul's day. It is as if Paul were here at this moment explaining the heart of God as He looks upon our world.

1. An interesting statistic is that there were about 60 - 75 million deaths during WWII. This number may actually be undercounted. The Communist nations, particularly the Soviet Union and Red China, kept particularly poor records.

### **Genesis 6:13, NASB**

2. Are we exempt? Since the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalized abortion, and in January of this year, the US had the blood of 62 million babies on its hands. This number approaches the total human tragedy of WWII! WWII is widely thought of as the greatest human tragedy of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and certainly, a case can be made for it, however, subsequent to that war, the communist Chinese under Mao who had established a system of forced labor camps that may have taken over 60 million Chinese lives.
  - a. In the Soviet Union, Josef Stalin starved to death upwards of 25 million Ukrainian farmers for opposing his plan to nationalize their farms.

What we can understand is the reasoning behind the judgment of the earth and its inhabitants for the indiscriminate destruction of that creature created in His "image and likeness."

## **7. God's mercy, the other side of the coin**

Obviously, the mercy of God is not like the flip of the coin. God is always merciful. In Psalms alone, there are 151 references to the mercy of God.

We'll do it logically,

1. The apostle Paul quotes Ps. 53:1-3 as well as others when he says,

### **Romans 3:10-12, NASB**

2. This Psalm prefaces these remarks "The fool says in his heart, 'there is no God.'"

*While Christian Schools do an acceptable job teaching Bible, it's up to you to make sure that they grow up to be hard-core Christians.*

## **8. What is there to be learned from this?**

Teaching your children God's word is your responsibility. I call it "loading the deck." You are planting that seed of truth that will hopefully bear fruit. Sending a child to Christian schools is a help, but it is not the answer: God will not hold anyone other than the parent ultimately responsible for their child's introduction to the Word of God. Because we are fallen beings, waiting for your child to "find Christ" is a useless venture. The anti-god secular school system ensures that.

If you have done your job as a parent, the rest is left up to your sons and daughters.

### **Deuteronomy 6:4-7, NIV84**

God's justice is always part of His dealings with man. However, God's mercy is also part of that same program. As the Angel of the Lord was walking toward Sodom and Gomorrah, contending with Abraham about the fate of the inhabitants, Abraham uttered this truth about God,

### **Genesis 18:25, NIV84**

As we try to discern what the future holds for the people of the earth, we know that the "Judge of all will do right.