

Judgment Arrives - Jeremiah 34:1-35:19

Topics: Call, Covenant, Death, Dishonesty, Disobedience, Drinking, Enemies, Escape, Faithfulness, Family, Freedom, Honor, Idolatry, Instructions, Invitation, Learning, Listening, Mourning, Name, Obedience, Peace, People, Promises, Prophecy, Punishment, Repentance, Serving, Sin, Slavery, Traditions, War, Words

Open It

- * 1. Whom do you admire for his or her faithfulness and integrity, and how does this person demonstrate those qualities?
- 2. What do you think motivates people to go back on their word?

Explore It

- 3. What good news and bad news did Jeremiah have for king Zedekiah during the siege of Jerusalem? (34:1-5)
- 4. At the time of this prophecy, what cities had not yet fallen to the king of Babylon? (34:6-7)
- * 5. What agreement did king Zedekiah make with the people of Jerusalem? (34:8-9)
- 6. How did the people respond to Zedekiah's suggestion about abolishing the slavery of fellow Jews? (34:10)
- 7. After they had agreed to free the slaves, what did the people do? (34:11)
- 8. What was God's plan for dealing with the issues of Israelites as slaves? (34:12-14)
- 9. What solemn agreement was initiated by Jeremiah's countrymen? (34:15)
- * 10. What action by the leadership of Judah profaned God's name? (34:16)
- 11. What was God's sarcastic expression for the punishment He decreed? (34:17)
- 12. How did God turn the ceremony used for solemnizing an agreement into a picture of the punishment due those who broke the agreement? (34:18-20)
- 13. What specific prophecy destroyed the hope that Nebuchadnezzar had withdrawn from Jerusalem for good? (34:21-22)
- 14. What invitation did God tell Jeremiah to issue to the Recabite family? (35:1-2)
- 15. Where did Jeremiah meet with the Recabites? (35:3-5)
- 16. How did the Recabites respond to Jeremiah's invitation? (35:6)
- 17. What instruction of their ancestor had the Recabites been obeying to the letter? (35:7-10)
- 18. Why had the Recabites come to Jerusalem? (35:11)
- * 19. How did Jeremiah use the example of the Recabites' obedience to call the people of Jerusalem to account? (35:12-16)
- 20. How did the people's response to God's call through His prophets seal their doom? (35:17)
- 21. What was God's promise to the Recabites because of their integrity and wholehearted obedience? (35:18-19)

Get It

- 22. What might Zedekiah have hoped would happen if the people repented of making slaves?
- 23. In what sense did it profane the name of God when His people broke their agreement with Him?
- 24. Why were the people of Jerusalem unwise to break a covenant they had made with God?
- 25. Why did God honor the obedience of the Recabites?
- 26. How are the examples in these chapters insightful lessons about the value of keeping your word?
- 27. What promises do contemporary people tend to take lightly?
- * 28. What sorts of consequences follow in the wake of a broken promise?
- * 29. What is gained by fulfilling the terms of a promise even if it hurts or requires sacrifice?

Apply It

- * 30. What promise do you need to keep, even if it is costly to you?

31. How could you advise a fellow Christian before he or she enters into a binding promise or agreement?