

Family Series
"Ask, Seek & Knock – Part 2"
5/17/20

I. Read Jeremiah 29:1-7

- a. **[SLIDE]** (NKJV) *Now these are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the remainder of the elders who were carried away captive—to the priests, the prophets, and all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had carried away captive from Jerusalem to Babylon. (This happened after Jeconiah the king, the queen mother, the eunuchs, the princes of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftsmen, and the smiths had departed from Jerusalem.)*
- b. **[SLIDE]** *The letter was sent by the hand of Elasah the son of Shaphan, and Gemariah the son of Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to Babylon, to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, saying, thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all who were carried away captive, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem to Babylon:*
- c. **[SLIDE]** *Build houses and dwell in them; plant gardens and eat their fruit. Take wives and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, so that they may bear sons and daughters—that you may be increased there, and not diminished.*
- d. **[SLIDE]** *And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the Lord for it; for in its peace you will have peace.*

II. Let's take a look at Jeremiah 29:5

- a. **[SLIDE]** *Build houses and settle down. Plant gardens and eat their produce.*
 - i. **Build** – *banah* "rebuild; build a house; perpetuate and establish a family."
 - ii. **Settle** – *yashab* "to sit; remain; dwell."
 - iii. **Plant** – *nata* "to establish; to strike in; fastened."
 - iv. **Eat** – *akal* "to be devoured by fire; consumed; cause to devour with the sword."
- b. **[SLIDE]** What is God saying to us in this passage?
 1. First of all, God is saying to build. Build what?
 - a. Well, first and foremost, build His kingdom.
 - b. I believe what God is telling us and showing us is that He is building His kingdom in the midst of our enemies.
 - c. This word build also means to perpetuate and establish a family, so I believe God is telling us that we need to focus on building strong, solid families in the midst of this Babylonian system. We need to focus on spiritual reproduction and spiritual multiplication of mature sons and daughters who will also know how to build the kingdom in the midst of God's enemies.

2. [SLIDE] Second of all, God is saying to settle.
 - a. This word “settle” means to remain or dwell.
 - b. I believe what God is saying is that we need to settle it that we are going to remain or dwell in this land.
 - c. We need to upgrade our eschatology from left behind to staying forever.
 - d. I believe the Spirit of the Lord is saying Lord and clear that we need to adjust our thinking from escapism to occupation.
 - e. Church, we aren’t going anywhere. We are going to occupy this land.
3. [SLIDE] Third of all, God is saying to plant.
 - a. This word “plant” means to strike in or be fastened.
 - b. I believe what God is saying is that He is fastening the Church into its new surroundings.
 - c. He is striking us into the heart of the enemy.
 - d. He is saying, “This is My Church; this is my remnant; these are my mature ones, and I am going to fasten them in such a way that they will strike dread and fear into the heart of the enemy.”
 - e. Church, we are God’s threshing instrument.
 - f. Isaiah 41:14-16 says, ***Fear not, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel! I will help you, says the Lord and your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel. Behold, I will make you into a new threshing sledge with sharp teeth; you shall thresh the mountains and beat them small, and make the hills like chaff. You shall winnow them, the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them; you shall rejoice in the Lord, and glory in the Holy One of Israel.***
 - g. Church, we need to settle the fact that we are going to be God’s threshing instrument in the midst of this Babylonian system.
4. [SLIDE] Fourth of all, God is saying to eat.
 - a. This word “eat” means to be devoured by fire or consumed.
 - b. Church, the only way that we are going to prosper and be satisfied in these days is if we are consumed by the fire of God.
 - c. I believe that God is returning His fire back to the Church.
 - d. As a matter of fact, the prophets are prophesying that on May 31st, we are going to experience a literal Pentecost Sunday this year.

- e. [SLIDE] If you recall what happened in the book of Acts on Pentecost, the Bible says that ***When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.***
 - i. **Tongues of fire** – *pur* “the fire of God which transforms all it touches into light and likeness with itself.”
 - ii. Church, we are called to transform this Babylonian system into the light and likeness of Jesus Christ, but before we can transform it, we must be transformed ourselves.
 - iii. We must be filled with the fire of God just like the early church was in the book of Acts.
 - iv. It was only after Pentecost occurred that the Bible records that they “turned the world upside down.”
 - v. Church, it is time for us to turn the world upside down, which is actually right side up, but before we can do that, we must be filled with the fire of God, which is the power of God to transform everything around us.

III. [SLIDE] What is Jeremiah 29:5 really saying?

- a. It is saying that we need to be aware of the environment in which we are living, and the posture or attitude that we need to take within that environment.
 - i. America is the picture of Babylon in Jeremiah 29, and Israel is the Church.
 - ii. King Nebuchadnezzar could be Dr. Fauci, Bill Gates, Nancy Pelosi, Chuck Schumer, the deep state, just pick any pagan, anti-Christ, demonic name that comes to mind, and that is our current Babylonian ruler.
 - iii. And just like Israel, every day we wake up and find ourselves living in the midst of a demonic, anti-Christ system of control.
 - iv. And for many of us, we may be feeling a sense of hopelessness, despair, displacement, loss, and homelessness.
 - 1. We may be feeling like the land of the free and the home of the brave has become the land of big government and the place of Nazism.
- b. But what Jeremiah 29 is also showing us is that what we need more than anything in this hour is the prophetic voice.
 - i. God sent Jeremiah as well as other prophets during this time to prophesy the mind and will of God.

- ii. Sure, they reminded Israel of their wickedness and way God allowed them to be taken captive, but they also prophesied hope and a future.
- iii. **[SLIDE]** Look at what Jeremiah prophesies in verse 11, ***For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.***
 - 1. What we have to understand about God is that His plan is always redemptive in nature.
 - 2. He never means total destruction for His people. What He is looking for is course correction.
 - 3. You see, America has been on a downward spiral for many years. What we need is not destruction, but a course correction, and that's what we're experiencing right now.
 - 4. God needs us to look up and draw nigh. He needs us to stop looking down at ourselves, and start looking up to Him.
 - 5. God is about to pour out one of the greatest revivals and awakenings this nation has ever seen if we will just look up and seek Him for it.

- IV. Last message, we talked about asking. In this message, we will talk about seeking.
 - a. In this hour, we need to seek God for what He wants to do in our city.
 - b. **[SLIDE]** Look at what Jeremiah says to Israel in Jeremiah 29:7. He says ***To seek the peace of the city, and pray to the Lord for it; for in its peace they will have peace.***
 - i. **Peace** – *shalom* “completeness; soundness; and welfare.”
 - 1. In other words, in a kind and gentle way, God tells them once again to upgrade their eschatology.
 - 2. He tells them to stop expecting doom and gloom and bad things to happen to the city, and to start praying to the Lord for the welfare of the city, for in its welfare, they will be prosperous.
 - 3. Church, we've got to stop believing for things to get worse. We've got to stop preaching judgement over America. We've got to start preaching hope. We've got to start preaching life. We've got to start preaching a better way. We've got to start preaching revival and awakening.
 - c. **[SLIDE]** God has allowed us to become captives to our enemies for simply one reason. He wants to teach us how to overcome in the midst of our enemies.
 - i. You see, we think that awakening and revival is going to be all nice and pretty, and that the new era is going to be calm and easy, but what God is saying is that awakening and revival are going to occur in the midst of intense warfare.
 - ii. Why? Because we have got to learn how to rule.
 - iii. Church, we haven't known how to rule. We haven't been taught how to take dominion. All we've been taught is escapism and a doctrine of isolationism. Be ye separate from the world. Pull out of society. Abandon the earth to Satan.

- iv. And what we're getting right now is a crash course in ruling in the midst of our enemies.
- v. Look at what Judges 3:1-4 says, ***Now these are the nations which the Lord left, that He might test Israel by them, that is, all who had not known any of the wars in Canaan (this was only so that the generations of the children of Israel might be taught to know war, at least those who had not formerly known it), namely, five lords of the Philistines, all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites who dwelt in Mount Lebanon, from Mount Baal Hermon to the entrance of Hamath. And they were left, that He might test Israel by them, to know whether they would obey the commandments of the Lord, which He had commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses.***
 - 1. Listen, the American Church has not known war like the Church in China has known war, like the Church in the Eastern bloc has known war, like the Church in other nations has known war.
 - 2. And so God has let some enemies rise up in our midst so that He might teach us how to war.
 - 3. **[SLIDE]** Who are these ites that God is using to teach us?
 - a. **The Five Lords of the Philistines** – The Philistines had a unique political organization. They had five city-states, Ashdod, Gaza, Ashkelon, Gath, and Ekron, ruled by five lords of the Philistines. These city-states were united in some sort of a federation.
 - i. From this description, we understand that we are not just fighting evil today; we are fighting a federation of evil powers.
 - b. **[SLIDE]** It is clear that the Philistines were wealthier and more advanced in technology than their Hebrew neighbors.
 - i. From this, we understand that the evil rulers of our day have more wealth and more technology than we do, and as a matter of fact, they are using their wealth and technology to perpetuate their evil plans for America.
 - c. According to 1 Sam. 13:19 – 1 Sam. 13:22, we know that the Philistines had the knowledge of metallurgy, whereas the Hebrews did not. The Philistines jealously guarded this monopoly, forcing the Hebrews to come to them for agricultural implements, which they repaired at exorbitant costs.
 - i. We can see that this federation of evil in our day has the monopoly on the seven mountains of culture. They have the government mountain, they have the business mountain, they have the media

mountain, they have the education mountain, they have the arts & entertainment mountain, they've re-defined the family mountain, and now they are coming after the religion mountain.

1. That's right! They absolutely want to shut our churches, and force us into subservience and submission to their doctrine by using their enormous power and influence over the masses.
- d. **[SLIDE]** We also know that the Philistines worshiped the Semitic gods Dagon (Judg. 16.23; 1 Sam. 5:1 – 1 Sam. 5:7), Ashtoreth (1 Sam. 31:10), and Baal-Zebub (2 Kings 1:2, 2 Kings 1:6, 2 Kings 1:16)
- i. We need to understand that this evil federation is held together by demonic power.
 - ii. The whole federation is held together demonic powers, mainly Baal and Queen of Heaven, but there's also high ranking demons in there like Leviathan, Mammon, Athaliah, Python, and the Spirit of Religion.
- e. **[SLIDE]** **Canaanites** – The Canaanites were those who dwelled in the lowlands along the sea, and they were synonymous with the name “merchant.” Their name actually has a double meaning. The first meaning is to humiliate, to bring low, and to subdue. The second meaning is merchant or trafficker.
- i. These were the financial giants, or the merchants who humiliated Israel through attacking finances.
 - ii. What's happening to us right now? We are being subdued or crushed in our economy.
 - iii. The Canaanite spirit is attacking our wealth, our markets, and our small businesses.
 - iv. Our small businesses, which fuel a huge portion of the economy, are under siege by this attack.
 - v. We need to recognize the spiritual dynamic of this attack as the Canaanite spirit.
- f. **[SLIDE]** **Sidonians** – Sidon was a seaport on the Mediterranean Sea in modern Lebanon, and was an influential, wealthy city. Sidon was supposedly named after the first-born of Canaan, and was also Jezebel's hometown. The main deity worshipped in Sidon was Ashtoreth. We know that Ashtoreth was the Phoenician goddess of love and fertility, and was the Phoenician counterpart to the Mesopotamian cult of Ishtar, which in

turn was probably derived from the very ancient Sumerian mother goddess Inanna. The Hebrew Bible also calls this same goddess Astarte. The ancient Hebrew prophets denounced her cult many times, most likely because she was worshiped with sexual fertility rites.

- i. **[SLIDE]** We need to understand that the Sidonian spirit is the one that attacks our morality as a nation.
 - ii. Look at the amount of sexual perversion that we have to deal with in our culture today. Not only in our secular culture, but also in our church culture, in our homes, in our families, in our children, on our computers, on our smartphones, and everywhere we look, sexual perversion is all around us.
 - iii. And this spirit has so weakened our moral compass that we, as a nation, do not know which way points true north any longer.
 - iv. This spirit has absolutely broken down the family unit through perversion, has destroyed our education system, has weakened the next generation, and has given us no moral fortitude by which to wage war against our enemies. No wonder our enemies have overtaken us!
- g. **[SLIDE]** **Hivites** - The Hivites were the peace loving-enemy. They were those who avoided war at all costs. They were those who lived the good life by being self-absorbed in their lifestyle, and the center of their own universe. They didn't care about the culture, the seven mountains, or anything going on around them. They were your typical lightweight, milk toast Christian.
- i. It's all about me.
 - ii. It's all about us four and no more.
 - iii. It's all about the Christian bless me club called the church, where I go each week and get a feel good message that pumps me up for the next week.
 - iv. But where is the fear of the Lord?
 - v. Where is the fear of the Lord?
 - vi. Where is God the center of the model?
 - vii. Where is Jesus the main focal point and the main attraction?
 - viii. The Hivite spirit has so weakened the Church that she is no longer the moral compass or guiding light for society.

- ix. She has been left behind as she decided to be so apathic toward culture, but culture has progressed and gone on, building a society according to their own broken, moral compass.
 - x. And the Church thought she would be ok.
 - xi. The culture would never affect us so long as we built up our four walls.
 - xii. Our kids would be safe just so long as they attended Sunday school, and learned Bible stories.
 - xiii. But guess what?
 - xiv. The culture grew demonic.
 - xv. The culture grew very dark.
 - xvi. The culture has invaded us.
 - xvii. The culture is trying to shut us down!
 - xviii. We can no longer hide under this Hivite spirit, and avoid what's going on in our world.
 - xix. It's in our face, and we either deal with it, or we cave in and accept it.
 - xx. And a lot of the church has caved to the secular culture.
- d. **[SLIDE]** But once again, the most important question of all is why did God allow all these enemies to remain in Israel's midst?
- i. The Bible says He did it ***so that the generations of the children of Israel might be taught to know war, at least those who had not formerly known it.***
 - 1. Church, if you can hear it, I believe the reason why we're dealing with what we are dealing with in America at this very moment in history is so that the next generation may learn how to go to war.
 - a. God is focused on the next generation. How many times have we heard it?
 - b. How many times have we heard God say that He is intent on reaching the next generation?
 - c. How many times have we heard that a youth revival is coming to America? That one billion souls will be saved?
 - d. How is God going to do it?
 - e. How is God going to reach them?
 - f. God is going to reach them by showing them how to go to war in their generation.
 - 2. **[SLIDE]** I was watching a recent documentary titled "WWII in HD." You guys all know how much of a history buff I am. I love watching WWII movies.
 - a. This documentary follows a handful a soldiers who fought in WWII, and narrates what they were thinking in the various battles and engagements they fought in.

- b. One of the things that really struck me is one of the veteran soldiers who had fought in a few engagements. When he saw the new recruits pouring off the boat fresh from boot camp, he took one look at those boys and thought, “How are we going to win the war?” He saw a bunch of happy go lucky kids from the roaring twenties. Not a care in the world. Always had what they needed. Always had what they wanted. Never worried about a thing. They had never been to battle, had never had to pull a trigger and take a human life. Yet, as the documentary shows, those same boys learned how to become soldiers in WWII. When the time came, they had what it took to defeat Nazi Germany & Japan, and history records that they became the greatest generation.
- c. Church, that’s what I hear God saying over this generation right now. We look around and we see a bunch of snowflakes. We look around and we see a bunch of wusses. We look around and we see the gender confused. We look around and we see orphans, with no real fathering and no real DNA of sonship. But what I hear God saying is that He is going to raise them up, and they are going to become the greatest generation for the kingdom. They are going to win this war. They were born for such a time as this.
- d. But we are going to have to learn how to fight in the midst of our enemies. We are going to have to teach this generation how to war.
- e. God will teach us how.
- f. He is going to show us the way just like He has done in every generation since the earth began.
- g. Have no fear. God knows what He is doing. Let’s get in line and agree with what He is doing in the earth today.

V. Offering

- 1. Receive the morning tithes and offerings.
 - a. There are 3 ways to give:
 - i. You can give online at www.kingdomlife.org/securegive. You’ll need to login with your phone # and password.
 - ii. You can text the word **GIVE** + the **AMOUNT** to (214) 238-9533.
 - iii. You can give by check by making your check out to KLCC or KingdomLife and dropping it in the mailbox, or mailing it to P.O. Box 1749, Frisco, TX 75034
 - b. Let’s pray over the offering this morning.