

Sounding the Trumpet

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. Jer. 6:9-17 - In many ways, the conditions prevailing in the time of Jeremiah parallel our own time.
 - 1. Prophets and priests in the Northern Ten Tribes of Israel were targets for assassination: Elijah, Micaiah, the young unnamed prophet, et al
 - 2. Prophets in the Southern Two Tribes of Judah were for sale to the highest bidder; they prophesied for money and power. By Jeremiah's day, the prophets and priests turned on true prophets of God as a threat to their bribe money
 - a. Jer. 5:1, 7, 26; 9:2, 6, 8; 22:13; 29:23
 - 3. Israelites in the north embraced idolatry; at least they made a choice.
 - 4. Judeans in the south simply rejected the truth; they chose nothing, and therefore were vulnerable to everything. They rejected sound preaching about God's will and His hand in their history, and their prophets and priests accommodated their wishes
 - a. "History is a vast early warning system." (Norman Cousin)
 - b. "The friendly preacher who fails to warn of the reality of Hell, betrays the Son of God with a kiss." (Ray Comfort)
- B. Jeremiah's background:
 - 1. Jeremiah was called by the Lord to the office of a prophet while still a youth (1:6) between 16 to 20 years of age, in the 13th year of King Josiah (Jer. 1:2; 25:3), in the year 627 BC, and was active until the destruction of Jerusalem, 586 BC; he served under kings Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah
 - 2. After the fall of Jerusalem, he prophesied in Egypt for several years for a period of about 50 to 60 years
 - 3. Jeremiah is often described as a very tender and sensitive who had the responsibility of delivering a very hard, clear message of repentance to or destruction by God. He often wrestled with his special commission
 - a. Jer. 12:1-6, 20:7-11
 - 4. Since Judah refused an honest repentance, Jeremiah had to announce the doom awaiting Judah, captivity by Babylon (Jer. 25:1-7, 8-11).
 - 5. He was God's man with a special mission, and came to be numbered among the Jews' favorite five prophets of the Old Testament
 - a. Jer. 1:5-10, 20:7-9, 23:25-28

I. THE FIRST BLAST OF THE TRUMPET

- A. Jer. 6:9, 12 - They will be thoroughly wiped out by the Babylonians; but, who will listen the warning?
 - 1. Jer. 6:10 - God's word is unpleasant to them; they refuse to listen.
 - a. The absolute and polar nature of God's word is not well received in a world that values tolerance and ecumenicalism as the highest of virtues

- b. Salvation by obedience to the Gospel, salvation only in the Lord's church, clearly defined morality, local church discipline
- B. Jer. 6:11 - Jeremiah knows the truth, knows the preciousness of the souls he is preaching to, knows the danger they are in; he cannot keep it in.
 - 1. Rather than appreciate what he was trying to do to help them, they treated him terribly in response
- C. Jer. 6:13 - Judah had traded their fellowship with God and their eternal souls for finances here on earth. Material concerns valued above spiritual needs

II. THE SECOND BLAST OF THE TRUMPET

- A. Jer. 6:14 - In spite of the majority's assurances, they are not safe.
 - 1. We like our comfort zone regardless of what compromises with our faith and integrity we had to make to become comfortable
 - 2. We have rationalized our way into feeling saved and safe, and we hate it when someone points out that we are not either.
 - 3. Jer. 25:3-11; 1Thes. 5:2-3; Isa. 48:22
- B. Jer. 6:15 - They replaced the natural defense of shame over sin with pride in being hip, broadminded, and contemporary.
 - 1. Their embarrassment over their sins has been replaced with anger toward to prophet who pointed them out - Jer. 3:3, 11:21

III. THE THIRD BLAST OF THE TRUMPET

- A. Jer. 6:16 - Learn from the past; God's way always works; man's ways inevitably lead to failure - Prov. 14:12
 - 1. God's truth, established in the past, is relevant and right over and above all variations and doctrines of men popular in the present - Jer. 18:15
 - 2. There is only one right way that can never be wrong, God's way
 - a. Eph. 5:8-12; 1Thes. 5:21-22; Rom. 12:1-2; Matt. 11:28-30
- B. Jer. 6:17 - When the watchmen gave a blast on their trumpets, it meant that the enemy was approaching the gates of the city, and that the residents must immediately respond with action - Jer. 44:16
 - 1. The watchmen were the prophets - Hab. 2:1-2 - Immediate attention and action! The equivalent of hearing the fire alarm, turning over in bed, and going back to sleep
 - 2. Contemporary Christians fire watchmen and preachers who sound the trumpet and hire men who go about saying "All is well"
 - a. 2Tim. 4:2-5; Isa. 56:10

Conclusion:

A. "Do you think that your sin is hidden away? Do you think that men will never know it? Well, you should remember that God knows it already. And you should remember, second, that sin continued in will inevitably come to light. Usually it will be exposed in this life. Certainly it will be exposed when you stand before God and God's record books are opened. That which is whispered in a corner shall be shouted from a housetop. God will bring every secret thing to judgment, we are told. What warning to our hearts!" (John R. Rice)