

The Prophets & Kings

From Rehoboam To Zedekiah

Book 1

A Daily Devotional Study Guide

Week 53

“The Rewards of Sacrifice”

Study: Daniel 1:17-21

Reading: James 1:1-8, Proverbs 1:1-7

Memory: Isaiah 40:21

The internet is filled with advertisements which tell you that if you take a simple pill on a regular basis that you can lose weight. Perhaps there are some pills that contain certain things that can help speed up your metabolism and assist in weight loss, but there is no magic pill that can replace discipline and hard work. Our natural human desire many times it to take the easy way out rather than to put in the work.

Today, we are going to read about how God blessed Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah because they were willing to sacrifice for Him.

What Does the Bible Say?

Not only did God bless Daniel and his friends by making them look healthier than those who ate the king's meat, but God also gifted them with great skills when it came to learning and wisdom. Daniel was given a unique ability to understand visions and dreams. God did this to help prepare these young men for how He was going to use them to accomplish His plan in Babylon (1:17)

Though verse 18 moves ahead in time three years to the end of their training period, we will read about it here so we don't miss it later in our chronological study.

King Nebuchadnezzar ordered that the young men who had been captured appear before him so he could examine them physically and mentally. As the king spoke with all the captives, he was particularly impressed by Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. It appears that after their initial conversation, that the king called them back to stand before him again since he had been amazed with their knowledge and understanding (vs 18-19).

The king grilled them about many different subjects and was astounded by the wisdom of these young men. He found them wiser than the magicians and enchanters that were part of his kingdom. The

magicians and enchanters had some type of connection to supernatural power and wisdom and were probably leaders of occult practices. Most likely, they used demonic power and understanding to gain the trust of the king and become leaders of the land. This was not uncommon as you think how the Pharaoh of Egypt had similar leaders during the time of the Exodus (vs 20).

We are also told that Daniel stayed in Babylon all the way until the time of Cyrus the Great, the leader of the Medo-Persian empire which would have been 70 years after the first captivity (vs 21).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize that the wisdom that God gives is far greater than the wisdom of the world? God had blessed Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah with wisdom far beyond their years. It seems that the obvious connection to their excellent wisdom was that God blessed them because of the stand they took for Him. There were many Jews taken into captivity when those four young men were taken, but it appears that they stood out far above the rest. You are told many places in Scripture that if you seek after wisdom you will find it and it will be given to you abundantly. Though God works in different ways and different people at different times, the promises He gives you to grant wisdom will come true if you are willing to humble yourself, ask for it and seek after it. It should be noted that this wisdom and blessing came after a period of great sacrifice as they chose not to eat the king's meat or drink the king's wine. In a similar way, many spiritual blessings also come after times of great surrender and sacrifice. Many people want wisdom but aren't willing to make the sacrifice to study and learn in order to gain wisdom.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * Thank God for the supernatural wisdom that He offers.
- * Ask God to help you to have abundant wisdom.
- * Praise God because He is the source of true wisdom and knowledge.

Thought for the day

What had Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah chosen to do (vs 11-16)?

How was this choice a big sacrifice for God?

What did God give them (vs 17)?

What did God give Daniel (vs 17)?

Why do you think God gave these things to these young men?

What happened after the three years of mandatory training (vs 18)?

What did Nebuchadnezzar discover (vs 19)?

What was the result of this (vs 19)?

****The king most likely called them back for a "second interview" and then chose to place them into service in leadership positions.*

What did the king find when he inquired of the four young men (vs 20)?

Why do you think we are told that they were ten times wiser than the current Babylonian leaders (vs 20)?

What does this reveal about the power of God?

****It is very easy to view everything in the natural realm. Though God does desire us to study and put effort into learning the natural way, He also has the ability to bless us and give us far more than we worked for.*

How long was Daniel a leader in Babylon (vs 21)?

Why do you think God gave Daniel to be a leader in the pagan land (vs 21)?

What can you learn about God from this passage?

“Only a god could do it”

Study: Daniel 2:1-19

Reading: 2 Corinthians 2:12-17, Matthew 19:23-30

Memory: Isaiah 40:21

When my wife turned thirty, I planned a surprise party for her where our family and friends met at a local gym to play volleyball. That day, she started to complain a little bit about how it was difficult with four small children to do anything that was fun.

I took advantage of this complaining and egged her on, talking about how difficult life was. My thought was that the more down in the dumps she was about how she was never able to do things, like play volleyball, the more she would love being able to do it. I think this added to the surprise and thrill of the party we had later that night.

Today, we are going to see how sometimes God holds back things to make it clear and obvious how something was humanly impossible and could only be done by the power of God.

What Does the Bible Say?

During the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, he had a dream that left him deeply troubled. This dream caused him not to be able to sleep and was most likely a reoccurring dream indicating that God was trying to send a message to him. The king called for all of the wise men, enchanters and sorcerers of the land and asked them to reveal to him what the dream was and what it meant. These men wanted the king to tell them what the dream was so they could interpret the dream, but Nebuchadnezzar knew that they could easily make something up. To be able to trust the explanation that was given, Nebuchadnezzar wanted them to tell him what the original dream was, but no one had the ability to do this. The king gave the ultimatum to these wise men and told them that they would either tell him his dream and interpretation or they would be killed along with their families. Whoever was able to do as he asked would be greatly rewarded (vs 1-6).

The wise men begged the king to tell them what the dream was, but he refused. He told them that if they could not tell him what his dream was he would know for certain they were liars and fakes and would have

no more need of their services. When the king continually insisted on this, the wise men finally told him that there was no man who had the ability to do what he was asking. They declared that only a god would be able to do what he wanted them to do (vs 7-11).

In anger, Nebuchadnezzar ordered that all the wise men be killed. This order was sent throughout the land and it also meant that Daniel and his three companions would be killed as well. It is unclear if Daniel had been promoted already at this time or if he was still in training. We know he was in training for three years and verse 1 says that this was in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign. That gives the idea that he was still in training, but the way dates were recorded at times leaves us with some uncertainty. No matter if he was still in training or if he had just been appointed as a wise man, the fact was that Daniel and his companions were facing death (vs 12-13).

When Daniel realized that something major was happening he wisely approached the king's guard and asked him what was happening. When the captain revealed the king's plan, Daniel asked for an appointment with Nebuchadnezzar because Daniel could tell the king what the dream was and what it meant. This was a bold move by Daniel, but he knew that this was the only way to spare his life and the lives of many others. After this appointment was made, Daniel met with Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah and asked them to pray with him that God would show mercy on them and reveal the dream and the meaning of the dream. God answered this prayer and revealed both to Daniel that night (vs 14-19).

How Does this Apply to Me?

As we saw yesterday, many of the wise men of the land of Babylon were involved in occult practices and most likely harnessed the power of demons. Yet, their power was limited because the demonic power that exists in the world is limited. These wise men told Nebuchadnezzar that only a god would be able to do what he was asking. This helped set up the great opportunity for the God of Israel to reveal that He was the One true God of the world. Daniel understood this clearly and He trusted in God to show mercy to him and reveal the correct answer. This faith was expressed when Daniel called together his companions for prayer. Daniel set an example for you to follow by his faith in God, and his choice to go to God in prayer. There are times where things seem humanly impossible, but God wants you to step out in faith and see His power at work.

What happened to Nebuchadnezzar (vs 1)?

What did the king gather (vs 2)?

What did the king ask these men to do (vs 3)?

What did these men ask for (vs 4)?

What did Nebuchadnezzar insist (vs 5)?

What was the consequence if these men failed (vs 5)?

What would happen to the man who succeeded (vs 6)?

What did the men keep trying to do (vs 7)?

Why did Nebuchadnezzar refuse (vs 8)?

What did the king say would be clear if the men couldn't tell him the dream (vs 9)?

What declaration did these men make (vs 11)?

Why was this an important and powerful admission?

How did the king respond to the answer these men gave (vs 12)?

What did Nebuchadnezzar decree (vs 13)?

What did this command have to do with Daniel and his companions (vs 13)?

How did Daniel reply (vs 14)?

What did Daniel do once he heard the king's decree (vs 15-16)?

What important step did Daniel take (vs 17-18)?

What did God do (vs 19)?

“A God Who Reveals Mysteries”

Study: Daniel 2:20-30

Reading: Jeremiah 18:1-11, 1 Corinthians 1:20-31

Memory: Isaiah 40:21

When I would substitute teach sixth or seventh grade classes, I would normally start out my first time in that classroom by having a “get to know me” quiz. I would ask the students questions about myself and they would try to answer correctly. I would ask things like, “How old am I?” or “What is my favorite sport?” This seemed to go over well for many of the classes as the kids could relate with me through one or more of the answers that were given. For most of the students, I was a total stranger and they had no idea who I was. It was pretty much impossible for them to answer all the questions correctly until I revealed the mysteries about who I was.

Today, we are going to read how Daniel revealed that it was impossible for any man to know what Nebuchadnezzar asked, but the answer to this mystery would be revealed by God.

What Does the Bible Say?

Daniel had taken on the challenge of revealing and interpreting Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Not only did his life depend on this, but so did the lives of his companions and many other wise men in the land of Babylon. After asking his companions to join him in prayer for God's revelation, God revealed the dream and its meaning. Daniel praised God for this, declaring that God was the only One who had the wisdom and might to know the dream and reveal the meaning. He praised God for being the One who is in control of all nature by changing the seasons and the One who is in control of all the powers of the earth by removing and establishing kings. Because He is the source of all true wisdom, God is the only One with the power and ability to reveal this knowledge to men. God knows everything that happens and everything that is ever thought. God also knows everything that will happen. God did not choose to keep all this wisdom to Himself, but chose at this time to reveal some of this knowledge to Daniel. God had answered Daniel's prayer and had made known to him the dream and interpretation (vs 20-23).

With boldness, Daniel went to Arioch, who had been sent to kill him, and asked him not to kill the wise men of the land. Daniel wanted an audience before the king so he could give the king what the king wanted to hear. Arioch wasted no time in going to the king with Daniel and declaring to the king that Daniel could reveal the dream and the meaning. When the king asked Daniel to confirm what he was about to do Daniel told the king that no man, no matter how wise or great, had the ability to tell the king what his dream was and what it meant. Though no man could do this, Daniel revealed that His God had the ability to reveal the mysteries that no man would be able to know. Daniel gave all the credit and glory to God for the revelation that he was about to give (vs 24-28).

Daniel started to reveal to Nebuchadnezzar that the dream that he had was a vision of what would happen in the future. God wanted the king to know exactly what would take place and also let the king know that the God of Israel was in control. Before Daniel revealed the dream and interpretation, he made it absolutely clear to the king that this wisdom was not of men, but of God. There was to be no praise of men for this interpretation because it was only God who could reveal it (vs 29-30).

How Does this Apply to Me?

These verses in Daniel take great time and care in making sure it was absolutely clear that the God of Daniel, the God of Israel, was the only possible way that the king could get the answer he was asking for. None of his wise men with all their enchantments and demonic connections had an answer for Nebuchadnezzar, but Daniel did. Daniel wanted there to be no doubt that he was just a simple tool being used by God. He did not want to get the credit or have others thinking that he was greater than anyone else. He and his companions had humbly asked God and God had revealed the dream and its interpretation. There are two major lessons to learn from this. The first is that God has the power to do what no earthly or angelic power can do because He knows the thoughts of all mankind. He also knows what the future holds and exactly what will happen. The second lesson was revealed through Daniel's humility. Daniel understood that he was called to be a vessel that was used by God however God saw fit.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for choosing to reveal Himself to you.*
- * *Ask God to help you be a willing vessel that is used by Him.*

Why do you think Daniel mentioned “forever and ever” in verse 20?

What two things belong to God (vs 21)?

- 1.
- 2.

Why do you think Daniel mentioned that God is in control of the seasons (vs 21)?

What does God do with kings (vs 21)?

What is God the source of (vs 21)?

What was being emphasized in verse 22?

How can this be a great encouragement to you?

Why was Daniel giving praise to God (vs 23)?

Why do you think Daniel was so thrilled with this?

How did it take boldness for Daniel to go to Arioch (vs 25)?

Why do you think Daniel could go with such boldness?

What did the king want to know (vs 26)?

What did Daniel emphasize in verse 27?

What did Daniel declare about God (vs 28)?

What had God made known to Daniel (vs 28)?

Why had God given the king this dream (vs 29)?

What did Daniel make clear in verse 30?

How does this reveal great humility?

“The Great Image”

Study: Daniel 2:31-49

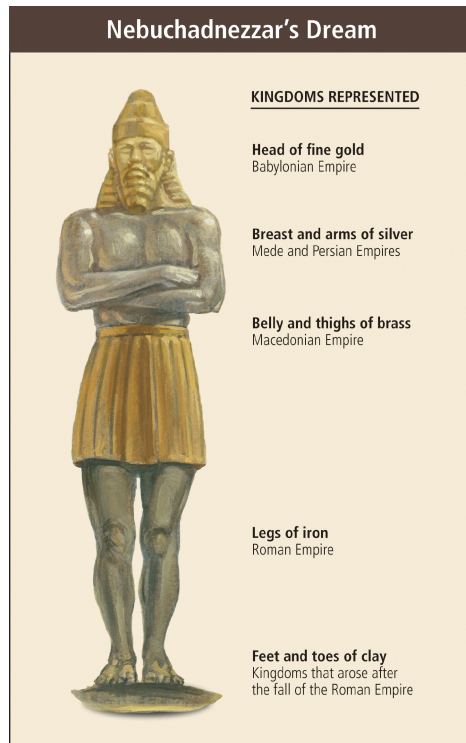
Reading: Psalm 56:1-13, Romans 8:31-39

Memory: Isaiah 40:21

What Does the Bible Say?

After declaring that it was God who revealed the dream to him, Daniel began to tell Nebuchadnezzar what the dream was. In the dream, the king saw an extremely bright, large image. The head was made of gold, while the chest and arms were silver, the mid-section was bronze, the legs were iron and the feet were a mixture of clay and iron. This image was struck by a large stone, but it was clear this stone did not come from the working of men. The stone struck the feet, which were the weakest part of the image, which caused them to break into pieces. The rest of the image crumbled and became like small pieces of chaff which the wind blew away. There was nothing left of this great image, but the stone that caused the destruction grew into a mountain, filling the whole earth (vs 31-35).

Daniel then proceeded to give an interpretation of the dream. The head of gold represented Nebuchadnezzar who was the greatest king the world had known up to that time. He had been given this power by God and was ruler over a large portion of the civilized world. After the fall of the Babylonian kingdom, there would be another great kingdom represented by the silver chest and arms. The kingdom would be great, but inferior to Babylon. Following them there would be another kingdom,



represented by bronze. Finally, there would be a fourth kingdom which would be like iron because of their strength and ability to crush other nations into pieces. This kingdom would eventually be divided, represented by the mixture of clay and iron. They would not hold together, but would eventually be destroyed. The rock that crushed them represented a kingdom that would be set up by God and would fill the whole earth. This kingdom would be eternal, unlike the other temporary kingdoms. This kingdom will be far different since it will not be a kingdom created by the hands of men. This would be set up by God and grow until it filled the whole earth. All of the former kingdoms will be wiped away and be taken over by this new, powerful and everlasting kingdom. Daniel declared that this dream would not change and this interpretation should be trusted (vs 36-45).

History has revealed the accuracy of this dream with the Medo-Persian empire, followed by the Greek empire who was conquered by the Roman empire which eventually broke apart. It is not clear if the last kingdom of the rock is the kingdom that began with Christ in his first coming and pictured the growth of the church, filling the whole earth followed by the return of the Messiah, or if it is more of a reference to the second coming of Christ to establish His kingdom on earth.

Nebuchadnezzar was amazed by Daniel’s understanding of the dream and interpretation of it. He honored Daniel, clearly understanding that there was something different about Daniel and Daniel’s God. He declared that God was the “God of gods” and he made Daniel the leader of the wise men of the land. Daniel requested that Shadrach, Meshach and Abednigo be given positions of leadership in the land and that request was granted. They were leaders of some of the provinces, while Daniel remained in Babylon in the king’s court (vs 46-49).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize that God knows all things? God knew the dream that happened in the mind of Nebuchadnezzar and God knew what was going to happen in the future. This should give you great boldness and confidence as you live for God each day. You can trust Him to know exactly what is going on with you and in the world around you. This means that you don’t have to live a life of worry, fear or wondering, but you can live in assurance and trust. Choose today not to live in fear of the future, but to find the peace that God has for you today and for each day.

How is the image described (vs 31)?

What were the five different parts of this image (vs 32-33)?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Why was the stone not cut by human hands (vs 34)?

What did the stone do (vs 35)?

What happened to the stone (vs 35)?

How did Daniel describe Nebuchadnezzar (vs 37)?

Why do you think he was described this way?

What did Daniel make clear about the king's power (vs 37)?

What power did Nebuchadnezzar have (vs 38)?

Why was this so unique at that time?

What was going to happen after Nebuchadnezzar was gone (vs 39)?

How many kingdoms were there going to be (vs 39-40)?

What was going to happen to the last kingdom (vs 41)?

Why would clay and iron not be strong (vs 42-43)?

What was God going to do (vs 44)?

What was different about this kingdom (vs 44-45)?

How did Nebuchadnezzar respond (vs 46)?

What blessings were given to Daniel (vs 47-49)?

“Write It Again”

Study: Jeremiah 36:9-32

Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-19, 2 Timothy 1:3-14

Memory:: Isaiah 40:21

One of the things I hated most about writing papers when I was in junior high was that we had to write note cards, then copy much of what we had written on note cards to a rough draft, then rewrite the rough draft into a final draft. I was very thankful that by the time I was in high school, my family had a computer we could use so that I didn't have to rewrite everything. I dislike physical writing in the first place and I am so thankful that with modern technology I hardly ever have to write anything.

Today, we are going to see how Baruch had written a scroll dictated by Jeremiah, but that scroll was burned. He was commanded by God to do it all over again.

What Does the Bible Say?

We had read the first portion of Jeremiah 36 several days ago describing how Jeremiah was not allowed to speak in public so he asked Baruch to do it for him. Apparently they were waiting for the right time for him to deliver this message. Jehoiakim declared a fast in Judah and Jeremiah saw this as the perfect time for the words to be read. Many people would have been gathered together for this time of prayer and fasting and would be more open to the hearing of God's Word. Baruch declared these words and Micaiah, the grandson of Shaphan, heard the words of the Lord and they touched his heart. He went to the officials of the land and told them what Baruch had read. They asked that Baruch bring the scroll to them so he could read it to the leaders of the land. They were very concerned about what was said, so they decided that the king needed to hear these words. They then asked him where the words that he read came from and Baruch revealed that they were the words of God that were spoken to Jeremiah. Once they heard this, the leaders told Baruch to get Jeremiah and to hide somewhere, not knowing what the response of the king would be (vs 9-19).

These leaders gave the scroll to the king's secretary and then let the

king know about the scroll and what it contained. The king asked for the scroll and it was read to him. As the parts of the scroll were read, the king would cut them up and throw them into the fire. Instead of fearing the judgement of God because of what was written, the words hardened his heart. The words which were meant to bring mourning and repentance, were scoffed at as the king refused to stop burning the scroll. King Jehoiakim then ordered that Baruch and Jeremiah be arrested, but God had protected them by allowing them to find a place to hide (vs 20-26).

Once Jehoiakim had burned the scroll, God spoke to Jeremiah again. He told Jeremiah to write a second scroll with all the words that had been written on the first scroll. He was to send a direct message to the king asking the king why he rejected the fact that Babylon was going to attack and destroy Judah. The question wasn't asked in order to be answered, but to make a statement revealing that he was going to be judged. The judgement was then declared that none of the descendants of Jehoiakim would sit on the throne of Judah. Jehoiakim was going to die and be left unburied to be ravaged by nature. The children of Jehoiakim would face continual heartaches along with all the people of Judah (vs 27-33).

Jeremiah did as God had commanded and made a second scroll filled with the prophecies given in the first scroll, in addition to the words of judgement that were directed towards Jehoiakim and his family (vs 32).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you get discouraged when people fail to heed the direct warnings that are given by God? It is easy to get frustrated when others choose not to listen to what God is declaring, but this is nothing new. Instead of responding in humility, Jehoiakim basically laughed at everything God had declared. Things were not going well for Judah, that is why they had declared a day of prayer and fasting. Yet, instead of realizing that this was a message from God, he rejected it and wanted to kill the messengers. They were praying for God's help, but they didn't want to listen to what God was telling them to do. People will still act this way today. When things are going badly and God is trying to get their attention, they will often harden their hearts to the message and take it out on you. Don't let this discourage you from sharing the truth and doing what God wants. Your responsibility is not to produce results, but to live in obedience to what God asks of you.

When did the fast take place (vs 9)?

What did Baruch do (vs 10)?

Who responded to the words that were read (vs 10)?

****Shaphan was part of the leadership group that helped Josiah restore the temple several years earlier.*

Why do you think the words that Baruch read were so concerning to the leaders (vs 11-16)?

Why do you think they wanted to know where the words came from (vs 17-18)?

What did the leaders tell Baruch to do (vs 19)? Why do you think they did this?

What did they do with the scroll (vs 20)?

What did the king want done (vs 21)?

Why do you think we are told what month it was (vs 22)?

What did Jehoiakim do as the words were read (vs 23)?

Why do you think the king responded differently than the other leaders (vs 24)?

What did the king command (vs 26)?

How did God protect His servants (vs 26)?

What did God command Jeremiah to do (v 28)?

What did God say would happen to Jehoiakim (vs 30)? Why?

What did Jeremiah do (vs 32)?

“A Lavish Palace”

Study: Jeremiah 22:13-19, 14:1-9

Reading: Luke 12:13-20, Amos 5:1-17

Memory: Isaiah 40:21

One of the things my wife and I do during the summer is boat around the lakes in our area looking at the homes on the lake. There are some very modest homes, but there are also some homes that you can tell were built to impress. The size of some of these homes and their designs are often quite amazing, and that is just on the outside. I have no idea what these places look like inside, but I am sure they are beautiful.

Today, we are going to read how King Jehoiakim sought to build a lavish palace to impress others, but was told what would truly impress others was a humble, loving heart.

What Does the Bible Say?

An attempt to put the prophets and kings in chronological order takes us to Jeremiah 22. God had a message about Jehoiakim and specifically addressed the attitude he displayed about himself and those around him. Judah was facing a time of great problems and heartache in the land, but instead of repenting and turning to God, Jehoiakim used some of the remaining valuable resources of the land to renovate his palace. The fact that he used forced labor indicated that he oppressed others and did not pay them properly for the work that they performed. He wanted to build himself an amazing house with the most expensive and exquisite things that were available. He wanted others to know that he was the king and to be amazed at what he was able to build (vs 13-14).

He thought this outward impression on others would make him a great king, but God declared that living in a house of righteousness was much more important for a king than living in a house of cedar. Caring for the poor and needy of the land was much more important than spending money on a fancy building. His father Josiah had set the example of this, but Jehoiakim didn't seem to understand what it truly meant to be a good king. He had based his reign in selfishness, seeking to become wealthier from dishonest gain. He oppressed others and took

advantage of them rather than caring for them and serving them (vs 15-17).

Because of the way he ruled, he was going to face a dishonorable death. The people would not be sad when he died and would have little respect for him. He would be buried like a donkey, being dragged out and dumped somewhere outside the city (vs 18-19).

The next part of our chronological study moves us back to chapter 14 to a message that was delivered during a time of drought that Judah was experiencing. This drought was causing great problems in the land and was causing many people to search for water to meet their daily needs. The crops were drying up, leaving the farmers with nothing to show for all their labor. Even the wild animals were affected. The doe would abandon her fawns since there was no way to provide for her offspring. Other wild animals would pant in hunger and thirst, finding nothing to eat or drink (vs 1-6).

These conditions caused Jeremiah to call out to God, recognizing that God was causing this to happen because of the sin of the people. He called on God not to be a stranger to the land of Israel. He asked God not to act like a mighty warrior who had become confused, losing his ability to fight. He knew God was still there among them and he called out to God to save and deliver them from the tragedy that Judah was experiencing in the land (vs 7-9).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you realize that one of the reasons that the Israelites constantly faced difficulties was because of their selfishness? This started at the top with king Jehoiakim and would have trickled down through the leaders and many of the people. God rebuked him for this as he sought to build an amazing house for himself with forced and oppressed labor. Instead of caring for and loving the people he was given charge over, he was taking advantage of them. He was only concerned about what he could enjoy for himself which caused him to miss out on how he should be helping others. God is not against you having nice things, yet at the same times you are challenged to be concerned about the needs of others around you. Let this Scripture be a reminder to you of the importance of using the things God has given to you to be a blessing to others.

Suggestions for Prayer

* *Ask God to help you use His blessings for the good of others.*

Jeremiah 22

How was Jehoiakim building his house (vs 13)?

What were some of the acts of unrighteousness he committed (vs 13)?

What did Jehoiakim want to do (vs 14)?

What does this reveal about the king (vs 14)?

What challenge was given at the beginning of verse 15?

What had made Josiah, his father, a great king (vs 15)?

What did the Lord declare in verse 16?

What was Jehoiakim living for (vs 17)?

How can these same type of actions be practiced today?

What would the people not do when Jehoiakim died (vs 18)?

What was the burial of Jehoiakim going to be like (vs 19)?

Why was this such a disgrace?

Jeremiah 14

What was Judah experiencing (vs 1-2)?

What was difficult to find (vs 3)?

Why were the farmers struggling (vs 4)?

What does the suffering of the wild animals indicate (vs 5-6)?

What did Jeremiah recognize about the sins of the land (vs 7)?

What illustrations did Jeremiah use in verses 8-9?

What was Jeremiah's plea (vs 9)?

Memory Verses

Isaiah 40:1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. 3 A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God? 4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. 5 Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. The LORD has spoken!" 6 A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. 7 The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. 9 Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" 10 Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. 11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his heart. He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young. 12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? 13 Who has measured the Spirit of the LORD, or what man shows him his counsel? 14 Whom did he consult, and who made him understand? Who taught him the path of justice, and taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding? 15 Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as the dust on the scales; behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust. 16 Lebanon would not suffice for fuel, nor are its beasts enough for a burnt offering. 17 All the nations are as nothing before him, they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness. 18 To whom then will you liken God, or what likeness compare with him? 19 An idol! A craftsman casts it, and a goldsmith overlays it with gold and casts for it silver chains. 20 He who is too impoverished for an offering chooses wood that will not rot; he seeks out a skillful craftsman to set up an idol that will not move. 21 Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?