

/We will now begin the thirteenth lecture on Jeremiah. /Today we will begin the lecture with Jeremiah chapter 24. /The title of chapter 24 is "Two Baskets of Figs."

/First, God shows Jeremiah two baskets of figs. /Verses 1-3. /Second, interpretation of the good figs. /Verses 4-7. /Third, interpretation of the poor figs. /Verses 9-10.

/Read verse 1. /After Jehoiachin son of Jehoiakim king of Judah and the officials, the craftsmen and the artisans of Judah were carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the LORD showed me two baskets of figs placed in front of the temple of the LORD.

/Here, there is Jehoiachin, son of King Jehoiakim. /Jehoiachin is also known as "Jeconiah." /King Jehoiachin was taken captive to Babylon. /All that God prophesied through Jeremiah was fulfilled.

/God told the people of Judah through Jeremiah that they would be taken captive by Babylon if they did not repent. /Now, Judah was taken captive according to God's Word. /God's Word is always fulfilled.

/Here, there are figs. /Figs symbolize the people of Judah. /The figs were the national flower of Judah. /They also symbolized Judah. /There are flowers inside the figs. /It appears as if there are no flowers.

/Yet, there are flowers inside figs. /Matthew 21:18-22; 24:32-35 /Luke 13:6-9 /We must not be fig trees that only have leaves and no flowers. /Matthew 21:19

/Jesus judged the fig tree for having nothing but leaves. /This shows us that God will punish us with we are only decorative on the outside, but have no fruit on the inside.

/Verse 2. /One basket had very good figs, like those that ripen early; the other basket had very poor figs, so bad they could not be eaten.

/There were two kinds of figs. /There were good figs and there were poor figs. /Who do the good figs signify? /The "good figs" symbolize the people of Judah who were taken captive to Babylon. /Verses 5-7. /The "poor figs" symbolize the people of Judah who remained in Judah. /Verses 8-10.

/Verse 3. /Then the LORD asked me, "What do you see, Jeremiah?" "Figs," I answered. "The good ones are very good, but the poor ones are so bad they cannot be eaten."

/God asked Jeremiah what he saw. /Jeremiah told God exactly what he saw.

/Verse 4. /Then the word of the LORD came to me:

/As previously mentioned, the good figs symbolized the people who were taken captive to Babylon. /Why were the captives the good figs? /First, it was because they obeyed

God's Word and took on the yoke of Babylon.

/Second, they repented of their sins while in captivity. /Third, they threw away their idols and relied solely on God. /Fourth, they threw away their hypocrisy and boastings of the temple of Jerusalem, and they sought after God.

/They did not boast of the external temple of Jerusalem, but served God internally in their hearts. This is more important. /Ezekiel 11:16 /Our God told the people in Babylon that he would be a sanctuary for them.

/We must not boast of the external sanctuary, but we must boast of the internal sanctuary. /Fifth, the people threw away their arrogance and they became humble. /In this way, the people who were taken captive to Babylon kept their faith.

/The people of Judah were taken captive and disciplined by God. /They sincerely repented and became humble. /They believed in God's promised Word and waited with hope.

/It was the same as how we wait for the Lord's promise of His return today. /Because the people were repentant and humble, God acknowledged the people who were taken captive to Babylon as good figs. /From verse 8 is the interpretation of the poor figs.

/Verse 8. /"'But like the poor figs, which are so bad they cannot be eaten,' says the LORD, 'so will I deal with Zedekiah king of Judah, his officials and the survivors from Jerusalem, whether they remain in this land or live in Egypt.

/King Zedekiah was the last king of Judah. /The entire nation of Judah was ruined during the time of King Zedekiah. /Zedekiah did not listen to Jeremiah when he delivered God's Word.

/God told Judah to surrender to Babylon and carry their yoke. /However, King Zedekiah disobeyed God's word. /Therefore, God said that all who remained in Judah were poor figs.

/Not only that, but the people who ran away to Egypt to avoid hardships were also poor figs. /Then why were the king and the people who remained in Judah poor figs? /Why were the people who remained in Judah poor figs?

/First, they remained arrogant and boasted of the exterior of the temple. /They showed contempt for those who were taken captive to Babylon. /Ezekiel 11:15, 16 /Second, they boasted of the exterior temple of Jerusalem, and they gave burnt offerings with hypocritical hearts.

/They boasted of outward customs. /Third, they continued to serve idols. /22:9 /Fourth, they abandoned righteousness and justice, and they fell to drunkenness and greed. /22:3 /In this way, they did not repent. /They were arrogant.

/They were greedy. /They were disobedient to God's commands. /They lived lives that were the complete opposite of those who were taken captive. /They did not repent of their sins. /Those who went down to Egypt were also poor figs.

/Those who went down to Egypt went to avoid famine and war. /They went down to live comfortably. /However, they disobeyed God's word. /They chased after the good things of the world.

/Egypt became their place of refuge. /We must make sure that God is our refuge. /We must rely on God no matter what hardships we encounter. /Therefore, those who relied on the world and went down to Egypt were poor figs.

/Verses 9-10. /I will make them abhorrent and an offense to all the kingdoms of the earth, a reproach and a byword, an object of ridicule and cursing, wherever I banish them. I will send the sword, famine and plague against them until they are destroyed from the land I gave to them and their fathers."

/God said that he would judge the people who remained in Judah and Egypt. /First, God would spread them out throughout all kingdoms of the earth. /Second, the people would face hardships. /Third, they would be abhorrent.

/Fourth, they would be objects of ridicule and cursing. /Fifth, they would die by the sword, famine and plague. /Sixth, they would be destroyed. /In this way, those who disobey God's commands and do not carry the yoke that God gives them will receive God's judgment.

/We must become humble like those who were taken captive to Babylon, and we must submit to God's discipline. /We must repent and cut out all things that are bad. /We must rely solely on God and cry out in prayer to God.

/We must also believe that God will allow us to return to the land of Judah. /For example, Daniel and his three friends, and Ezekiel were servants with strong faith. /They kept their faith even when they were taken captive to Babylon.

/We will continue with Jeremiah chapter 25. /The title of chapter 25 is "Seventy Years of Disaster." /First, Judah did not listen even when the Lord sent many prophets. /Verses 1-7. /Second, Judah will receive seventy years of disaster. /Verses 8-11.

/Third, God will judge Babylon after seven years of disaster. /Verses 12-14. /Fourth, all nation will drink from the cup of seventy years of disaster. /Verses 15-31. /Fifth, a mighty storm will destroy the lands. /Verses 32-33. /Sixth, the fields will grow empty and the shepherds will mourn. /Verses 34-38.

/Read verses 1-2. /The word came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, which was the first year of

Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon. So Jeremiah the prophet said to all the people of Judah and to all those living in Jerusalem:

/The people of Judah were taken captive to Babylon in the fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah. /Judah was taken captive by Babylon at this time.

/Verses 3-4. /For twenty-three years-- from the thirteenth year of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah until this very day-- the word of the LORD has come to me and I have spoken to you again and again, but you have not listened. And though the LORD has sent all his servants the prophets to you again and again, you have not listened or paid any attention.

/Jeremiah did God's work from the thirteenth year of King Josiah. /Jeremiah served God for many years. /He faithfully carried out God's work.

/God did not send only Jeremiah, but he sent many prophets to Judah. /However, the people of Judah did not listen to the prophets. /God waited for the people to repent and return but they did not.

/Verse 5. /They said, "Turn now, each of you, from your evil ways and your evil practices, and you can stay in the land the LORD gave to you and your fathers for ever and ever.

/God told the people to turn from their evil ways and repent. /God promised that he would let them live forever in the land of Canaan. /However, they did not repent but continued to serve idols, and therefore, God would judge them.

/Therefore, we must throw away our idols. /We must throw away the idols of money. /We must throw away the idol of greed. /Colossians 3:5 /We must throw away the idols of stubbornness. /1 Samuel 15:23

/Verse 8. /Therefore the LORD Almighty says this: "Because you have not listened to my words,

/The people of Judah did not listen to God's word. /Therefore, verse 9 says that God would bring the king of Babylon of the north. /It refers to the king of Babylon as God's servant. /God will use Nebuchadnezzar to punish the people of Judah.

/God would use the king of Babylon as an instrument of punishment. /In this way, there were times when surrounding nations were used to discipline Judah. /Isaiah 10:5 /However, the instrument would be taken away when God's loving people of Judah repented.

/For example, parents discipline their children with small canes. /When the children repent, parents put away their canes.

/Verses 10-11. /I will banish from them the sounds of joy and gladness, the voices of bride and bridegroom, the sound of millstones and the light of the lamp. This whole country will become a desolate wasteland, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

/Now, the army of Babylon would come take over Judah and Jerusalem. /The sounds of joy and gladness, the voices of bride and bridegroom, and the sound of millstones would be no more when Babylon arrives. /The good day will come to an end.

/The light of the joyfulness of the night would be no more. /The millstones that made delicious food would be no more. /Next, it says that the people would serve the king of Babylon for seventy years.

/God planned that the people of Judah be taken captive to Babylon for seventy years. /Yet, they would return to their land when the seventy years were over. /Judah was taken captive by Babylon in 605 B.C.

/That was the first captivity of Babylon. /The people of Judah returned in 536 B.C. /They returned during the reign of Cyrus king of Persia. /Ezra 1:1-11 /In this way, God determines a length of time for our hardships. /There is a planned time.

/It is important that we remain patient and keep our faith in times of hardships. /Then the hardships will surely come to an end.

/Verse 12. /"But when the seventy years are fulfilled, I will punish the king of Babylon and his nation, the land of the Babylonians, for their guilt," declares the LORD, "and will make it desolate forever.

/God would use Babylon to punish the people of Judah for seventy years. /Then, God will punish Babylon seventy years later. /God will remove his cane from them. /Babylon would then be ruined.

/Verse 15. /This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, said to me: "Take from my hand this cup filled with the wine of my wrath and make all the nations to whom I send you drink it.

/God's cup of wrath is the seventy years of disaster. /However, Judah will not be the only nation to drink from this cup of wrath. /It says here that all the nations will drink from the cup.

/In verses 18-26, it says that many nations will encounter disasters. /In verse 19, Egypt receives hardships. /In verse 20, the Philistines receive hardships. /In verse 21, Edom, Moab and Ammon all receive hardships.

/In verse 22, Tyre and Sidon receive hardships. /In verse 23, Dedan, Tema, and Buz receive hardships. /In this way, almost all nations will encounter hardships. /God will

punish them. /God will judge them.

/Verse 26. /and all the kings of the north, near and far, one after the other-- all the kingdoms on the face of the earth. And after all of them, the king of Sheshach will drink it too.

/It says here that "the king of Sheshach" will finally drink the cup of wrath. /The king of Sheshach is the king of Babylon. /God will punish all the nations through the king of Babylon. /Then at the end, God will finally judge the king of Babylon. /Jeremiah 51:41.

/Verse 27. /"Then tell them, 'This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Drink, get drunk and vomit, and fall to rise no more because of the sword I will send among you.'

/God will bring disaster upon the nations through the sword. /No nation will be able to avoid it. /Even Jerusalem will receive disaster. /God's people will receive disaster.

/The sinful foreign peoples will receive disaster. /Jeremiah 49:12 /1 Peter 4:17 /All peoples and nations will receive disaster in the last days. /Therefore, we believers must be prepared for disaster.

/Verse 30. /"Now prophesy all these words against them and say to them: "'The LORD will roar from on high; he will thunder from his holy dwelling and roar mightily against his land. He will shout like those who tread the grapes, shout against all who live on the earth.

/Now, disaster of God's wrath will come from God. /God judges all nations and all peoples. /God shouts like those who tread the grapes. /God bring death from war through the sword of the enemies.

/Verse 32. /This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Look! Disaster is spreading from nation to nation; a mighty storm is rising from the ends of the earth."

/Here it says that a mighty storm will come. /This is a great disaster and a great war. /It says that many will die because of the sudden great disaster. /Because so many will have been slain, verse 33 says that they will not be mourned.

/It also says that no one will be buried because too many people will have died. /How pitiful and painful is this? /In this way, God judges sin.

/Verse 34. /Weep and wail, you shepherds; roll in the dust, you leaders of the flock. For your time to be slaughtered has come; you will fall and be shattered like fine pottery.

/The flock will scatter and shepherds will weep and wail because of God's judgment. /No one can escape when God sends the enemies. /This means that God will judge the Israelites and their leaders.

/Today, if we sin and do not repent, God will discipline the believers and the leaders.

/Verses 37-38. /The peaceful meadows will be laid waste because of the fierce anger of the LORD. Like a lion he will leave his lair, and their land will become desolate because of the sword of the oppressor and because of the LORD's fierce anger.

/The people will receive judgment by the Lord's wrath. /Then the land will become a wasteland, it will become desolate and empty.

/We will continue with chapter 26. /The title is, "People Threaten to Kill Jeremiah."
/First, those who do not obey the Lord will be cursed. /Verses 1-7. /Second, the people attempt to kill Jeremiah. /Verses 8-11.

/Third, Jeremiah encourages the people to repent. /Verses 12-15. /Fourth, the people say that it is wrong to kill Jeremiah. /Verse 16. /Fifth, the eldest defend Jeremiah. /Verses 17-23. /Sixth, Ahikam saves Jeremiah from the people. /Verse 24.

/Read verse 1. /Early in the reign of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, this word came from the LORD:

/This is the story of the time during the reign of Jehoiakim son of Josiah. /This happened early in the reign of King Jehoiakim.

/Verse 2. /"This is what the LORD says: Stand in the courtyard of the LORD's house and speak to all the people of the towns of Judah who come to worship in the house of the LORD. Tell them everything I command you; do not omit a word.

/God commanded Jeremiah. /God commanded Jeremiah to prophesy in the temple. /God also told him not to omit anything from his words. /We must preach God's Word as it is. /Revelation 22:18, 19

/In this way, Jeremiah faced many hardships because he always delivered God's Word as it was. /We too must do the same. /Next, God said that he would take away the disaster if the people repented.

/Verse 3. /Perhaps they will listen and each will turn from his evil way. Then I will relent and not bring on them the disaster I was planning because of the evil they have done.

/God said that if the people turned from their evil ways and repented, God would not bring on them the disaster that he had planned.

/Verse 4. /Say to them, "This is what the LORD says: If you do not listen to me and follow my law, which I have set before you,

/However, if the people did not listen to God, he would make them an object of cursing.

/Verse 6. /then I will make this house like Shiloh and this city an object of cursing among all the nations of the earth."

/If the people did not listen to God's Word, he would make them like Shiloh and an object of cursing. /"Shiloh" is the place where the Lord's tabernacle was when the people served God. /However, after the people sinned and after Eli the priest died, the place became ruined.

/Again, God's tabernacle was once in Shiloh. /However, the place became ruined after Israel sinned. /Now, if the people in Jerusalem did not repent, they would become ruined like Shiloh. /Joshua 18:1 /1 Samuel 1:3; 4:10-22.

/Verse 8. /But as soon as Jeremiah finished telling all the people everything the LORD had commanded him to say, the priests, the prophets and all the people seized him and said, "You must die!

/Jeremiah preached God's Word as it was. /Then the priests and prophets seized him and said, "You must die! You must die!"

/When Jeremiah preached God's Word, the priests and prophets attempted to kill Jeremiah. /They did not think to repent, but rather, they tried to kill Jeremiah. /2 Timothy 3:12

/Verse 10. /When the officials of Judah heard about these things, they went up from the royal palace to the house of the LORD and took their places at the entrance of the New Gate of the LORD's house.

/Then, the officials of Judah helped Jeremiah. /They defended him. /The officials said, "It is not right to kill Jeremiah. We must not kill him." /There were people who tried to kill Jeremiah, but there were also people who helped him as well.

/Verse 12. /Then Jeremiah said to all the officials and all the people: "The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the things you have heard.

/Jeremiah said that everything that he said came from God. /Jeremiah did not run away. / He told the people to repent. /Jeremiah said that if the people obeyed God's commands, God would not bring disaster upon them. /Yet, if they did not listen to God's voice, God would send disaster.

/Verse 15. /Be assured, however, that if you put me to death, you will bring the guilt of innocent blood on yourselves and on this city and on those who live in it, for in truth the LORD has sent me to you to speak all these words in your hearing."

/Jeremiah spoke to the people. /"If you put me to death, you will bring the guilt of innocent blood on yourselves and on this city and on those who live in it." /"If you kill

me, you will be killing an innocent man.”

/To kill God’s servants is to kill the innocent. /It is a great sin to kill God’s true servants. /Jeremiah delivered God’s Word to the people who tried to kill him.

/Verse 16. /Then the officials and all the people said to the priests and the prophets, "This man should not be sentenced to death! He has spoken to us in the name of the LORD our God."

/Here, the officials and people helped Jeremiah. /They said that they must not kill Jeremiah. /There were people who helped him.

/Verse 17. /Some of the elders of the land stepped forward and said to the entire assembly of people,

/Some of the elders stepped forward and defended Jeremiah. /They spoke of the history of the land and defended Jeremiah. /From verse 18 is the story of the time of Hezekiah king of Judah. /There was a prophet named Micah at the time.

/The prophet Micah prophesied. /King Hezekiah obeyed the words of the prophet Micah. /Hezekiah feared God. /Hezekiah protected the prophet Micah. /Then the people repented and became upright. /Therefore, God did not bring disaster on the people.

/Verse 20. /(Now Uriah son of Shemaiah from Kiriath Jearim was another man who prophesied in the name of the LORD; he prophesied the same things against this city and this land as Jeremiah did.

/There was a prophet named Uriah son of Shemaiah. /This was during the reign of King Jehoiakim. /This prophet prophesied the same things against the city as Jeremiah did. /The prophet told the king to repent. /However, King Jehoiakim did not repent, and he killed Uriah instead.

/Uriah was martyred. /King Jehoiakim was an evil king. /He was then eventually taken captive to Babylon. /His nation was destroyed. /In this way, those who kill God’s true servants will receive God’s judgment. /In this way, the elders helped Jeremiah.

/Verse 24. /Furthermore, Ahikam son of Shaphan supported Jeremiah, and so he was not handed over to the people to be put to death.

/Here is Ahikam son of Shaphan. /Ahikam was a man with authority. /Ahikam used his authority to protect Jeremiah. /God sent good people to protect Jeremiah.

/Therefore, we must be persevering like Jeremiah and preach God’s Word as it is. /There will be persecutions when we preach God’s Word. /Sometimes, the believers will not like what they heard. /Still, we must cry out to the people to repent, just as Jeremiah did.

/Some people tried to kill Jeremiah, but some people protected him. /Those who receive a prophet in a prophet's name will receive a prophet's reward. /Those who help true prophets like Jeremiah will receive rewards.

/Here we will conclude the thirteenth lecture on Jeremiah. /Thank you.