

II. The Prophetic Lessons

A. In the Decisions of Life: There is No Substitute for the Word of God.

1. Introductory Notes

For most of us the future is a mystery. We may like it better that way but in the long run we do not have much to say about it. God has hidden it from us and we must wait and trust him with its unfolding. But at times in the Bible He was pleased to allow His people to know what was coming for them. It was not always "good" as we evaluate things for often He advised them of an impending judgment. Sometimes the judgment was conditional and if repentance occurred, forgiveness would avert it. But on certain occasions the situation was such that the judgment was determined and there could be no remedy but to endure it. Such information is not easy to take ...not then, and not today.

But that is the case in Jeremiah 28. The Lord had determined a 70 year period of servitude to the Babylonian King. The time had already begun. But the people were still struggling with accepting it. Most favored revolt. But the revelation of God was such that nothing could be done but to endure it. He was giving the land the needed sabbatical rest and reminding the nation that it was a tenant society at best. The message of Jeremiah 27:4-12 was specific..those who yielded and accepted the judgment of God would be blessed. Those who defied and went contrary to His Will would be under judgment. There was no alternative. The word of God was blessing to those who would yield...condemnation to such as would not.

Of course this did not mean the majority would follow it quickly. With fickleness of heart they looked for another way and very quickly a host of alternate suggestions came up. Many of these were accompanied by prophets who spoke more what the people wanted to hear. Consequently they prepared to abandon the Word of God in favor of their own desires. The message of Jeremiah 28 is: The Lord has spoken...of the present as well as the future...there is no substitute for His Word.