

FAITHFUL TO THE END

Beloved of the Lord:

Jeremiah was a prophet in Judah's midnight hour during the most tragic time of the nation's history, the reign of its last five kings. Read Jeremiah and Lamentations and note his ministry was very disappointing and fruitless. Though other prophets had a measure of success, Jeremiah had none; no response of gratitude from rulers or the people. The pivotal cause of the apostasy he traces in Jer. 2:8,19 and 35. It presents a strong analogy to us today in this world. Truly the "midnight hour" is very near! Let us consider some solemn facts of the cause -

1 - LEADERSHIP A FUNDAMENTAL FAILURE - Jer.2:8 - "The PRIESTS said not, where is the Lord? and they that handle the law knew me not; the PASTORS-(SHEPHERDS) also transgressed against Me, and the PROPHETS prophesied by Baal, and walked after things that do not profit". PRIESTS, SHEPHERDS and PROPHETS failed in their office; these fostered the departure from God!

2 - WICKEDNESS AND BACKSLIDING FOLLOWED - Jer.2:19 - To the nation God said - "Thine own wickedness chastiseth thee-thy backslidings reprove thee" etc The spread of wickedness, backsliding and bitterness grew even into irreverence and forsaking the law.

3 - DENYING GOD'S WORD LED TO DEFIANCE - Jer.2:35 - Ultimately, SIN ceased to be recognized as such; innocence was claimed even in evil - "Thou sayest I am innocent- I have not sinned". Denying God's Word leads to DEFYING Him. The King of Judah burned God's message - Jer.38:4. The nation was deaf to God's Word - Jer.37:2. Christendom is in a similar state today and the - MAN OF SIN will soon arise to lead world wide APOSTASY - 2 Thess. 2:3 etc. BUT, let us learn from Jeremiah's example some lessons for faithfulness today:-

(1) - HIS SUFFERING SYMPATHY - in a two fold direction: (a) A sympathy for God which few, if any possessed. He entered into the feelings of Jehovah over the tragic conditions. He not only spoke FOR God: he felt WITH God! (b) A sympathy and love for his fellow countrymen; he suffered WITH them! He spoke for God TO the people and felt WITH them; BUT never failed to identify himself WITH God in His judgments.

(2) - HIS PATIENT PERSEVERANCE - He had a devotion of love that carried him through all disappointments. He was unheeded, humiliated, but bravely persistent; a tender and a pathetic prophet who is an example of the persevering love of God for us today!

(3) - HIS COMPLETE FAITHFULNESS - His sensitive nature from the beginning of his ministry shrank from pronouncing the terrible judgments and retribution of God (Jer.1:6-10;17-19) yet with heroic faithfulness to God he went right on to the end of his life!-fulfilling his prophetic ministry; not alone to his earthly people but to all nations. Forget not that he was called a prophet "over the NATIONS and over the KINGDOMS, to pluck up, and to break down, and to destroy, and to overthrow, to build and to plant" - Jer.1:10.

How many Jeremiahs have we today? Sympathetic, patient and faithful to GOD and HIS people? Do we FEEL WITH CHRIST (our Risen Head of the Church), HIS grief over our failures? Do we FEEL for HIS people in suffering sympathy? Are we faithful to God at ALL costs? Will we identify ourselves WITH God? A concerned believer will, in the Spirit today, clearly SEE God's side of our problems in sympathy with HIM; and also, the sad departure of the present testimony on earth today. When we SEE God's side of it, the more useful can we be to sympathize and help His dear people in these closing, evil days, before we meet our blessed Lord "in the air".

"EVEN SO, COME, LORD JESUS, COME"

P.S. Jeremiah proved
what he wrote - LAM. 3:22-24

Faithfully yours in Christ,

