

Why the Land Mourns

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Jeremiah 21-25.

B. God is not only for getting out of trouble.

II. Had the king repented, confessed his deeds and called to God out of a heart of contrition, God would have heard him, but it was too late.

III. Jeremiah's message: there were things wrong with the nation.

A. There are proper tasks for government rulers.

1. They are to set an example of justice and righteousness themselves.

a. Every elected official is an agent of God.

b. They are to represent God consequently.

2. They were to do no wrong to the minority groups—the weak and helpless. This is recognition of the power of government to hurt the weak.

3. They were to keep the courts honest and just.

B. Bad examples of kings in Judah.

IV. Jeremiah's vision of the true shepherd.

A. Jesus is our righteousness.

B. The leaders were preaching and prophesying the wrong things, so judgment had to come.

1. They filled the people with vain hopes.

2. They spoke visions of their own minds not from the mouth of the Lord.

3. They gave false assurances.

4. They claimed the very authority of God.

C. The true ministry of God. The business of a preacher is to say what God has said.

VI. How to react when one is under the chastisement of God.

A. Accept the judging hand of God as the best hope for you.

B. Await the measured judgment that God has in view.

C. Expect a widening circle of cleansing.

Application questions:

1. Why is there special judgment reserved for government rulers? Can you think of any loose New Testament parallel?

2. How are false preachers/prophets characterized?

3. What should the believer's response be when he is chastised? Have you had any experiences like this? Explain.
