

## End-Time Prep Series

### Lesson 2: What Is Your Response?

Sermon Bible Notes by Pastor O. Cary Rodgers, Jr.

**Obedience to God's explicit and direct commands is a matter of life and death.** Before Israel entered the land of Canaan, God told them about the great blessings that they would receive if they remained faithful to Him and obeyed His commandments and testimonies. In contrast, he told them of the curses that would come upon them if they rejected God, disobeyed His laws, did the ways of the heathen nations, and worshiped idols.

#### Deuteronomy 30:15-20

- 15 See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil;  
 16 In that I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it.  
 17 But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them;  
 18 I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, *and that* ye shall not prolong *your* days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it.  
 19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:  
 20 That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, *and* that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he *is* thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

After the death of Moses God chose Joshua to lead the people into the Canaan land because of his uncompromising and strong faith in Him. After the children of Israel were led into Canaan, Joshua remained faithful to God until he died. He led others to also remain faithful and obedient to God.

#### What happened to Israel after the death of Joshua and the elders that knew him?

#### Judges 2:8, 10 -13

- 8 And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, *being* an hundred and ten years old.  
 10 And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel.  
 11 And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served Baalim:  
 12 And they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that *were* round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the LORD to anger.  
 13 And they forsook the LORD, and served Baal and Ashtaroth.

As a result of Israel's worship of idols and false gods, they received all the curses of disobedience that God warned them about. During the times of the judges, kings, and the split of the northern and southern, Israel went in and out of idol worship and apostasy. As time persisted their apostasy got worse and worse. The Northern Kingdom of Israel was eventually destroyed many years before the Southern Kingdom of Judah.

At the time of Jeremiah the prophet, God used him to plead with Judah, to forsake idolatry and return back to God in faith, repentance, and obedience. Then God announced judgment upon them; they would serve Babylon for seventy years. They still refused to be obedient.

**Jeremiah 6:16-17**

16 Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where *is* the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, **We will not walk therein.**

17 Also I set watchmen over you, *saying*, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, **We will not hearken.**

**Jeremiah 18:11-12, 18**

11 Now therefore go to, speak to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I frame evil against you, and devise a device against you: return ye now every one from his evil way, and make your ways and your doings good.

12 And they said, There is no hope: but **we will walk after our own devices**, and we will every one do the imagination of his evil heart.

18 Then said they, Come, and let us devise devices against Jeremiah; for the law shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet. Come, and let us smite him with the tongue, and let us not give heed to any of his words.

**Jeremiah 22:21**

21 I (Jeremiah) spake unto thee in thy prosperity; *but* thou saidst, I will not hear. This *hath been* thy manner from thy youth, that thou obeyedst not my voice.

Many in Judah were killed and many were taken as Babylonian captives. God left a remnant in the land of Judah who were poor and told them to serve Babylon and take care of the vineyards and land and be greatly blessed as a result. God also made it explicitly clear NOT to go down to Egypt for safety but to depend on Him. God told them that Egypt would be destroyed and overtaken. He told them that if they did go to Egypt that they would be destroyed with them.

**Jeremiah 39:9-10**

9 Then Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard carried away captive into Babylon the remnant of the people that remained in the city, and those that fell away, that fell to him, with the rest of the people that remained.

10 But Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard left of the poor of the people, which had nothing, in the land of Judah, and gave them vineyards and fields at the same time.

**Jeremiah 42:13-17, 21, 22**

13 But if ye say, We will not dwell in this land, neither obey the voice of the LORD your God,

14 Saying, No; but we will go into the land of Egypt, where we shall see no war, nor hear the sound of the trumpet, nor have hunger of bread; and there will we dwell:

15 And now therefore hear the word of the LORD, ye remnant of Judah; Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; If ye wholly set your faces to enter into Egypt, and go to sojourn there;

16 Then it shall come to pass, *that* the sword, which ye feared, shall overtake you there in the land of Egypt, and the famine, whereof ye were afraid, shall follow close after you there in Egypt; and there ye shall die.

17 So shall it be with all the men that set their faces to go into Egypt to sojourn there; they shall die by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence: and none of them shall remain or escape from the evil that I will bring upon them.

21 And *now* I have this day declared *it* to you; but ye have not obeyed the voice of the LORD your God, nor any *thing* for the which he hath sent me unto you.

22 Now therefore know certainly that ye shall die by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence, in the place whither ye desire to go *and* to sojourn.

**Jeremiah 43:1-2**

- 1 And it came to pass, *that* when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking unto all the people all the words of the LORD their God, for which the LORD their God had sent him to them, *even* all these words,
- 2 Then spake Azariah the son of Hoshaiah, and Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the proud men, saying unto Jeremiah, Thou speakest falsely: the LORD our God hath not sent thee to say, Go not into Egypt to sojourn there:

They believed not the truth of Jeremiah's urgent message from God. God pleaded with them out of love. They saw the prophetic fulfillment of all that Jeremiah said as Judah was made captive to Babylon right before their eyes. They should have been grateful that God spared their lives from destruction during the Babylonian invasion.

**What was their final response to God's message not to be in Egypt, get out and return to Judah?**

**Jeremiah 44:12-16**

- 12 And I will take the remnant of Judah, that have set their faces to go into the land of Egypt to sojourn there, and they shall all be consumed, *and* fall in the land of Egypt; they shall *even* be consumed by the sword *and* by the famine: they shall die, from the least even unto the greatest, by the sword and by the famine: and they shall be an execration, *and* an astonishment, and a curse, and a reproach.
- 13 For I will punish them that dwell in the land of Egypt, as I have punished Jerusalem, by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence:
- 14 So that none of the remnant of Judah, which are gone into the land of Egypt to sojourn there, shall escape or remain, that they should return into the land of Judah, to the which they have a desire to return to dwell there: for none shall return but such as shall escape.
- 15 Then all the men which knew that their wives had burned incense unto other gods, and all the women that stood by, a great multitude, even all the people that dwelt in the land of Egypt, in Pathros, answered Jeremiah, saying,
- 16 **As for the word that thou hast spoken unto us in the name of the LORD, we will not hearken unto thee.**

They rejected the message and deceived themselves in believing Satan's lies even after seeing God prophecies fulfilled.

There are many professed remnant today who say, "How could they be so rebellious against God, I would never do what they did, NEVER! I am going to stay faithful and endure until the end." They keep updated on end-time prophetic news. They see end-time prophecy fulfilling right before their eyes. They speak about the present truth. They speak about the medical missionary work and evangelism but many are actually in rebellion like the people of Israel. They profess with their lips but their heart is far from God.

God has given His remnant church explicit directions on the medical missionary work and gospel evangelism. God has revealed to us that every member of the church must take hold of the medical missionary work. He told us to re-establish institutions and training centers that have been neglected. They hear these instructions from God, but make excuses why they are not involved in the medical missionary work as God instructed.

Many say it is too late to re-establish training centers and institutions related to the medical missionary work, but some of the same people have no problem expanding their worldly employer's business and working very hard to make sure it is successful. They have heard many messages to get out of the cities, but make excuses instead. They do not see that their spiritual state is worse than those of the children of Israel and the remnant that went down to Egypt. Their actions and inaction reveal the rebellious spirit that is in their heart.

**What will be their end if they fail to repent?** The same as Judah's destruction.

In order to be prepped and ready for the prophetic end-time events such as the mark of the beast crisis, persecution, and the loud message we must be obedient to all instructions that God has given the remnant people of God when it comes to sharing the everlasting Gospel and the medical missionary work.

"Study Christ's definition of a true missionary: 'Whosoever will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.' Mark 8:34. Following Christ, as spoken of in these words, is not a pretense, a farce. Jesus expects His disciples to follow closely in His footsteps, enduring what He endured, suffering what He suffered, overcoming as He overcame. He is anxiously waiting to see His professed followers revealing the spirit of self-sacrifice.

Those who receive Christ as a personal saviour, choosing to be partakers of His suffering, to live His life of self-denial, to endure shame for His sake, will understand what it means to be a genuine medical missionary.

When all our medical missionaries live the new life in Christ, when they take His word as their guide, they will have a much clearer understanding of what constitutes genuine medical missionary work." - Ellen White, Testimonies Vol. 8, p. 209

Appeal

**"Places that have been neglected are now to receive attention. My people are to do a sharp, quick work.** Those who with purity of purpose fully consecrate themselves to Me, body, soul, and spirit, shall work in My way and in My name. Everyone shall stand in his lot, looking to Me, his Guide and Counselor. I will instruct the ignorant, and anoint with heavenly eyesalve the eyes of many who are now in spiritual darkness. **I will raise up agents who will carry out My will to prepare a people to stand before Me in the time of the end. In many places that before this ought to have been provided with sanitariums and schools, I will establish My institutions, and these institutions will become educational centers for the training of workers.**" {Ellen White, Testimonies Vol. 7 p. 101.5}

All remnant who neglect this will not be prepped for the end of time. Who will not only support this work but will be actively involved? Prophecy is rapidly fulfilling and we do not have time to waste.