**Jeremiah 37:1-21**

***“Standing For Truth In A Hostile World”***

Introduction

1. The time between ch. 36 and 37 is about 18 years. Living in a post-God world the word of God

 was under attack in ch. 36. In ch. 37 those who stand for truth are under attack.

2. What can you expect when you take a stand for truth in a hostile world?

3. Jeremiah 37:1-21 What happened to Jeremiah happened to truth:

What can you expect when you take a stand for truth in a hostile world?

**I. TRUTH CONTRADICTED 37:1-5**

 ***A. A Date For Truth 1, 5***

 **1.** (36:30) is fulfilled. Instead of Jehoiachin (Coniah) Nebuchadnezzar put Zedekiah

 on the throne. He was not a descendant of Jehoiakin, but his brother was the uncle of

 Coniah.

**2.** *Was made king…*Zedekiah did not ascend to the throne. God always has the last

 word. After 18 years…God is right! It was a time when truth was needed.

 **3.** Because of the influence of the Egyptians, Zedekiah decides to break his pledge v. 5.

 At the approach of the Egyptian troops under Pharaoh Hophra, Zedekiah revolted

 against Babylon. What Zedekiah wanted was a temporary withdrawal of Babylon to

 be permanent. He may have felt Jeremiah’s presence would insure God’s protection.

 **4.** The nation is in dire need for God’s intervention. This nation and our nation needs

 God!

 ***B. The Disobedience To Truth 2***

What they need the most they reject. *Neither he, nor his servants, nor the people of the*

 *land did hearken.*

1. **The Spiritual Climate** These were proud, arrogant and self-reliant.
2. **The Spiritual Condition** They reject God’s Word as absolute Truth. Jeremiah is not taken seriously. The people become the standard and authority. They knew better than God. They knew more than God. They wouldn’t listen, although life was a mess!

 ***C. The Desire From Truth 3***

*Pray now unto the Lord, our God for us.*

1. They still claimed to belong to God although they wouldn’t listen to Him.
2. They wanted God to bless them although they wanted nothing to do with Him.
3. They were religious, but there was no reality!

 ***D. The Direction Of Truth 4***

*Jeremiah came in and out among the people.* Jeremiah was not imprisoned.

1. Truth was free, but not taken seriously.
2. Truth was tolerated. It was so close to losing its freedom!!

What can you expect when you take a stand for truth in a hostile world?

**II. TRUTH COMMUNICATED 37:6-10**

Everyone wants to know what God says…until it affects them!!

1. ***Truth Delivered 6***
2. Ultimate truth comes from God.
3. Truth is usually delivered by frail human beings!

 ***B. Truth Disappointed 7***

**1.** Egypt’s relief is temporary. They are going home.

 **2.** Jeremiah is not a good luck charm…wishing and wanting something badly enough

 doesn’t make it so.

 **3.** God knows all about your tomorrows.

 ***C*. *Truth Destroys 8***

**1.** Zedekiah, before you burn all of your bridges…look honestly at your situation.

 **2.** There is judgment and consequences for disobedience. Truth can shatter dreams!!

 ***D. Truth Delivers 9,10***

**1.** Truth contradicts our ideas. 9 *Don’t say the Chaldeans shall depart…*they won’t!

 **2.** Truth puts us in our places. Truth shows us how small we really are. *Mortally*

 *wounded men could defeat you…Thrust threw.* God’s unchanging purpose is to

 destroy Jerusalem.

1. Truth tells it like it is, not how we wish it was. Examples: The Gospel that is based on works…good outweighing the bad. There is no eternal anything. A God of love would never permit anyone to spend an eternity in hell.

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**III. TRUTH CONFRONTED 37:11-15**

V. 11 continues from v. 5.

 ***A. Truth Assimilated 12***

**1.** *To separate himself there in the midst of the people. In order to take possession of*

 *some property among the people.*

**2.**  To get his share and to settle affairs action was taken.

**3.** Truth is so close and yet so far!

 ***B. Truth Accosted 13a***

**1.** Jeremiah gets to the Gate of Benjamin and Irijah stops him.

 **2.** Truth is stopped!!

 ***C. Truth Accused 13b*** *Treason*

**1.** Truth that is not truth is false. It is not what it appears to be. It is a lie!

 **2.** Truth is disappointing. Truth lets us down.

 ***D. Truth Attested 14***

**1.** *What you say is false…but he harkened not to him.*

**2.** No matter what truth says or what facts truth presents the world doesn’t want to hear.

 **3.** The hostile world already has its mind made up, because it doesn’t like what he says!

 ***E. Truth Assaulted 15***

**1.** In anger, they smote him and locked him up. They put Jeremiah in Jonathan’s

 house-prison. He was placed in his house-prison perhaps because there were too many

 political prisoners.

**2.** Truth causes angry and hostile feelings: Evolution/Creation Prolife/Abortion LBGTQ

 movement/those opposed Global Warming/Those opposed Freedom of speech until you

 disagree with a position.

1. Truth is attacked…maybe they can bully truth into submission.
2. Lock Truth up…Keep it away from people: Public Schools…Universities…the agenda is to take God out of society.
3. Truth is still true!!

What can you expect when you take a stand for truth in a hostile world?

**IV. TRUTH CONFINED 37:16-21**

*Dungeon* is literally, “*Cistern pit.”*

 ***A. Truth Advanced 17***

*Is there any Word from the Lord???*

**1.** Socialism, Secularism, Humanism, Materialism… leaves us empty.

 **2.** Truth cannot remain locked up because the human heart is full of questions.

 *There Is*

 **\*** Truth keeps saying the same thing.

 **\*** The message is always the same regardless of society. Truth can be diametrically opposed

 to what we believe or think to be true.

 ***B. Truth Asserted 18***

*What have I ever done that you locked me up??*

1. What has God’s word ever done but good?! I’m not talking about man’s religion.
2. When practiced crime goes down…marriages are solid… In 1948 the biggest problem in the public school: running in the hall, pushing at the water fountain, putting gum under your desk.

 ***C. Truth Affirmed 19***

**1.** The world is full of prophets telling lies. Where are they now?

 **2.** Every ‘truth’ will be tested. Some day it will be too late!!

 ***D. Truth Acknowledged 20,21*** Not Accepted

**1.** Some places are worse for truth than others. 20a

 **2.** Some would endeavor to have truth die. 20b

 **3.** Some acknowledge truth, but you can’t let it free. Someone may listen!

**To Die Without Truth Is To Perish!**

***“You shall know the Truth and the Truth shall set you free!”***