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*God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.*

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Various information and topics that help the reader of the Bible understand the apostles and the Lord Jesus Christ's teachings.

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## Jeremiah 22.

(2010).

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*Teach it, don't demand it.*

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## Jeremiah 22.

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The following is a brief overview of the main topics.  
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### Jeremiah goes to Zedekiah King of Judah.

Jeremiah 22:1-5 ----- <sup>1</sup>Thus says the LORD: "Go down to the house of the king of Judah (Zedekiah) and speak there this word, <sup>2</sup>and say, 'Hear the word of the LORD, O King of Judah, who sits on the throne of David, you, and your servants, and your people who enter these gates. <sup>3</sup>Thus says the LORD: Do justice and righteousness, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor him who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, nor shed innocent blood in this place. <sup>4</sup>For if you will indeed obey this word, then there shall enter the gates of this house kings who sit on the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, they and their servants and their people. <sup>5</sup>But if you will not obey these words, I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that this house shall become a desolation.

### Jeremiah is told to tell the king of Judah to: -

- Do justice and righteousness.
- Deliver those who have been robbed from the oppressor (probably by heavy taxes, and perverting justice to gain their land and houses).
- Do no wrong or violence to the strangers living amongst them or the fatherless, and the widows.
- Stop shedding innocent blood.

If Judah had obeyed these words of the LORD they would have had perpetual kings sitting on the throne of David in the city to Jerusalem, but alas rather than obey they continued in their corrupt ways and their land became a desolation for 70 years while they were held in captivity to Babylon.

### Judah is like Gilead and Lebanon to the LORD.

Jeremiah 22:6-7 ----- <sup>6</sup>For thus says the LORD concerning the house of the king of Judah: 'You are like Gilead to me, like the summit of Lebanon, yet surely I will make you a desert, an uninhabited city. <sup>7</sup>I will prepare destroyers against you, each with his weapons, and they shall cut down your choicest cedars and cast them into the fire.

**Gilead;** (Means rugged) the name was used to indicate Israel's possession of the Jordan River. Gilead was divided by a scenic gorge that ran into the Jordan River. The land was lush with goodly forests rich grazing, lands, and abundant moisture Gilead extended from the lower end of the Sea of Galilee to the northern end of the Dead Sea, and from the Jordan Eastward to the desert, a plateau of some 2,000 feet elevation. (Gilead is Jordan today).

**Lebanon;** is included in God's promise; it is a snowclad mountain range extending 100 miles with peaks reaching 10,200 above Sea Level. The melting snow creates great rivers including the Jordan River meandering through Palestine to the Dead Sea. Its isolated crags, supported watch towers and refuge-points and came to symbolize the exalted status of Judah's royal house. Writers of biblical poetry speak at length on the motion of Lebanon's famous Cedar trees, their massive branches, their fragrance and on their height as a symbol of dignity and pride and on their growth and resistance to decay as a symbol of endurance. The psalmists' speaks of the greatness of the Creator who both plants the cedars and shatters them by His voice. The Lebanon's were also famous for choice wine the lion and the leopard.

## Ever wondered How far we fall short of God's Glory and His Holiness?

Lebanon was not only famous for its cedar trees, but for the multitude of its animals, including the lion and the leopard, yet the LORD says, even all the blood of Lebanon's animals would not be enough for burnt offerings. There was only one blood type that had the right DNA to cleanse us and make us whiter than snow in the eyes of God and it was not in an animal but a man whose name was Jesus (Isaiah 40:16).

### The LORD says Judah is to Him like: -

- A great river with lush forests rich grazing, lands, and abundant moisture.
- A snowclad mountain range with peaks reaching far above Sea Level.
- Cedar trees, with massive branches, beautiful fragrance and enormous height.
- Choice wine, a lion and a leopard.

**But;** if Judah does not turn from their wickedness God will make Jerusalem a desert and cast down its kings, priests, officers and its inhabitants.

### Judah has forsaken the Covenant of the LORD.

Jeremiah 22:8-9 ----- <sup>8</sup>"And many nations will pass by this city, and every man will say to his neighbor, "Why has the LORD dealt thus with this great city?" <sup>9</sup>And they will answer, "Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD their God and worshiped other gods and served them."

The Covenant made between God and the people of Israel through Moses on Mount Sinai stated, if Israel faithfully obeyed the LORD their God and were careful to do all his commandments the LORD would set Israel high above all the nations of the earth and prosper everything they did (Deut 28:1-2), but, if Israel did not obey the voice of the LORD their God and be careful to do all his commandments the following curses would come upon them (Deut 28:15).

- A nation from far away whose language they did not understand would suddenly invade their land and their cities and besiege all their towns, until their high and fortified walls, in which they trusted, come down throughout all their land. (Deut 28:36, 49, 52).
- They will flee before their enemies. (Deut 28:25).
- Their dead bodies will be food for all birds and wild animals (Deut 28:26).
- Their enemy will eat all the fruit of their ground (Deut 28:33).
- They will eat their sons and daughters in the siege (Deut 28:53).
- They will become a byword among all the surrounding nations (Deut 28:37).
- Their sons and daughters will go into captivity (Deut 28:32, 41).
- They will serve their enemies (Deut. 28:48).
- They will be oppressed and crushed continually (Deut 28:33).
- They will borrow but not lend (Deut. 28:44).
- They will become the tail and not the head (Deut. 28:43-44).
- They will be scattered you among all nations (Deut 28:64).

All these curses would come upon Israel, if they did not obey the voice of the LORD their God, to keep his commandments and his statutes that he commanded

them and serve Him with joyfulness and gladness of heart, because of the abundance of all things.

**The LORD brought all these curses upon Israel;** when Babylon's cruel armies invaded the land of Judah and left the dead bodies of the people they had slaughtered lying on the surface of the earth for the birds and wild animals to eat. Those that survived fled to the surrounded nations to escape the sword of Babylon. Babylon's armies surrounded the walls of Jerusalem for approximately 1½ years so that no-one could go in or out to get food, during this time the soldiers lived off the fruit of Judah's land, while the inhabitants of Jerusalem ate their own children to survive the famine within the city walls. Eventually Babylon's armies entered Jerusalem and destroyed the city, pillaged the Temple of God and took the people captive for 70 years.

**Prior to the Babylonian invasion;** Israel had set their heart diamond hard against the LORD their God, His word and the prophets. They turned to idols pagan gods, Baal altars and worshipped the (so called) Queen of Heaven and the Sun, Moon and Stars they had set pagan altars in the Temple of God and were even sacrificing their own children to a god called Molech. Kings, the rich and those in authority cheated the innocent out of justice, and instead of helping the less fortunate seemed bent upon devising new means of depriving them of their property. Drunkenness, violence, robbery and gross sensuality permeated the land and those in business oppressed the poor to increase their own profits.

### **Weep not for the Dead.**

Jeremiah 22:10-12 --- <sup>10</sup>Weep not for him who is dead, (Jehoiakim) (v17-18) nor grieve for him, but weep bitterly for him who goes away, for he shall return no more to see his native land. <sup>11</sup>For thus says the LORD concerning Shallum the son of Josiah, king of Judah, who reigned instead of Josiah his father, and who went away from this place: "He shall return here no more, <sup>12</sup>but in the place where they have carried him captive, there shall he die, and he shall never see this land again."

Jeremiah is told to weep for Shallum only, because he will go into captivity, but not return from it (probably because he will die of old age before the 70 years of captivity are ended).

**Shallum;** means, recompense, he was a king of Judah (also known as Johahaz) and a son of Josiah.

**Josiah;** (means Jehovah supports him) (King of Judah) he had two sons Shallum (king of Judah) (Jer 22:11) and Jehoiakim (Jer 22:17-18). Josiah reigned for 31 years. His religious leadership ranks him with Jehoshaphat and Hezekiah as an outstanding religious ruler. Josiah's reign was the last surge of political independence and religious revival before the disintegration of the Southern Kingdom (the Two Tribes of Judah) which ended with the destruction of Jerusalem by Babylon in 586 B.C.

### **Jeremiah was Greatly Grieved at the Death of Shallum's Father Josiah.**

When Josiah king of Judah died and all Judah and Jerusalem were mourning over his death Jeremiah uttered a lament (an expression of grief and sorrow) for him, so it is most likely that Jeremiah also cared greatly about Josiah's son Shallum (2 Chron. 35:24-25).

### **Woe to those who Gain Wealth by Dishonesty.**

Jeremiah 22:13-16 --- <sup>13</sup>"Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness, and his upper rooms by injustice, who makes his neighbor serve him for nothing and does not give him his wages, <sup>14</sup>who says, 'I will build myself a great house with spacious upper rooms,' who cuts out windows for it, paneling it with cedar and painting it with vermilion. <sup>15</sup>Do you (Jehoiakim) (v17-18) think you are a king because you compete in cedar? Did not your father (Josiah) eat and drink and do justice and righteousness? Then it was well with him. <sup>16</sup>He (Josiah) judged the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well. Is not this to know me? declares the LORD.

**Vermilion;** is a bright red pigment made from mercuric sulphide, from Strong's Concordance it means a piercing or bright colour, in this context it is a symbol of spending excessive wealth on opulent homes and excessive possessions for ones own glory.

**The LORD says, Woe to those who: -**

- Build their homes by unrighteousness, and their investment properties by injustice, meaning by dishonesty, deception and lies.
- Use others for their own gain without paying them wages (or obscene wages).
- Spend excessive money on opulent possessions to exalt themselves and make them feel superior to others.

**Notice;** the LORD says, to know Him is to live our life in whatever career path God has given us and while pursuing it, to be just to others, do what is fair and right, and be caring for the poor and those that are less fortunate and not to know Him is to spend excessive amounts of money on opulent material possessions for the sole purpose of exalting ourselves to make us feel superior to others (Jeremiah 22:15-16).

Jeremiah 22:17-19 --- <sup>17</sup>But you (Jehoiakim) have eyes and heart only for your dishonest gain, for shedding innocent blood, and for practicing oppression and violence." <sup>18</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD concerning Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah: "They shall not lament for him (Jehoiakim), saying, 'Ah, my brother!' or 'Ah, sister!' They shall not lament for him, saying, 'Ah, lord!' or 'Ah, his majesty!' <sup>19</sup>With the burial of a donkey he (Jehoiakim) shall be buried, dragged and dumped beyond the gates of Jerusalem."

**Jehoiakim;** was the second son of Judah's godly king Josiah. The king of Egypt took Jehoiakim, (elder half-brother of Shallum), and made Jehoiakim king over Jerusalem. He was an oppressive and thoroughly godless king and died in disgrace, "buried with the burial of an ass" (v19) (see also Jer chapter 36).

**"Ah, my Brother!" "Ah, Sister!" "Ah, Lord!" or "Ah, his Majesty!"**

Means, "No-one is going to mourn over the death of Jehoiakim as they would morn over a brother or sister and no-one is going to speak good of him, but instead they will drag his dead body outside the walls of Jerusalem and dump it as they would a dead donkey, because his mind and heart was set upon dishonest gain, shedding innocent blood (probably to gain their houses and land), and for practicing oppression and violence" (v18-20). (These are all things the LORD hates).

**All Jehoiakim's lovers are Destroyed.**

Jeremiah 22:20 ----- <sup>20</sup>"Go up to Lebanon, and cry out, and lift up your voice in Bashan; cry out from Abarim, for all your lovers are destroyed.

Jeremiah tells Jehoiakim to morn for his lovers, Lebanon, Bashan and Abarim because they are destroyed.

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Writers of biblical poetry speak at length on the motion of Lebanon's famous Cedar trees, their massive branches, there fragrance and on their height as a symbol of dignity and pride and on their growth and resistance to decay as a symbol of endurance. The psalmists' speaks of the greatness of the Creator who both plants the cedars and shatters them by His voice. The Lebanon's were also famous for choice-wine the lion and the leopard. Babylon cut down the forest giants of Lebanon's cedar trees (Hab 2:17) (Isa 14:8).

## Isaiah makes an Amazing Statement Concerning Lebanon.

All the blood of Lebanon's animals is not enough to cleanse from Sin.

Ever wondered how far we all fall short of God's Glory and His Holiness? Lebanon was not only famous for its cedar trees, but for the multitude of its animals, including the lion and the leopard, yet the LORD says, even all the blood of Lebanon's animals would not be enough for burnt offerings. There was only one blood type that had the right DNA to cleanse us and make us whiter than snow in the eyes of God and it was not in an animal, but a man whose name was Jesus (Isaiah 40:16).

**Bashan;** was the broad, fertile region E of the Sea of Galilee in Samaria, celebrated for its cattle its breed of sheep and for its Oak Trees. The entire district was assigned to the half tribe of Manasseh (Ps 22:12) (Deut 32:14) (Isa 2:13) (Ezek 27:6).

**Abarim;** is a mountain range in Transjordan at the north end of the Dead Sea, Mount Nebo was part of the range.

## Jehoiakim would not listen to Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 22:21-23 --- <sup>21</sup>I (Jeremiah) spoke to you (Jehoiakim) (v18, 24) in your prosperity, but you said, 'I will not listen.' This has been your way from your youth, that you have not obeyed my voice. <sup>22</sup>The wind shall shepherd all your shepherds, and your lovers shall go into captivity; then you (Jehoiakim) will be ashamed and confounded because of all your evil. <sup>23</sup>O inhabitant (Jehoiakim) of Lebanon, nested among the cedars, how you (Jehoiakim) will be pitied when pangs come upon you, pain as of a woman in labor!"

## Jehoiakim Son Coniah.

Jeremiah 22:24 ----- <sup>24</sup>"As I live, declares the LORD, though Coniah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, were the signet ring on my right hand, yet I would tear you (Jehoiakim) off.

**The signet ring on my right hand;** mean a great and godly king who does what is right before God and for the people. These words of the LORD show how disgusted God was with the oppressive and thoroughly godless rule of Jehoiakim. Imagine how bad Jehoiakim must have been for the LORD to say to him, "even if his son was a ring on the LORD'S finger it would not stop Him from destroying Jehoiakim."

This shows how much God hates it when those in authority, especially religious leaders use their followers as merchandise to increase their own wealth, riches, fame and power.

## Jehoiakim will be taken into Babylon.

Jeremiah 22:25-27 ---- <sup>25</sup>and give you (Jehoiakim) into the hand of those who seek your life, into the hand of those of whom you are afraid, even into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon and into the hand of the Chaldeans. <sup>26</sup>I will hurl you (Jehoiakim) and the mother who bore you into another country, where you were not born, and there you shall die. <sup>27</sup>But to the land to which they will long to return, there they shall not return."

The LORD tells Jehoiakim that he with his mother and Coniah and his children will be taken into captivity to Babylon (v28).

## Jeremiah laments Coniah.

Jeremiah 22:28-29 -- <sup>28</sup>Is this man Coniah a despised, broken pot, a vessel no one cares for? Why are he and his children hurled and cast into a land that they do not know? <sup>29</sup>O land, land, land, hear the word of the LORD!

"O land, land, land, hear the word of the LORD!" Implies that the people of Judah are not listening to the word of the LORD that is coming to them through Jeremiah

Jeremiah asks, "Why are Coniah and his children cast into Babylon?" Then gives the answer, because Jehoiakim and the people of Judah would not listen to the word of God.

**Write Coniah Down as a Childless Man.**

Jeremiah 22:30 ----- <sup>30</sup>Thus says the LORD: "Write this man (Coniah) down as childless, a man who shall not succeed in his days, for none of his offspring shall succeed in sitting on the throne of David and ruling again in Judah."

**An Apparent Contradiction.**

The LORD tells Jeremiah to write Coniah down as childless, yet (v28) mentions his children. Coniah was a king of Judah, his sons should have inherited the throne, but they were taken into Babylonian captivity, it is in this sense that Coniah was to be written down as childless. It does not mean he had no children, but that not one of his sons sat on the throne of David. The whole purpose of a king having children was so that there would be a son to inherit the throne.

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End.