

The Direction of Our Lives

Jeremiah 50:2-6

5/25/03

Intro

- Memorial Day significance.
- Many people still in Iraq need our prayers.

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In these last chapters Jeremiah is reciting the prophecies against the various nations around Israel. In Chapter 50 he begins the prophecies against Babylon.

The Lord had called Babylon His servant in carrying out judgment against Israel, but Babylon had gone too far and was harsher on Israel than necessary and arrogant against the Lord.

But the focus of the verses we are studying today is Israel. God is telling Israel that He will draw them to Himself, but they need to set the direction of their lives toward the Lord.

And that is exactly what we need to do also, set the direction of our lives.

It is in setting the direction of our lives that we find the insights into how to live as victorious Christians.

I. Turn your life in God's direction

Illus – Reepicheep in Narnia

A. Because the world's idols will be shattered

Vs 2

- The world's system will all be destroyed
- It stands in opposition to the Lord

Illus – The Ark of the Covenant in the house of Dagon.

- Therefore it's not worth it to point our lives in the world's direction

B. Some come back weeping

- Some weep for joy, some weep for sorrow
- There is a sorrow that produces repentance without regret

II Corinthians 7:8- 10

- Those who sow in tears will reap with joy!

Psalm 126

C. But seek him with all your heart

- And your heart will be full in the seeking
- Keep seeking a deeper walk with God

Jeremiah 29: 11-14

Joel 2:12-13, “Yet even now,” declares the Lord, “return to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, weeping, and mourning; and rend your heart and not your garments.” Now return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious, and compassionate, slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness...

II. Be joined to the Lord

A. More than just believing

- Even the demons believe and tremble
- Relationship is meant in the word “joining”

B. Joined with an everlasting covenant

- A prophetic statement of the New Covenant mentioned in Jeremiah 31:31 ff
- It is a covenant that satisfies the soul

Isaiah 55:1-3

C. That will not be forgotten

- God takes a personal interest, because it's His covenant

Illus – After Elijah defeated the prophets of Baal, he thought he was the only one. But God had been working on the hearts of 7,000 others who would not bow the knee to Baal.

III. In God alone is rest

Vs 6

A. We were like lost sheep

- Looking for something, but not knowing the way

Isaiah 53:6, “All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.”

- In this there is no “rest”

Illus – heaven is a picture of rest

- In the Lord, you know you're home

B. There is also no rest in between

- there is turmoil when we try to find a home both on the world and in the Lord

C. Rest is in the Shepherd of our soul

- He Himself takes a personal interest in His sheep
- It is He who leads them to rest

Ezekiel 34: 4-6, 11-16

- The most famous of Psalms captured the heart of the Lord as a Shepherd of our soul

Psalm 23

Conclusion

If you find yourself wandering, may you decide today to set the direction of your life toward Him; and you will find rest for your soul.