***Jeremiah 27 Inthe beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying, 2“Thus says the Lord to me: ‘Make for yourselves bonds and yokes, and put them on your neck, 3and send them to the king of Edom, the king of Moab, the king of the Ammonites, the king of Tyre, and the king of Sidon, by the hand of the messengers who come to Jerusalem to Zedekiah king of Judah. 4And command them to say to their masters, “Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel—thus you shall say to your masters: 5‘I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are on the ground, by My great power and by My outstretched arm, and have given it to whom it seemed proper to Me. 6And now I have given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant; and the beasts of the field I have also given him to serve him. 7So all nations shall serve him and his son and his son’s son, until the time of his land comes; and then many nations and great kings shall make him serve them. 8And it shall be, that the nation and kingdom which will not serve Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, and which will not put its neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, that nation I will punish,’ says the Lord, ‘with the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, until I have consumed them by his hand. 9Therefore do not listen to your prophets, your diviners, your dreamers, your soothsayers, or your sorcerers, who speak to you, saying, “You shall not serve the king of Babylon.” 10For they prophesy a lie to you, to remove you far from your land; and I will drive you out, and you will perish. 11But the nations that bring their necks under the yoke of the king of Babylon and serve him, I will let them remain in their own land,’ says the Lord, ‘and they shall till it and dwell in it.’ 12I also spoke to Zedekiah king of Judah according to all these words, saying, “Bring your necks under the yoke of the king of Babylon, and serve him and his people, and live! 13Why will you die, you and your people, by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence, as the Lord has spoken against the nation that will not serve the king of Babylon? 14Therefore do not listen to the words of the prophets who speak to you, saying, ‘You shall not serve the king of Babylon,’ for they prophesy a lie to you; 15for I have not sent them,” says the Lord, “yet they prophesy a lie in My name, that I may drive you out, and that you may perish, you and the prophets who prophesy to you.” 16Also I spoke to the priests and to all this people, saying, “Thus says the Lord: ‘Do not listen to the words of your prophets who prophesy to you, saying, “Behold, the vessels of the Lord’s house will now shortly be brought back from Babylon”; for they prophesy a lie to you. 17Do not listen to them; serve the king of Babylon, and live! Why should this city be laid waste? 18But if they are prophets, and if the word of the Lord is with them, let them now make intercession to the Lord of hosts, that the vessels which are left in the house of the Lord, in the house of the king of Judah, and at Jerusalem, do not go to Babylon.’ 19“For thus says the Lord of hosts concerning the pillars, concerning the Sea, concerning the carts, and concerning the remainder of the vessels that remain in this city, 20which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon did not take, when he carried away captive Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, from Jerusalem to Babylon, and all the nobles of Judah and Jerusalem— 21yes, thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, concerning the vessels that remain in the house of the Lord, and in the house of the king of Judah and of Jerusalem: 22‘They shall be carried to Babylon, and there they shall be until the day that I visit them,’ says the Lord. ‘Then I will bring them up and restore them to this place.’***

We’re back with Jeremiah tonight, as he continues to prophesy, pleading with the people of Judah and Jerusalem to repent and turn back to God. He continues his warnings about the coming diaspora, the captivity, but most importantly, the people’s distance from God. Calling for repentance is less about avoiding the consequences of sin and much more about the separation sin causes from God. Consequences are painful, but sin is deadly.

Verse 1 -*Inthe beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying,* This prophecy came to Jeremiah in the time of Jehoiakim and was a future prophecy concerning a time during the reign of Zedekiah.

Verses 2-3*“Thus says the Lord to me: ‘Make for yourselves bonds and yokes, and put them on your neck, 3and send them to the king of Edom, the king of Moab, the king of the Ammonites, the king of Tyre, and the king of Sidon, by the hand of the messengers who come to Jerusalem to Zedekiah king of Judah.* Jeremiah is prophesying a future event using both actions and words. Recall in Jeremiah 13, we studied the ruined linen sash. He took the sash and buried it, demonstrating the ruin to come upon Jerusalem. Isaiah and Ezekiel also prophesied future events in this way. Jeremiah is instructed to make bonds and yokes and fasten them on your neck. This demonstrates the captivity to come for Judah and the other nations. He is to send them the very nations that God declared would be given into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar in Jeremiah 25. These yokes will go to future king Zedekiah during his reign as well.

Verses 4-5 *And command them to say to their masters, “Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel - thus you shall say to your masters: 5‘I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are on the ground, by My great power and by My outstretched arm, and have given it to whom it seemed proper to Me.* Jeremiah commands these messengers to declare in God’s Holy name to these heathen nations. God declares that He made the earth, the man and the beasts. This is an emphatic statement and, in Hebrew, carries a special emphasis that the Jewish people of that day would have clearly understood. **I** *have made the earth.* God is declaring His Truth as Creator and Ruler of all the material world.This establishes His authority over all creation.

Verse 6 - *And now I have given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant; and the beasts of the field I have also given him to serve him.*As sole and sovereign Owner of this world, God has the right to give kingdoms and take them away. Daniel 2:21 *And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings.* God sets the boundaries of seasons. He raises up and casts down. The king of Babylon will be His instrument to execute His judgement. In verse 5, God acknowledges He made man and beast. Here, He gives, by His authority, what He created into the hand of the king of Babylon.

Verses 7-8 *So all nations shall serve him and his son and his son’s son, until the time of his land comes; and then many nations and great kings shall make him serve them. 8And it shall be, that the nation and kingdom which will not serve Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, and which will not put its neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, that nation I will punish,’ says the Lord, ‘with the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, until I have consumed them by his hand.* Nebuchadnezzar was king. His son, Evil-Merodach was next. Belshazzar was last. Daniel saw all three. Belshazzar was the king that saw the finger writing on the wall. Then, the tables turn. The Medes and Persians, a kingdom made up of many nations and kings, will conquer Babylon. The nations that refuse the yoke of Babylon and Nebuchadnezzar will be punished. Sword, famine, pestilence will consume them and bring them to ruin.

Verses 9-11 *Therefore do not listen to your prophets, your diviners, your dreamers, your soothsayers, or your sorcerers, who speak to you, saying, “You shall not serve the king of Babylon.” 10For they prophesy a lie to you, to remove you far from your land; and I will drive you out, and you will perish. 11But the nations that bring their necks under the yoke of the king of Babylon and serve him, I will let them remain in their own land,’ says the Lord, ‘and they shall till it and dwell in it.’* Heathen nations had false prophets just like the Jewish people. They too had diviners and dreamers, and soothsayers and sorcerers. They, like the false prophets of the Jews, lied and flattered to please their audience. They assured everyone that their nation would not be conquered by Babylon. Jeremiah prophesies that this will be their undoing and lead to destruction. Nebuchadnezzar will deal cruelly and remove them from their land. But, the nations that yield to Babylon will be dealt with less harshly. They will become vassal states to Babylon. Secular history demonstrates that this is exactly how Nebuchadnezzar dealt with subject nations.

Verses 12-13 *I also spoke to Zedekiah king of Judah according to all these words, saying, “Bring your necks under the yoke of the king of Babylon, and serve him and his people, and live! 13Why will you die, you and your people, by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence, as the Lord has spoken against the nation that will not serve the king of Babylon?* Jeremiah now envisions a future conversation with Zedekiah, who will be made king by Nebuchadnezzar, and will take an oath to serve Babylon faithfully as a vassal state. We know that he will break this vow in 587 BC and that will lead to the destruction of Jerusalem.

Verse 14 - *Therefore do not listen to the words of the prophets who speak to you, saying, ‘You shall not serve the king of Babylon,’ for they prophesy a lie to you.* Throughout Jewish history, false prophets lied to the kings. The kings had itching ears and wanted to hear what they wanted to hear. Jeremiah succeeds initially at convincing Zedekiah to submit to Babylon, but later Zedekiah will listen to the false prophets and rebel. Jeremiah finishes with a clear statement – **they prophesy a lie to you**. Doesn’t get much clearer than that. Likewise, today, we hear lies and we must know the word of God to combat the lies being told. Jesus is the only way.

Verse 15*for I have not sent them,” says the Lord, “yet they prophesy a lie in My name, that I may drive you out, and that you may perish, you and the prophets who prophesy to you.”*

God now reconfirms, “I have not sent these lying prophets!” Like in Jeremiah 23, God makes it clear that He has not given them this oracle. They have no authority to speak. This is leading to the ruin of the nations, whether that is the intention of the lies or not. As a result, God will drive the people out and they will perish in a country not their own. Not only will the people perish there, but the prophets will perish there as well.

Verses 16-18 *Also I spoke to the priests and to all this people, saying, “Thus says the Lord: ‘Do not listen to the words of your prophets who prophesy to you, saying, “Behold, the vessels of the Lord’s house will now shortly be brought back from Babylon”; for they prophesy a lie to you. 17Do not listen to them; serve the king of Babylon, and live! Why should this city be laid waste? 18But if they are prophets, and if the word of the Lord is with them, let them now make intercession to the Lord of hosts, that the vessels which are left in the house of the Lord, in the house of the king of Judah, and at Jerusalem, do not go to Babylon.’* Jeremiah, being a true and faithful servant, spoke to all alike. He spoke to priests and common people, warning them to beware false prophets. Do not listen to those who say that the vessels, taken during the first Babylonian siege, will be brought back. Hearken not! Be content to serve the king of Babylon, Why should this city be destroyed? Follow God’s plan and remain in your homes and serve the Chaldeans. If these prophets are true prophets of God, let them apply themselves to prayer for the remaining vessels in the Temple and the kings house and all around Judah and Jerusalem, to prevent further destruction and the rest of the vessels being carried away. Let them intercede on behalf of the people and cry out for God to return to the nation.

Verses 19-22 *“For thus says the Lord of hosts concerning the pillars, concerning the Sea, concerning the carts, and concerning the remainder of the vessels that remain in this city, 20which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon did not take, when he carried away captive Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, from Jerusalem to Babylon, and all the nobles of Judah and Jerusalem— 21yes, thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, concerning the vessels that remain in the house of the Lord, and in the house of the king of Judah and of Jerusalem: 22‘They shall be carried to Babylon, and there they shall be until the day that I visit them,’ says the Lord. ‘Then I will bring them up and restore them to this place.’* We’re now given a list of the parts of the Temple and the vessels. We can find these in 1 Kings 7. Nebuchadnezzar did not take everything the first time, but he will the next time. He also carried away kings and nobles and others, including Daniel, Meshach, Shadrack, and Abednego. Jeremiah now confirms that God will take the remaining vessels away and they shall be carried to Babylon, as were the first. 2 Kings 25 and 2 Chronicles 36 give us the fulfillment of this prophecy. Daniel 5 confirms that these vessels remained in Babylon throughout captivity. Recall that Belshazzar brought them out to drink wine from just before the Medo-Persian empire breached the walls and conquered Babylon. Jeremiah confirms that the vessels and the people will remain until God delivers the people from the 70 years of captivity. *Then I will bring them up and restore them*. Ezra 1 recounts the fulfillment of this prophecy. Scripture confirms scripture. God promises and we can study the fulfillment of His promises.

And so, we leave Jeremiah tonight. Scripture does indeed confirm scripture. God said it and it will not return void, but all will be accomplished. Likewise, today, we have promises that we are expectantly waiting on – the return of Jesus. We can be confident – as Jeremiah prophesied and all was fulfilled, so too will be the fulfillment of all prophecy concerning Christ’s return. Let’s believe the Bible and trust those that speak it, while keeping great distance from the world spewing lies and seeking to lead us away. May our eyes remain ever fixed upon Jesus.