Thursology 115: God's Absurd Command: *EMBRACE* the Exile…So I Can *SAVE* You*!!!*
(Lukewarm, End-Times Church-Pt 7)
(*Thursology Live!* 9/5/2024)

--The pattern of God's "Prophetic Word" to His people…when they're lukewarm

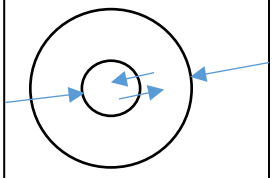
--Prophetic Word #9: "When God's people have intermingled...the VICTORIES that *you* once had over *your enemies*…now become the VICTORIES that *they* have over *you!!!*"

--Prophetic Word #11: "ACCEPT the *punishment* and the *exile* that are coming…because they're *part* of GOD'S ultimate PLAN*!!!*"

--A clear…but very unlikely…biblical precept: When it comes to the point where God can no longer use His PEOPLE to save His WORLD…then He uses His WORLD to save His PEOPLE*!!!*

How God Saves

God's people: When they're FAITHFUL… they SAVE the *world* through the uncompromising GOSPEL*!!!*



The world: The way God SAVES His church when they're WORSE than the world…is through persecution, abuse, and hatred. Then the church is PURGED through *repentance*…and REVIVAL comes…and once again…the church becomes *righteous*, *powerful*, and REDEMPTIVE*!!!*

--**Prophetic Word #12**: Even if you're *exiled*…do not _____…because _____ authorities ultimately serve *God*…whether they _____ to or not.

--Jeremiah 25:9; 27:6: "…*I* will send to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, *My servant*, and will bring them against this land and against its inhabitants…Now *I* have given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, *My servant*."

--Key Concept #1: The *evil* king…who _____ God's people…was *unintentionally* acting as God's _____*!!!*

--Key Concept #2: It wasn't God's _____ that led to Babylon *conquering* His people…it was actually His _____*!!!*

--Key Concept #3: God is *so powerful* that He can even use an *evil* king's _____…for His _____ purposes*!!!*

--Jeremiah 27:8-10; 14-15 (excerpts): "It will be, that the nation…which will not serve him, Nebuchadnezzar…*I* will punish that nation with the sword, with famine and with pestilence," declares the Lord, "until I have destroyed it by *his* hand. But as for you, *do not listen to your prophets, your diviners, your dreamers, your soothsayers or your sorcerers* who speak to you, saying, 'You will *not* serve the king of Babylon.' For *they prophesy a lie to you*…So *do not listen to the words of the prophets*…for I have not sent them," declares the Lord, "but *they prophesy falsely in My name*…"

--The values that have become *insignificant* to the typical person who claims to follow Christ: Radical obedience to God, stewardship, loyalty, submission, accountability, discipline, biblical knowledge, doctrinal purity, holiness, patience, confession of sin, repentance.

--Barna's conclusion: "One of the main reasons Christians have failed to transform our culture is because we're neither grieved nor humbled by our sin…In the last 30 years, evangelical Christians have become the dominant expression of Christian faith in the country and have lost their souls in the process…Today in the church, faith begins with personal felt-needs and ends with convenience and simplicity."

--**Prophetic Word #13**: "When you've been _____…make sure you don't try to take a _____…because you'll miss God's *perfect* plan for _____*!!!*"

--Prophetic Word #4: "I've *turned* My people *over* to their own *devices*!!!"

--Prophetic Word #5: "Stop *praying* for My people…stop *interceding* for them…I do not *hear* you anymore!!!"

--Prophetic Word #6: "Thus says the Lord…go ahead and *worship* your *idols*!!!"

--Prophetic Word #8: "My *people* have become even *more* wicked than the *world*!!!"

--A really strange word from the true prophet: Not only does God _____ His people exiled…He even wants them to _____ their *exile*!!!

--Jeremiah 29:1; 4-7: Now these are the words of the letter which Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the rest of the elders of the exile, the priests, the prophets and all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon…"Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, *to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile* from Jerusalem to Babylon, 'Build houses and live in them; and plant gardens and eat their produce. Take wives and become the fathers of sons and daughters, and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters; and multiply there and do not decrease. *Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf; for in its welfare you will have welfare*.'

--The essence of God's commands to His people:

--Command #1: _____ your *judgment*!!!

--Command #2: _____ with your *oppressors*!!!

--Command #3: Seek the _____ of your *persecutors*!!!

--Key Concept: If you really *trust* Me…you'll _____ your *punishment*…because you've finally come to the point where you *acknowledge* and _____ your sin.

--Jeremiah 28:1-4, 10-17: "…in the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah…Hananiah…spoke to me in the house of the Lord in the presence of the priests and all the people, saying, "Thus says the…God of Israel, 'I have *broken the yoke* of the king of Babylon. Within two years I am going to bring back to this place all the vessels of the Lord's house, which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon took away from this place and carried to Babylon. I am also going to bring back to this place *all the exiles of Judah who went to Babylon*,' declares the Lord, 'for I will *break the yoke* of the king of Babylon.'"…Then Hananiah the prophet took the yoke from the neck of Jeremiah the prophet and broke it. Hananiah spoke in the presence of all the people, saying, "Thus says the Lord, 'Even so will I break *within two full years* the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon from the neck of all the nations.'" Then…the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah after Hananiah the prophet had broken the yoke from off the neck of the prophet Jeremiah, saying, "Go and speak to Hananiah, saying, 'Thus says the Lord, "You have broken the yokes of wood, but you have made instead of them yokes of iron." For thus says…the God of Israel, "*I have put a yoke of iron on the neck of all these nations, that they may serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; and they will serve him*…"'" Then Jeremiah the prophet said…"Listen now, Hananiah, the Lord has not sent you, and you have made this people trust in a lie. Therefore, thus says the Lord, 'Behold, I am about to remove you from the face of the earth. This year you are going to die, because you have counseled rebellion against the Lord.'" So Hananiah the prophet died in the same year…"

--Key Concept #1: Prophesying words of _____…when what's coming is *punishment* and *exile*…is a most serious _____ against God…and His people.

--Key Concept #2: When God's people have *intermingled* with the world…be very _____ of would-be "prophets"…who continue to say, "Everything is gonna be _____*!*"

--Application: The _____ length of the Exile may be directly _____ to the American church*!!!*

--Jeremiah 28:15-16: Then Jeremiah the prophet said…"Listen now, Hananiah, the Lord has not sent you, and you have made this people trust in a lie. Therefore, thus says the Lord, 'Behold, I am about to remove you from the face of the earth. This year you are going to die, because you have counseled rebellion against the Lord.'"

--Key Question: *Why* did the Exile need to be *really long*?

--Reason #1: Salvation can only come through God's _____…and…this *only* occurs in the _____ of _____*!!!*

--Reason #2: God's people who have repeatedly lived in _____…can *only* be _____…through *true, deep, whole-hearted, pervasive* _____*!!!*

--Reason #3: *Punishment* and *persecution* that lasted less than several _____…would have been _____*!!!*

--Ezra 9:1-6; 10; 13: "…the princes approached me, saying, "The people of Israel and the priests and the Levites have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands, according to their abominations…For they have taken some of their daughters as wives for themselves and for their sons, so that *the holy race has intermingled with the peoples of the lands*…When I heard about this matter, *I tore my garment and my robe, and pulled some of the hair from my head and my beard, and sat down appalled*. Then everyone who trembled at the words of the God of Israel on account of the unfaithfulness of the exiles gathered to me, and *I sat appalled until the evening offering*. But at the evening offering I arose from my humiliation…and *I fell on my knees and stretched out my hands* to the Lord my God; and I said, "O my God, *I am ashamed and embarrassed* to lift up my face to You, my God, for *our iniquities have risen above our heads and our guilt has grown even to the heavens*…"Now, our God, what shall we say after this? For *we have forsaken Your commandments*…After all that has come upon us for *our evil deeds and our great guilt*…You our God have requited us *less* than our iniquities *deserve*…"

--**Prophetic Word #14**: "The reason I send My people through *exile* and *punishment* and *persecution* is because I _____ them so much…and I still have a *plan* to _____ them*!!!*"

--Jeremiah 29:8-9: For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, 'Do not let your prophets who are in your midst and your diviners deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams which they dream. For they prophesy falsely to you in My name; I have not sent them,' declares the Lord.

--Jeremiah 29:10-14: "For thus says the Lord, 'When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and *fulfill My good word to you*, *to bring you back* to this place. For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the Lord, '*plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope*. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and *I will listen to you*. You will *seek Me* and *find Me* when you *search* for Me *with all your heart*. I will be found by you,' declares the Lord, 'and *I will restore your fortunes* and will *gather you from all the nations* and from all the places where I have driven you,' declares the Lord, 'and *I will bring you back* to the place from where I sent you into exile.'

--Three great biblical principles:

--Principle #1: While God is in *absolute control*…and He could _____ His people to *obey* Him by *sheer power*…He _____ does*!!!*

--Principle #2: In His *power*…perfectly mixed with *love*…God _____ His people so that they have the opportunity to _____ return to Him by their own _____…after their suffering reveals the hopelessness…and futility…of going their own way.

--Principle #3: Even God's *punishment*…and *judgment*…have the _____ of bringing people to His _____ grace!!!

--A remarkable twist: Ironically…the Exile wasn't a *victory* for _____…it was actually a *victory* for _____*!!!*

--The real story of the Exile: Our God is in complete _____…our God has a perfect _____…and our God is absolutely intent on _____ His people*!!!*

Thursology 114: Coming Soon—The Exile of the American Church*!!!*
(Lukewarm, End-Times Church-Pt 6)
(*Thursology Live!* 8/1/2024)

--The pattern of God's "Prophetic Word" to the lukewarm, Laodicean church

--Prophetic Word #9: "When My people have intermingled...the VICTORIES that *you* once had over *your enemies*…now become the VICTORIES that *they* have over *you!!!*"

--Prophetic Word #10: "When you *trust* in the powers of the *world*…your worldly ALLIANCES will always FAIL you*!!!*"

--A recurrent error among God's people when they become lukewarm: They place their hope in partnerships with **POLITICAL** alliances…human **GOVERNMENT**…and worldly **POWER***!!!*

--The likely opinion of the biblical Prophets about our day: If Jeremiah and Ezekiel and Isaiah were here…they would likely pronounce that the **SEDUCTION** of the American *church* with **WORLDLY** power…is nearly **COMPLETE***!!!*

--What the Babylonian Exile has to say about what will soon happen to the American Church:

--A VERY reasonable assumption: *If* there are parallels between National Israel and America…then the **PRECEPTS**…and the **PREDICTIONS**…that the Prophets spoke to Israel…are **DIRECTLY** relevant to *us!!!*

--**Prophetic Word #11**: "**ACCEPT** the *punishment* and the *exile* of God's people that are coming…because they're *part* of **HIS** ultimate **PLAN***!!!*"

--II Chron 36:5-10: Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem; and *he did evil* in the sight of the Lord his God. *Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon* came up against him and bound him with bronze chains *to take him to Babylon*. Nebuchadnezzar also brought some of the articles of the house of the Lord to Babylon and put them in his temple at Babylon. Now the rest of the acts of Jehoiakim and the abominations which he did, and what was found against him, behold, they are written in the Book of the Kings of Israel and Judah. And Jehoiachin his son became king in his place. Jehoiachin was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned three months and ten days in Jerusalem, and *he did evil* in the sight of the Lord. At the turn of the year King Nebuchadnezzar sent and *brought him to Babylon* with the valuable articles of the house of the Lord, and he made his kinsman Zedekiah king over Judah and Jerusalem.

--Vv. 11-13: Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. He did evil in the sight of the Lord his God; he *did not humble himself before Jeremiah the prophet* who spoke for the Lord. He also *rebelled against King Nebuchadnezzar* who had made him swear allegiance by God. But he stiffened his neck *and hardened his heart against turning to the Lord God of Israel*.

--Vv. 17-21: Therefore *He brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans* who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young man or virgin, old man or infirm; *He gave them all into his hand*. All the articles of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king and of his officers, he brought them all to Babylon. Then they burned the house of God and broke down the wall of Jerusalem, and burned all its fortified buildings with fire and destroyed all its valuable articles. And those who had escaped from the sword he *carried away to Babylon*; and they were servants to him and to his sons until the rule of the kingdom of Persia, *to fulfill the word of the Lord*…

--"…**HE** brought up ***against*** them the king of the Chaldeans…"
--"…**HE** gave them ***all*** into Nebuchadnezzar's hand.
--"…and they were **SERVANTS** to Nebuchadnezzar…until the rule of the kingdom of Persia, to **FULFILL** the word of the ***Lord***…"

--Jeremiah 21:1-2: The *word* came to Jeremiah *from the Lord* when King Zedekiah sent…Zephaniah the priest…saying, "*Please inquire of the Lord on our behalf*, for Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon is warring against us; perhaps the Lord will deal with us according to all His wonderful acts, so that the enemy will withdraw from us."

--Jeremiah 21:3-7: Then Jeremiah said to them, "You shall say to Zedekiah, 'Thus says the Lord God of Israel, "Behold, *I am about to turn back the weapons of war which are in your hands, with which you are warring against the king of Babylon* and the Chaldeans who are besieging you outside the wall; and I will gather them into the center of this city. *I Myself will war against you* with an outstretched hand and a mighty arm…"Then afterwards," declares the Lord, "*I will give over Zedekiah king of Judah* and his servants and the people…*into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar* king of Babylon…"

--Jeremiah 21:8-9: "You shall also say to this people, 'Thus says the Lord, "Behold, I set before you the way of life and the way of death. He who *dwells in this city will die* by the sword and by famine and by pestilence; *but he who goes out…to the Chaldeans who are besieging you will live*..."

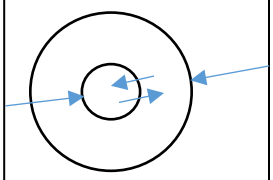
--Application: The EXILE of the church in America may not just be SOCIETY'S plan…it may be GOD'S plan as well

--A likely outcome in America: It appears that we're headed directly into "the **EXILE** of the **CHURCH**" in our society*!!!*

--A clear…but very unlikely…biblical precept: When it comes to the point where God can no longer use His **PEOPLE** to save His **WORLD**…then He uses His **WORLD** to save His **PEOPLE***!!!*

How God Saves

God's people: When they're **FAITHFUL**… they **SAVE** the *world* through the uncompromising **GOSPEL***!!!*



The world: The way God **SAVES** His church when they're **WORSE** than the world…is through persecution, abuse, and hatred. Then the church is **PURGED** through *repentance*…and **REVIVAL** comes…and once again…the church becomes *righteous*, *powerful*, and **REDEMPTIVE***!!!*

--Jeremiah 24:1-8: After Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had *carried away captive* Jeconiah …king of Judah, and the officials of Judah…from Jerusalem and had *brought them to Babylon*, the Lord showed me: behold, two baskets of figs set before the temple of the Lord! One basket had very good figs…and the other basket had very bad figs. Then the Lord said to me, "What do you see, Jeremiah?" And I said, "Figs, the good figs, very good; and the bad figs, very bad, which cannot be eaten due to rottenness." Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying, "Thus says the Lord God of Israel, 'Like these good figs, so *I will regard as good the captives of Judah, whom I have sent out of this place into the land of the Chaldeans*. For I will set My eyes on them *for good*, and I will bring them again to this land; and I will build them up and not overthrow them…*I will give them a heart to know Me…and they will be My people, and I will be their God, for they will return to Me with their whole heart*. 'But like the bad figs which cannot be eaten due to rottenness—indeed, thus says the Lord—so I will abandon Zedekiah king of Judah and his officials, and the remnant of Jerusalem *who remain in this land*…"

--Key Concept #1: When God can no longer save His people through *mercy* and *truth*…He will save them through **HARDSHIP** and **EXILE***!!!*

--Key Concept #2: God didn't want His people to *fight against* being **EXILED**…because **EXILE** was actually His **SALVATION** plan*!!!*

--A great paradox: In the *comfort* of God's *blessings*…they became **LOST**…and in the *pain* of *exile*…they were **SAVED***!!!*

--Key Concept #3: Those who fought **AGAINST** being *exiled* by worldly powers…even though these powers were evil…*weren't* fighting **FOR** God…but **AGAINST** Him*!!!*

--**Prophetic Word #12**: "Even if you're **EXILED**…do not **DESPAIR**…because even **WORLDLY** authorities ultimately serve **GOD**…whether they **INTEND** to or not*!!!*"