

Be Not Dismayed

Philippians 1:21-2:2

1

Jeremiah came in the worst days of Judah's history

- ▶ Corruption was everywhere
 - ▶ Jeremiah 6:13-15 – “Everyone deals falsely”
- ▶ Jeremiah was told from his youth to preach the truth
 - ▶ Jeremiah 1:4-8 – “... whatever I command you”

2

Jeremiah came in the worst days of Judah's history

- ▶ But that didn't make it easy. Jeremiah was opposed most of his life
 - ▶ After a prophecy in the temple
 - ▶ Jeremiah 19:14-20:2 – “...put him in the stocks ...”
 - ▶ And Jeremiah condemned him on his release
 - ▶ Jeremiah 20:3, 6 – “... shall go into captivity”
 - ▶ While he showed a strong front, it tore him to his soul
 - ▶ Jeremiah 20:7-18 – “... consumed with shame”
 - ▶ He knew God would win and be vindicated; yet, he still suffered

3

Stand firm, in one spirit and one mind

- ▶ Unity in our attitude and teaching
- ▶ Do not fear what you will suffer
 - ▶ Revelation 2:10 – “Be faithful until death”
- ▶ Rejoice when persecuted
 - ▶ Matthew 5:10-12 – “... great is your reward in heaven”

4

In no way alarmed by your opponents

- ▶ Joshua told to follow God and don't be afraid
 - ▶ Joshua 1:5-9 – “Be strong and of good courage”
- ▶ Enemies in the ranks of God's people
 - ▶ Do not fear the reproach of men
 - ▶ Isaiah 51:7 – “Nor be afraid of their insults”
 - ▶ A face like flint
 - ▶ Isaiah 50:6-7 – “I know that I will not be ashamed”
 - ▶ Ezekiel told to be tough
 - ▶ Ezekiel 3:4-9 – “do not be afraid of them”

5

In no way alarmed by your opponents

- ▶ Fear God instead of men
 - ▶ Matthew 10:28 – “... do not fear those who kill the body ...”
- ▶ No timidity or shame
 - ▶ II Timothy 1:7-8 – “... God has not given us a spirit of fear”
- ▶ Do not be surprised at the ordeal or be ashamed
 - ▶ I Peter 4:12-16 – “for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you”

6

A sign of destruction for them

- ▶ Intimidation boomerangs when the victims are unbound
 - ▶ Consider the effect of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego on Nebuchadnezzar
 - ▶ Daniel 3:16-19 – “Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury”
 - ▶ Their boldness was a slap in Nebuchadnezzar’s face

7

A sign of destruction for them

- ▶ Persecution is an indication of God's righteous judgment
 - ▶ II Thessalonians 1:5 – “which is manifest evidence”
- ▶ Putting the persecutors to shame
 - ▶ I Peter 3:13-16 – “those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed”

8

A sign of salvation for you

- ▶ A privilege to suffer for Christ
 - ▶ Philippians 1:29 – “... it has been granted on behalf of Christ”
- ▶ Rejoicing after scourging. Worthy to suffer for Christ
 - ▶ Acts 5:40-42 – “rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer ...”
- ▶ If we suffer with Him, we will be glorified with Him
 - ▶ Romans 8:17 – “that we may also be glorified together”

9

A sign from God

- ▶ God rescues
 - ▶ Psalms 68:19-20 – “escapes from death”
- ▶ God comforts us. Why be afraid of men?
 - ▶ Isaiah 51:12 – “I, even I, am He who comforts you”
- ▶ God values you, so do not be afraid
 - ▶ Luke 12:4-7 – “you are of more value ...”
- ▶ God is my helper. I will not fear
 - ▶ Hebrews 13:6 – “What can man do to me?”
- ▶ I will trust God
 - ▶ Isaiah 12:2 – “He also has become my salvation”

10

The righteous contends with the wicked

- ▶ Proverbs 28:4 – “Those who forsake the law praise the wicked, But such as keep the law contend with them.”
 - ▶ Not denying the Savior
 - ▶ Matthew 10:32-33 – “Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.”
 - ▶ Not ashamed of the gospel
 - ▶ Romans 1:16 – “for it is the power of God to salvation ...”

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