



Jeff Sweeten

Thus Saith the Lord

A DIFFICULT YEAR

By Jeff Sweeten

It is hard to imagine the horrors of war. It is particularly shocking to those who constitute collateral damage. It was an unpleasant task for Jeremiah to explain, by God's inspired direction, just exactly how terrible it would be when Nebuchadnezzar would come down upon Jerusalem like a ton of bricks; and all of this tragedy because of their disobedience to God as a people. Nevertheless, the Weeping Prophet was sufficiently graphic.

"And I will cause them to eat the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their daughters, and everyone shall eat the flesh of his friend in the siege and in the desperation with which their enemies and those who seek their lives shall drive them to despair" (Jeremiah 19:9).

How bad would it have to be to cannibalize your own flesh and blood? Yet, such was the situation with Jerusalem, not once, but twice: during the conquest of Nebuchadnezzar and, again, during the AD 70 siege of Jerusalem by the Roman general, Titus. It was pure pragmatics that compelled Titus to kill the armed and the aged and to leave the dead unburied; there were just too many of them. In both cases, the horror was a direct result of a people abandoning God.

The wise man of Israel stated: **"Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people"** (Proverbs 14:34). This truth has lost none of its import. When judging a nation, one must use God's truths as the metric and the closer a people comes to God, the greater the blessings. The opposite is just as valid.

As we progress through what will certainly be a very difficult year, these kinds of biblical facts weigh heavily on a thinking person's outlook concerning our country. Sermons are preached constantly and regularly that people should learn from their mistakes and endure the consequences of their poor decisions patiently. The state of the union, the condition of our country and the anxiety most exhibit when looking to our future is directly related to a moral climate wherein lying is the standard operating procedure, perversion has become an accepted norm and the complete devaluing of life has relegated human beings to nothing more than evolved cockroaches. If one paid politicians cash for the truth, they'd lie on credit. A homosexual cannot reproduce, he must recruit; and our culture's apathetic toleration allows this abomination to spread like a cancer. A militantly godless minority, who grossly misconstrues the "separation of church and state," has managed to destroy what was once one nation under God. And, many continue to sit and ring their hands, whining: "What can we do?"

If this country is to endure, there must be an admission of failure in pursuing the Divine, a confession of lost love for the Lord and a return to the declarations of Deity for solutions to these social sicknesses. Until then, we teeter on the brink of woe.

Thus Saith the Lord
is presented by the

Park Heights Church of Christ

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Hamilton
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Schedule of Services

SUNDAY

9:30 a.m. Bible Class
10:25 a.m. Morning Worship
1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship

WEDNESDAY

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

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