

MEN'S MINISTRY NEWSLETTER

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH OF BUENA PARK

EDITION 186

MARCH 2010

Jeremiah, the prophet of the broken heart, is the writer of the book we're going to take a closer look at this month. God chose this man to deliver a harsh message of judgment. The message of Jeremiah was the most unwelcome message and it was rejected by the people. He was called a traitor to his country because he said they were to yield to their enemy Babylon. Characterizing his message is the word backsliding, which occurs 13 times. Jeremiah's prophetic ministry began in 626 B.C. and ended sometime after 586. Most of the prophets almost hide themselves and maintain a character of anonymity because they do not project themselves on the pages of their prophecy. But Jeremiah is a prophet whose prophecy is largely autobiographical. Let's consider the following:

He was born a priest in Anathoth, a town just north of Jerusalem.

He was chosen to be a prophet before he was born.

He was called to his ministry while he was very young.

He was commissioned of God to be a prophet.

He was forbidden to marry because of the terrible times.

He never made a convert; he was rejected by his people, hated, beaten, put in stocks, imprisoned, and charged with being a traitor.

His message broke his heart.

He wanted to resign but God wouldn't let him.

He saw the destruction of Jerusalem and the Babylonian captivity.

He was permitted to remain in the land by the captain of the Babylonian forces. When the remnant wanted to flee to Egypt, Jeremiah prophesied against it; he was forced to go with the remnant and died in Egypt.

Jeremiah is the longest book in the Bible, containing more words than any other book. His message illumined the distant as well as the near horizon. It was false prophets who proclaimed peace to a rebellious nation, as though the God of Israel's peace was indifferent to her unfaithfulness. God's judgment on his people, though terrible, was not to be the last word. Mercy and covenant faithfulness would eventually triumph over wrath. Beyond judgment there would come restoration and renewal. Israel would be restored and the nations that crushed her would be crushed.

Perhaps we are living at a time similar in many ways to the people Jeremiah was speaking to. Our nation is great and we have accomplished many things. Although we are strong, within is the same corruption which will eventually carry us down to disaster. This message is not at all popular in the USA so we don't often hear it through the media. Instead, we have leaders and panels of so called "experts" who discuss how we are going to improve society. Today God is left out of the picture.

BIBLE QUIZ

Can you name another book of the Bible that ancient Jewish and Christian tradition also ascribes to Jeremiah?

A LITTLE HUMOR

Excuses for not attending church are similar to “Reasons why I never wash”. I was forced to as a child. There are so many kinds of soap that I can’t decide which one is best. I wash only on special occasions like Christmas & Easter. None of my friends wash. I’ll start washing when I get older and dirtier. I can’t spare the time. I don’t believe in soap; I sat beside a whole case once and nothing happened. Washing is for people much dirtier than I am. I know someone who washes everyday and still smells.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES AT CCC

March 5th is the WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

March 7th is the start of Easter Choir Rehearsals right after 2nd Service

March 18 is Sociable Seniors (Thursday at 1:00 PM)

Sunday morning at 9:00 is the Education Discipleship Hour

Wednesday evenings at 6:30 is Kid’s Club & Midweek Lifter; come at 6:00 for dinner.

The CCC website is the perfect source for the latest information about our church and the various activities taking place each day.

Reminder: The Monthly Men’s Ministry Newsletter is also on the website

PRAYER LIST

PASTOR DOUG & THE CCC STAFF

OUTREACH TO OUR COMMUNITY

PERSONAL GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT IN OUR WALK WITH GOD

CARE MINISTRY TEAM

OUR PROGRAMS FOR THE YOUTH

IMPROVED ATTENDANCE & SUPPORT

DAILY PRAYER TIME

EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS IN HAITI & CHILE

THOSE FACING SURGERY OR GOING THROUGH REHAB

FOR OUR SHUT-INS

FOR THOSE FACING FINANCIAL STRUGGLES

RON ANDERSON, EDITOR