



Zedekiah: A People Pleaser who Paid the Price

Lesson 22

And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. – Matthew 10:28

The fear of man has cost many their soul, too afraid of what people thought to accept Christ. It has cost others eternal rewards as they failed to do what God has called them to lest they offend someone or lose popularity. We must live for the approval of God alone.

Zedekiah

- I. An _____ of Zedekiah's reign (2 Kings 24:17-20).

- II. Zedekiah is established by _____ (2 Kings 24:17; 2 Chronicles 36:13; Ezekiel 17:11-14).
Zedekiah was established by Babylon, and God is upset that he broke his word and rebelled against the pagan king.
 - A. Zedekiah took an _____ of loyalty (2 Chronicles 36:13; Ezekiel 17:11-21).

 - B. Jeremiah calls for _____ to Babylon (Jeremiah 27-28).
Ultimately God has appointed Babylon over them.

- III. Zedekiah _____ against Babylon.
Zedekiah wavered between listening to the prophet and listening to the nobles who surrounded him.
 - A. Judah is given false _____ by Egypt (Jeremiah 37:1-10).



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Zedekiah and the nation as a whole put too much stock in current circumstances, rather than listening to God's Word.

- B. Jeremiah is imprisoned and released (Jeremiah 37:11-21).**
- C. Jeremiah is _____ again (Jeremiah 38:1-13).**
- D. Jeremiah counsels Zedekiah to _____ (Jeremiah 38:14-28).**

Jeremiah cautiously repeats the same message he has given before: God is sending Babylon.
- E. Zedekiah _____ Jeremiah's prophecy (Jeremiah 40:1-5).**

Babylon captured the king and made him answer for rebelling against the king and the God whom he ignored.

IV. The _____ of Zedekiah.

Up until the very end, God gave Zedekiah a chance to obey, but he was too afraid of what his nobles thought to trust God.

- A. Zedekiah _____ Jeremiah's counsel (Jeremiah 39:1-5).**
- B. Zedekiah comes to a horrible end (Jeremiah 40:5-10).**

Zedekiah's rebellion affected not only him, but those around him.
- C. _____ comes to a horrible end (2 Kings 25:8-21).**

Babylon destroys the Jerusalem. They show no mercy. This is the third time that they have had to conquer the city, and they make sure there isn't a city left when they are done.

It can be tempting for us as readers so far removed from this story to be baffled by the absolute cowardice of Zedekiah. How different when we are the ones being asked to do what is right even when it is unpopular!

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