

Pentecost 4

Jeremiah 28 –

⁵ Then the prophet Jeremiah spoke to Hananiah the prophet in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the LORD, ⁶ and the prophet Jeremiah said, ^u“Amen! May the LORD do so; may the LORD make the words that you have prophesied come true, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the LORD, and all the exiles. ⁷ Yet hear now this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. ⁸ ^vThe prophets who preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. ⁹ ^wAs for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes to pass, then it will be known that the LORD has truly sent the prophet.”

Intro – we live in uncertain times

Times of public health crisis

Times of racial unrest

Times of political division

In all of this, the question each of us asks is, “who to believe?”

1. The prophet Jeremiah lived in such a time.
 - a. Many prophets in his day. False prophet Hananiah declared peace would come and the captives would go home in 2 years!
 - b. It was not so. It would be 70 years.

Transition – Jeremiah gives the benchmark for truth. If what the prophet speaks comes true, then he is a true prophet. Give it time. Give it Christ.

2. The prophet points us to another time – the time of Christ.
 - a. If the prophet proclaims peace, and it comes to pass, then he is true.
 - b. Jesus is the Prince of Peace, in and through whom true peace comes. And yet, when Christ came there was not peace but division. Indeed, it is what he said would be - I have come not to bring peace but a sword.

Transition – the true prophet ushers in peace at the cross and the empty tomb. By his blood, he gains the peace with God that brings us true peace. HE, Jesus Christ, is who we are to believe and in and through him, we find our way.

3. The time of Christ is now and it is He are to believe
 - a. Jeremiah was the weeping profit because he bore the heart of God. And God has been weeping for a very long time! Because we do not listen to him or trust in him, but rather look everywhere else.
 - b. We too, in the time of Christ, by faith ought to weep. Listening to him and believing him we are going to have his heart, and not ours. When we stop believing ourselves and believe him, we will know the truth and God’s truth is what sets us free – truly free; and brings us true peace.

Conclusion – God is merciful and in Christ offers us a way forward in an uncertain time – his Way. From another prophet, Micah, we hear what God’s way is – And what O Child of God does the Lord want from you? To do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly in faith with your God.

All Glory to God Alone!

Rev. Dr. Neil Buono

28 June 2020