The Rechabites

Jeremiah 35

INTRODUCTION

- It strengthens my faith to see some of these threads of stories.
- The highlight of the lesson will be what happens in Jeremiah 35 during the reign of Jehoiakim right near the end of the southern kingdom before it was destroyed.

1 The Kenites: Not Among the Nations Conquered

Genesis 15:18–21; 2 Chronicles 2:55; Numbers 10:29–32

- I've given this land from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, the Kenites.
- It is the land of the Kenites when they're mentioned in Abraham's time, but they're not among the nations that will be conquered.
- Come with us. We'll treat you well, for Yahweh has promised good things to Israel.
- I'm a little bit reminded of the promise to Abraham that I will bless those who bless you.

2 Working With the Israelites, Helping Them Along

- Now Heber the Kenite, of the children of Hobab, the father-in-law of Moses, had separated himself from the Kenites and pitched his tent.
- You see how the Kenites are working with the Israelites, helping them along the way with advice as well as even this case.
- Saul said to the Kenites, "Go depart, get down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them." Why? For you showed kindness.
- The Kenites, among others, were serving in government offices and doing wonderful things for the nation of Israel, but living in tents.

3 What Is Jonadab Seeing?

- He greeted him and said, "Is your heart right as my heart is toward your heart?"
- He took him up into the chariot and he said, "Come with me and see my zeal for Yahweh."
- But Jehu took no heed to walk in the law of the Lord God of Israel with all his heart.
- Things are not going well in Judah either. This is the world that Jonadab is seeing.

4 We Will Drink No Wine

Jeremiah 35:2; Jeremiah 35:6–7; Jeremiah 35:16

- Go to the house of the Rechabites. Speak to them. Bring them into the house of the Lord. Give them some wine to drink.

- But they said, “We will drink no wine.”
- You shall not build a house. You’ll not sow seed, not plant a vineyard, but all your days you’ll dwell in tents. That you may live many days in the land where you’re sojourners.
- Surely the sons of Jonadab, the son of Rechab, have performed the commandment of their father which he commanded them, but this people has not obeyed me.

5 They Obey Men Better Than You Obey God

- Are we as motivated to obey God as other people who actually are following man-made religions even today?
- One is we can do what God requires. It’s not too hard.
- Jeremiah is saying, “Here’s a lesson for you. They obey men better than you’re obeying God.”

6 Let’s Be Jonadab: Set Family Traditions

Jeremiah 35:18–19

- Jonadab, the son of Rechab, shall not lack a man to stand before me forever.
- He set some standards and traditions that helped his family stay separate from the world and the religious world of the day.
- Guess who helped build the walls? This guy named Malchijah, the son of Rechab.
- Dads, I’m talking to you for a second. What are you doing to set in place some traditions and practices in your family?

THE CHALLENGE

I think we should aim for a long line of descendants to stand before God. Would that be a great goal for our family?

MY NOTES