

Apply The Word

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KINGS & KINGDOMS

Message Info

Title:
Scrutinize the Sober

Speaker:
Peter Privitera

Date:
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Scriptures:
2 Kings 25

Theme: Scrutinize the sober reality so you can delight in God's grace.

Introduction: In God's kindness, Israel had great potential to be a shining light of his grace throughout the earth. They offered hope to persons everywhere. But in a replay of the Garden, they rebelled against the Lord and presumed upon his grace. So as we arrive at the end of the kingdom of Judah, we are right to feel the sadness of the situation and to consider what it has to teach us.

Judah's demise offers 2 lessons for us:

1. The realities of wrath (1-26)

The Bible has many pictures of the wrath of God: Noah's flood, the Red Sea, Jericho, and here, the judgment of Babylon against Judah.

Over the course of a decade, the Lord executes his wrath against Judah by means of Babylon. They are his agent of justice.

The Lord's justice may seem slow from our perspective; but unlike human justice, it is perfect.

It is all-too-easy for us to presume upon God's mercy. We may believe that we are owed good things, instead of realizing that what we truly deserve is God's wrath. Judah experienced the removal of the Lord's blessings (e.g., looting the temple) even as they faced the terrors of his wrath.

Even in their rebellion, the Lord provided for his people. He sent Gedaliah to tell them to surrender to Babylon (as Isaiah and Jeremiah had prophesied). But the people resisted and did not obey the Lord. And they suffered accordingly.

2. Reforming worship (23:1-30)

It is only by facing the reality of God's wrath and of what we deserve that we can gain a proper perspective on his grace.

Here, the new king of Babylon, Evil-merodach, shows undeserved favor and kindness toward Jehoiachin. He may not have received all that he hoped for, but he was certainly treated better than he deserved.

We are like him in that way. King Jesus treats his people far better than they deserve: he frees us, speaks kindly to us, clothes and welcomes us, and provides all we need.

Questions:

1. Do you deserve God's wrath?
2. How well do you understand his grace?
3. Are you emotionally fragile?