

This, Too, Shall Pass

Jeremiah 29:4-14

INTRODUCTION:

A. Lesson Text - **Jeremiah 29:4-14**

1. Background of Babylonian Captivity
2. Southern Kingdom in captivity because of their sins and rebellion.
3. **Jonah 2:8** – “Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs.”

B. **Romans 8:35** - “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?”

THIS TOO SHALL PASS

A. “This Too Shall Pass” is an old saying that can sometimes sound trite . . . Nevertheless, it has a solid foundation of truth . . . It has a solid foundation in Biblical teachings.

1. It would be hard to imagine the discouragement of the deported Israelites as they adjusted to life in Babylon.
2. Their daytime memories and nighttime dreams would have been dominated by:
 - a. Scenes of a devastated Jerusalem.
 - b. A ravished homeland.
 - c. Lost and misplaced loved ones.
3. It was certainly for the population of the Southern Kingdom. Understanding the national state of mind of his people, Jeremiah wrote a letter instructing the Jewish exiles in Babylon to make the best of their situation and to trust that the time would come when God would reestablish his people (that remnant) in the land of promise.

B. Life can deliver some crushing blows:

- a. The temporary or permanent loss of one’s health
- b. The loss of a spouse.
- c. The loss of a child.
- d. The loss of a job . . . or a cutback in hours that makes life less manageable.
- e. The foreclosure on a home.
- f. The failing of a family business.
- g. The division of saints in a beloved congregation.

C. There are many times in our lives when we need to realize this great truth . . . Now is one of them as our nations continues to face great difficulties.

1. The Babylonian captives were sustained by this great truth, “This, Too, Shall Pass.”

- a. Three Deportations . . . **605**, 597, 586 B.C.
 - b. Three Returns . . . **536**, 456, 444 B.C.
 - c. Jerusalem rebuilt . . . Wall rebuilt . . . Temple rebuilt . . . Worship restored.
- D. When we have done our best to be pleasing to God, the next step is to make the best of the situation before us and to know that we are never severed from God's love. His timing may not always be what we would have chosen, but Eventually, we will once again, be able to receive and acknowledge his blessings.
- 1. Remember Paul & Silas imprisoned in Philippi? Acts 16
 - a. Beaten and incarcerated (in stocks) at about midnight they were sing hymns.
 - b. Minutes later they were in the jailor's house.
 - 1. Their wounds being treated.
 - 2. A good meal being served to them.
 - 3. A wonder privilege of leading another family to Christ.
 - c. **Philippians 4:11** – “. . . For I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content.” Acts 16 was great example of that life principle.

CONCLUSION:

A. Listening friends . . . We need to be able to pray: “Heavenly Father. At time I feel crushed by the burdens of this earthly existence. Help me to follow your guidance, trust your care, and look forward to the day when you will wipe away each tear.”

B. Helen Steiner Rice – “This, Too, Shall Pass”

If I can endure for this minute
 Whatever is happening to me,
 No matter how heavy my heart is
 Or how dark the moment may be-

If I can remain calm and quiet
 With all the world crashing about me,
 Secure in the knowledge God loves me
 When everyone else seems to doubt me-

If I can but keep on believing
 What I know in my heart to be true,
 That darkness will fade with the morning
 And that this will pass away, too-

Then nothing in life can defeat me
 For as long as this knowledge remains

I can suffer whatever is happening
For I know God will break all of the chains

That are binding me tight in the darkness
And trying to fill me with fear-
For there is no night without dawning
And I know that my morning is near.

B. Do what you can in partnership with God to help difficult things and times to pass. **Have faith!** . . . **Have patience!** . . . **Have prayer!**

C. Four passages to take home with you today.

1. **Jonah 2:8** – “**Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs.**”
2. **Romans 8:35** - “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?”
3. **Philippians 4:11** – “. . . For I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content.”
4. **Romans 8:28** – “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

D. **God’s Plan for Man’s Salvation**