

12 GOD'S JUSTICE

KEY TEXT: JEREMIAH 50:11-20,33-34

CENTRAL truth

Things looked really bad for Judah. God had used Babylon's armies to discipline His people. But in the process, Babylon had committed horrible sins against Judah—even rejoicing and reveling in Judah and Jerusalem's destruction. Judah had no power to save themselves and no power to judge Babylon. God had the power to do both. Jeremiah reminded a discouraged Judah that **God is the ultimate righteous judge.**

key question

How should we be encouraged knowing God is sovereign and rules over all?

We all have times when we look around at the state of our broken world and wonder, “Who’s in charge here?” Though our world is sinful, chaotic, and full of suffering, God is all-powerful and has a plan to bring justice to every person. Every second of every day, He is saving those who respond to His grace and dealing justly with those who reject His grace.

keep in mind

- Students will likely struggle with the complexities and nuances of God’s perfect redemption and judgment. Judgment can be a difficult concept for any of us to wrap our minds around. Encourage students to remember the goodness, mercy, and love of God for people. His desire is that all be saved by His grace. However, those who reject the gift of His grace instead must face the consequences that come with sin.
- Students may also struggle with the timing of God’s judgment. It can be tempting to ask, “What’s taking so long?” Encourage students to remember God is not bound in any way by time. He instantly, effortlessly knows all things for all eternity. It may seem like He’s taking too long to judge the wicked. However, just because judgment hasn’t come yet doesn’t mean that it won’t. His timing is perfect timing.

application

How can God’s rescue of Judah from Babylon encourage us today? What might this kind of rescue look like today?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: Everyone will go through suffering in this life, both believers and unbelievers. The question is: who will we suffer *with*? In Christ, suffering is used to make us stronger in the Lord. Help students see that Christ is with them in every challenge and will one day deliver them from all suffering for eternity.

FOR THE LEADER: As leaders, we don’t have to act like we perfectly understand the structure of God’s plan of justice and judgment. We can show students that our ultimate trust is not in our understanding of every detail of God’s plan, but in the truth that He’s trustworthy because He is good, righteous, just, loving, and faithful.

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