

JEREMIAH

*Quitting the Blame Game
Take Personal Responsibility*

*This is what the Lord says;
“Don’t let the wise boast in their wisdom,
or the powerful boast in their power,
or the rich boast in their riches.
But those who wish to boast
should boast in this alone:
that they truly know me and understand that I am the Lord.”*

-Jeremiah 9:23-24

----- Discussion -----

1. Have you ever compared yourself or your circumstances to others and felt that God was being unfair?
2. Think about your spiritual habits in the following areas.

Do you struggle with any of them being “routine”? Just doing it because you’re supposed to?

- A Reading the Bible
 - b. Prayer
 - c. Church attendance
 - d. Ministry involvement/service
 - e. Bible study or small group
 - f. Holy Communion
-

E+R=O

This equation evaded the understanding of the kings of Judah during Jeremiah’s lifetime, and if we aren’t careful, we’ll miss its’ meaning as well.

Our response is the ONLY thing we have any control over.

We can’t change anyone else, but we can allow God to change us.

JEREMIAH

*Quitting the Blame Game
Take Personal Responsibility*

Josiah 640-609 B.C. – 2 Kings 22:1-23:30

Events:

- Became king at age 8 (2Kings 22:1; 2 Chronicles 34:1)
- In 622 B.C. a manuscript was found during Temple repair revealing God's laws that were being broken

Response:

- Instituted political and religious reforms to return to following God.
- Refused to list to God's directions about not going into battle against Egypt.

Outcome:

- Reforms were more outward than inward in the hearts of the people.
- Died in battle against Egypt for his failure to consult God about the battle (2 Kings 23:29-30)
- Jeremiah composed the funeral songs for Josiah that they Israelites sang for centuries as laments for the good things Josiah had done. (2 Chronicles 35:25)

Jehoahaz 609 B.C. – 2 Kings 23:31; 2 Chronicles 36:1-4

Events:

- Son of Josiah who reigned only three months because Pharaoh Neco deported him to Egypt, where he died.

Response:

- He was anti-Egyptian, which is probably why he was chosen king over his older brother Jehoiakim when Josiah died. (Jeremiah 22:10-12)

Outcome:

- Jeremiah requested mourning for Jehoahaz and prophesied he'd not return from captivity.

Jehoiakim 609-698 B.C. – 2 Kings 23:34-24:7

Events:

- Son of Josiah, set up as king by Pharaoh Neco.
- In 605 B.C became a Babylonian vassal.

Response:

- Pro Egyptian
- "He did what was evil in the sight of the Lord his God" 2 Chronicles 36:5
- Known for his re-institution of idol worship.
- Rebelled against Babylon in 605 B.C. to side with Egypt.

Outcome:

- "Jehoiakim had been a failure as a ruler on both domestic and international fronts." Jeremiah 22:11-13, 17.
- Reigned eleven years until taken to Babylon in chains.