

BOASTING

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Jeremiah 9:23-24

1. Like Isaiah, Jeremiah prophesied during a difficult period in Jewish history.
2. During Isaiah's ministry (739-681 BC) the Northern Kingdom of Israel was conquered by the Assyrians in 722 BC.
3. Jeremiah (627-574), along with Ezekiel, were God's spokespersons during the last days of the Southern Kingdom of Judah that saw Judah being conquered by the Babylonians.
4. The conquest of Judah occurred in three phases that took place in 605, 597, 586 BC.
5. The Jews paid a terrible price for refusing to listen to God's prophets.
6. Many were killed, some were exiled, and Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed.

NOTE: No nation can forget God and not pay a price. Psalm 9:17

"The wicked will return to Sheol (turned into hell), even all the nations that forget God."

7. As an added aid to understanding the passage we are looking at this morning I want to quote it from the Amplified Version.

"Thus says the Lord: Let not the wise and skillful person glory and boast in his wisdom and skill; let not the mighty and powerful person glory and boast in his strength and power; let not the person who is rich [in physical gratification and earthly wealth] glory and boast in his [temporal satisfactions and earthly] riches; but let him who glories glory in this: that he understands and knows Me [personally and practically, discerning and recognizing My character], that I am the Lord, Who practices lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness in the earth, for in these things I delight, says the Lord.

8. Here we see two kinds of boasting; one that glorifies self, and one that glorifies God.
9. James focused on the wrong kind of boasting when he wrote, "Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.' 14 Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. 15 Instead, you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that.' 16 **But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil.** 17 Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin." James 4:13-17
10. Those who are of the world boast in the things of the world.
 - a. The attainment of wisdom or of certain skills.
 - b. Possessing power and positions of influence.
 - c. Acquiring wealth.
 - d. Being able to pamper one's flesh in the pursuit of pleasure and possessions.
 - e. Gaining name recognition and popularity.

11. Those who are born again from above boast and glory in God and in all that accompanies being a child of God.

a. 1 Cor 1:26-31

For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; 27 but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, 28 and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, 29 **so that no man may boast before God.** 30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, 31 so that, just as it is written, "**LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD.**"

b. 2 Cor 10:12-18

For we are not bold to class or compare ourselves with some of **those who commend themselves**; but when they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are without understanding. 13 But we will not boast beyond our measure, but within the measure of the sphere which God apportioned to us as a measure, to reach even as far as you. 14 For we are not overextending ourselves, as if we did not reach to you, for we were the first to come even as far as you in the gospel of Christ; 15 not boasting beyond our measure, that is, in other men's labors, but with the hope that as your faith grows, we will be, within our sphere, enlarged even more by you, 16 so as to preach the gospel even to the regions beyond you, and not to boast in what has been accomplished in the sphere of another. 17 **But HE WHO BOASTS IS TO BOAST IN THE LORD.** 18 **For it is not he who commends himself that is approved, but he whom the Lord commends.**

12. So what should we boast in?

I. That we understand God.

A. The word understand relates to intelligence.

B. To understand God is to possess a sound biblical understanding of God's person, power, and purposes.

C. This involves more than just knowing about God; it involves God's self-revelation of Himself that informs the mind, captures the heart, and impacts the will.

II. That we know God.

A. Only those who truly understand God can know God.

B. Many know about God, but that is not the same as knowing God.

C. Jesus made this fact clear in Matt 7:21-23

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. 22 "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' 23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'"

D. A. W. Tozer wrote, "In that great and terrible day to come, many will be shocked when they find that they depended upon a mental assent to Christianity instead of upon the miracle of the new birth."

III. That we delight in God and in what God delights in.

A. First and foremost God delights in Himself.

B. He delights in Himself because of who He is and what He delights in.

1. He delights in lovingkindness which means that God finds pleasure in pouring out His blessings upon people.

2. But He also delights in justice which means that every transgression and disobedience must receive a just penalty. Hebrews 2:2

3. He delights in righteousness which means that we must possess righteousness, seek righteousness, and promote righteousness.

C. Because of His lovingkindness God satisfied His justice by sending Jesus Christ to bear and atone for our iniquity thus making it possible for us to be the recipients of imputed righteousness as well as practical righteousness.

APPLICATION

1. Because God delights in lovingkindness He wants people to turn from sin, self and the world and to embrace Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Ezek 33:11-12

"Say to them, 'As I live!' declares the Lord God, 'I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! Why then will you die, O house of Israel?'"

2. We have the same thought in 2 Peter 3:8-9.

But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. 9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

3. **All who end up in hell will do so in spite of God, and not because of God.**

4. Those who look to God for righteousness will experience His lovingkindness, and nothing this world offers can compare with that.