Who Knows? Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Jeremiah 26-29.
- B. God does not delight in judgment--He longs that a people would turn and repent.
- C. However, God who is sovereign, will bring judgment if people do not repent.

II. Jeremiah's impeachment trial.

- A. The people did not think that they could be judged since they enjoyed prosperity for so long, so they charge Jeremiah for his warning.
- B. Jeremiah left the results in God's hands, and believers should leave unjust charges to God to work through.
- C. Jeremiah was acquitted.

III. The message of the yokes.

- A. God sometimes raises up cruel people and allows them to move out against other people.
- B. God does this to exercise His judgment over His people sometimes.
- C. This demonstrates God's sovereignty over affairs.
- IV. In the days when the nation begins to disintegrate, false prophets will arise who are part of the occult.
 - A. There are powerful false prophets of which the believer must be aware.
 - B. The only way a person can tell if a prophet is from God is through his predictions--they must be 100% true.
 - C. It is up to God to defend His prophet and his prophecy.
- V. God fulfilled the great vision He gave to Daniel and returned the people of Israel to the land.
 - A. The supreme need of the hour is for one to declare the facts of God and what a person is to do about them.
 - B. God makes His will known through past history, in current events, and through the direct revelation of His Word.
 - C. We must listen to God's voice.
 - D. The message of Jeremiah is that God rules in the affairs of man.

Application questions:

1. Why should the believers leave unjust charges to God? Should not believers be agents of justice? Explain.
2. Why would God use nonbelievers as an agent of discipline for believers?
3. How can the sovereignty of God be used to comfort a believer going through some trial? Explain.