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The promise of knowledge

‘We are promised knowledge.’

(Jeremiah 24:7)

Intro: Imagine life without God! In this 24th chapter of Jeremiah, God has divided Judah and Benjamin into two groups. One group is made up of those who are not so far gone spiritually that a time of chastening will reset their priorities and a desire for God. The other group is so far gone that God has given up on them –

1. Two baskets of figs, one filled with good and one filled with rotten figs - **Verses 1 & 2.**
2. One basket was beyond redemption the other basket was redeemable - **verses 5 & 6.**
3. The rotten figs – **verses 8 – 10.**

In addressing those represented by the basket of good figs are the objects of **verse 7** and those mentioned in **verse 5** with the words, “**for their good.**” The Babylonian captivity was a very severe _____ by the Lord God and it was going to take a severe chastisement to get their attention. Sometimes in our lives God has to take some _____ steps when chastening us as well.

Hebrews 12:11 – “Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.”

Hebrews 12:6 – “For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.” In this string of verses note **Hebrews 12:10** – “For they verily for a few days chastened *us* after their own pleasure; but he for *our* profit, that *we* might be partakers of his holiness.”

So many folks look at the Bible and see it as a book of does and don'ts that _____ them in living and experiencing the world around them. Solomon may have had these thoughts when he struck-out to live his life in search of meaning and purpose which he ultimately realized could only be found in living his life for the Lord – **Ecclesiastes 12:13 & 14**. In a similar fashion God is going to help Judah & Benjamin in our text, to reconsider their spiritual direction, repent and turn back to God and He is going to fill them with the king of knowledge that will help them to know Him, not just know of Him, but know Him! And He has the same desire for each of us to not just know of Him, but to actually know him on a personal &

intimate level. Knowledge without _____ is a dangerous thing seeing wisdom is the right use of knowledge.

XI. God has promised us knowledge – Jeremiah 24:7.

- A. There is a knowledge that _____ knowing how do things such as mathematical equations, or other things necessary to life. And it is this knowledge of _____ Himself that is promised every born-again Believer.
1. We can know about God through nature as all of God's creation is a _____ of Himself – **Psalm 19:1; Psalm 8:2; Isaiah 40:26** mentions a few things to consider.
 2. Every creature is a reflection of some aspect of God's character – **I Timothy 4:4 & Revelation 5:13** and the use of the word "creature" in both verses has to do with _____ things.
 3. God can give voice to the rocks if it were necessary – **Luke 19:40**.
 4. One's testimony is a means by which we can _____ and learn a great deal about the Lord our God. These are also times of mentoring – **Philippians 4:9; I Thess. 2:2 – 14**.
 5. We can know Christ through the _____ – **John 5:39**.
 6. We can know God through the _____ – **John 16:13**
- B. We need to understand that knowledge can be either _____ or _____, righteous or evil.
1. Good knowledge is what God _____ us to know, to believe and heed and is why we need to pray that God will give us divine _____ so we can follow that which is the good and right use of knowledge and shun that which is evil and wrong knowledge. (**I Thessalonians 5:15 and James 1:5 – 8**)
 2. The very first indication we have of their being a good and evil knowledge is found in **Genesis 2:9**, and along with this comes the acknowledgement or offer of divine _____ to not eat of this tree and the warning that to disobey would lead to certain death.
- C. Doing some background work for this lesson, I came across this nicely outlined information and will share with you as FYI concerning knowledge.
1. What knowledge is not!
 - a. Real knowledge is not a _____ of facts, instead, it refers to truths, commands that God wants us to know, believe and heed.
 - b. Biblical knowledge is not morally or ethically _____ – it is either good or evil, **Romans 16:19**.
 - c. Knowledge is not _____-less as real knowledge comes from God and His Word, otherwise, knowledge comes from the world, the flesh and the devil, so, under such conditions never trust your heart – **Jeremiah 17:9 & 10**.
 - d. Knowledge is not _____, nor is it innocuous as the devil's knowledge is designed to destroy and kill **John 10:10**, consider the knowledge Satan passed

on to Adam and Eve! **Genesis 3:1 – 5.**

e. Good (godly) knowledge isn't for a _____ few, but as God would have it, it is for all – **I Timothy 2:3 – 4 & I Peter 3:15.**

(1). **I Peter 3:15** – “give answer” [apologia].

(2). To give a verbal defense or a reasoned statement.

f. “Good” knowledge isn't learned by _____, but by instruction –

Proverbs 22:6 which is about a likely outcome when we instruct what is good.

g. Knowledge by itself is not _____ enough in that we need to ask God to give us wisdom and discernment which comes from prayer, from studying the Word of God and the Holy Spirit of God.

(**Psalm 1:1 – 6; Psalm 19:1 – 14 & Isaiah 55:8 & 9**)

2. What knowledge is –

a. Real knowledge _____ from God the Father – **James 1:16 – 18; The Son – John 14:16; from the Holy Spirit – I John 2:20 – 27.**

b. _____ taught real knowledge as did His disciples – Acts 2:42.

c. Real knowledge is the _____ of studying the Word of God – **Ezra 7:10; Psalm 119:11; II Timothy 2:15.**

C. And here are some biblical truths we need to affirm.

1. Believing that God _____ everything – **I Kings 8:39; Psalm 44:21; Acts 15:8; Psalm 139:1 – 16.**

2. Believing God is _____ than one can even imagine – **Deuteronomy 29:29; Romans 1:20 – 28; 11:33; I Corinthians 1:20 – 25.**

3. Believe _____ is more important than knowing God – **Matthew 6:31 – 33; 10:37 – 39;**

4. Believe that God is the _____ of all true knowledge – **Proverbs 2:6; Daniel 2:21; Colossians 2:3 and James 1:5.**

5. Believe human wisdom is _____ a part from God – **Isaiah 29:14, Daniel 2:10 & 11; I Corinthians 1:19 & 13:1 – 2.**

6. Believe that the Scriptures reveals the truth about Himself, His creation, humanity, sin, salvation, eternity and everything we need to know in this life. **I Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 4:12 & I Peter 1:23 – 25.**

D. God greatest concern about knowledge is the need we have for His wisdom to make sure that we can see the importance of the moral aspect of knowledge and that we choose to us knowledge governed by righteousness and holiness.