

KINGDOM SPIRIT

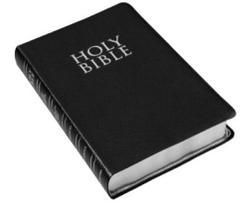
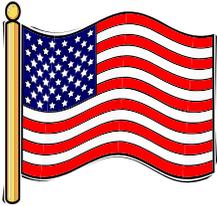
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“SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD”

Matthew 6:33



Issue 1403

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

We want to continue our study of Revelation 13 in this issue. We studied the first 10 verses last issue in which John saw a beast with seven heads and ten horns, with crowns upon its horns and the name of blasphemy upon its heads, come up out of the sea. We interpreted this beast to be the Roman Empire as extended through the “little horn” of Daniel 7, or the Roman Catholic Church. This beast had all of the characteristics of all four of the beasts that Daniel saw in Dan. 7 which we interpreted to be the leadership of the four empires in the Babylonian succession of empires. We’re told that the last beast, or the Roman Empire, which John calls a dragon, is providing the power for this beast. Further descriptions of this beast and its activities clearly identifies it with the Roman Catholic Church. Again, this is not an indictment against individual Catholics, as many are good Christian people, but rather it is an indictment of the corporate entity, or organizational structure, that refuses to be in submission to Christ. The time of this beast is divided into two phases, the first being the 1260 years from Emperor Justinian, who rewrote all of Roman law that allowed the rise in power, both civil and ecclesiastical, of the Church, to the French Revolution. The second phase then runs from the French Revolution until the return of Christ. I believe it was during, or immediately following, the French Revolution that the beast received its fatal wound and then was revived. This takes us to our study this lesson.

However, we might need to mention one other organization that played a major part in the Revolution, though not so much in the public eye. This is the “Society of Jesus,” or the Jesuits. As we said in our last lesson, this organization was formed by Ignatius Loyola in 1540. In his book, The Jesuits, p. 162, Malachi Martin, himself a Jesuit, wrote the following:

“And so was born what can be rightly called Jesuitism, the complete subjugation of all a man is, thinks, feels, and does to a practical ideal achievable in the world around him, in absolute obedience and submission to the mind and decisions of the Roman Pope, the Vicar of Christ.”

Ultimately there was only one sin to a Jesuit—to disobey an order. Martin again writes on p. 196,

“Every Superior was to be obeyed as the representative of Christ. Obeying this representative, you were obeying Christ; you were doing the will of Christ.”

There were three grades in the Jesuit Order under the Father-General. They were the Lay Brothers, the Spiritual Coadjutors, and the Professed Fathers. To advance in rank one had to be found “worthy,” that is, he had to prove that he was really under the mind-control of his masters in the upper grades. They were required to take certain vows as they rose in rank in the Order. The fourth vow was taken only by the Professed Fathers. This vow has been made a part of the Congressional Record of Feb. 15, 1913. I want to quote a portion to give you an idea of why it played a part in the French Revolution. It is quoted from the book, The suppressed Truth about the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln by Burke McCarty.

“... I do further promise and declare that I will, when opportunity presents, make

and wage relentless war, secretly or openly, against all heretics, Protestants, and Liberals, as I am directed to do to extirpate and exterminate them from the face of the whole earth, and that I will spare neither sex, age nor condition, and that I will hang, waste, boil, flay, strangle and bury alive these infamous heretics; rip up the stomachs and wombs of their women and crush their infants' heads against the wall, in order to annihilate forever their execrable race.

“That when the same cannot be done openly, I will secretly use the poison cup, the strangulation cord, the steel of the poniard, or the leaden bullet, regardless of the honor, rank, dignity or authority of the person or persons whatsoever may be their condition in life, either public or private, as I at any time may be directed so to do by any agent of the Pope or Superior of the Brotherhood of the Holy Faith of the Society of Jesus.”

Obviously, this terrible vow made the monarchs of Europe nervous, when they realized that they could be assassinated by the Jesuits if they did not remain loyal to the Papacy. They were a very powerful tool in the hand of the Papacy as they sought to retain power over these monarchs. So one by one, in the 1700's, the nations of Europe began to expel the Jesuits. Portugal was first, then France did so in 1762. Spain was next in 1767 followed by Naples, Parma, and Austria.

A new Pope had to be selected in 1769. The Bourbon family, or the monarchical family of France, made it clear that they would not accept a new pope, unless he agreed to disband his army, the Jesuit Order. England had broken from the Papacy in 1534 and for fear that more states might do the same, agreement was made. The Church had lost a huge power struggle. The new Pope reluctantly abolished the Jesuits on July 21, 1773. This, of course, made the Jesuits very angry with the Pope and the Pope angry with the French. Then the French Revolution (from 1789-1793) overthrew the Roman Church in France. I believe this then to be the fatal wound received by the beast in Rev. 13:3.

To try to put everything in order we need to read the rest of Rev. 13 (11-18). This second beast comes out of the earth, i.e. out of the Roman Empire. It has two horns like a lamb but speaks as a dragon, i.e. it is a dragon in lamb's clothing so to speak. We're told in verse 12 that this beast exercised all the power of the first beast, but then

caused the earth to worship the first beast whose deadly wound was healed. We need to look at some more history to understand this.

We said in our last issue that a man by the name of Adam Weishaupt, a Jesuit trained professor of canon law, headed up the plan for the French Revolution. He founded the Illuminati organization in 1776. He became a Freemason shortly after in 1777. At the Congress of Willhelmsbad in 1782, where representatives of all the secret societies were represented, “the alliance between Illuminism and Freemasonry was finally sealed” according to Nesta Webster in her book, World Revolution. How Weishaupt's plans were discovered in 1785 is told by Nesta Webster in her book, Secret Societies and Subversive Movements, p. 235.

“An evangelist preacher and Illuminatus named Lanze had been sent in July 1785 as an emissary of the Illuminati in Silesia, but on his journey he was struck down by lightning. The instructions of the Order were found on him, and as a result its intrigues were conclusively revealed to the Government of Bavaria. A searching enquiry followed, the houses of Zwack and Bassus were raided, and it was then that the documents and other incriminating evidence...were seized and made public under the name of The Original Writings of the Order of the Illuminati (1787.”

The Order was officially suppressed, but it merely went underground and the French Revolution continued, as planned, a few years later.

The question arises as to who funded the Revolution? According to Canadian Naval Commander William Guy Carr in his book, Pawns in the Game, Weishaupt was funded by Moses Mendelssohn, a very wealthy Jewish banker in his acquaintance. There seems to be no doubt the Jewish bankers would have benefited from the overthrow of the Church in France as well as giving them financial control over Freemasonry in Europe. Quoting from Dr. Stephen Jones,

The Jewish Encyclopedia's article on Freemasonry says, “Jews have been most conspicuous in connexion with Freemasonry in France

since the Revolution.” Anyone who has studied Albert Pike’s *Morals and Dogma* can see plainly that the upper degrees of the Scottish Rite (from the 26th to the 32nd degree) teach directly out of the Cabbala, the mystical Jewish writings. In other words the plain goal of Masonry is to Judaize non-Jews.

During the 1700’s it was evident that the European royalty moved quickly to place themselves at the head of Masonry in their respective nations in order to use its power in their favor and prevent it from being subversive to their own position. The exception to this was in France. The chief rival to the throne in France was Louis Philippe Joseph, Duc D’ Orleans and it was he who was the head of the Grand Orient Lodge of France. He was used by higher powers to legitimize the execution of his relative, King Louis XVI on Jan. 21, 1793. However, these same higher powers had the Duc executed later in the same year.

The suppression of the Jesuits in 1773 did not mean that they ceased to exist, rather they were just driven underground. The Pope that suppressed them was poisoned a year later. Two non-Catholic sovereigns, Fredrick the Great of Prussia and Catherine of Russia took the Jesuits in and protected them. This suppression had a profound impact on the Roman Church. It represented a major defeat, it felt, by monarchs influenced by the Masonic Order. Also significant, in addition to the army of Jesuits being gone from the Church, this army of Ex-Jesuits now had to do something to survive as an underground Order. They apparently allied themselves with Weisshaupt and Freemasonry in an effort to exact their revenge upon the Roman Church.

To get some idea as to how all of these individuals and organizations came together in the French Revolution, I am quoting Dr. Stephen Jones,

“Frederick of Prussia benefitted by disrupting France, which was his enemy. The Jesuits and the Vatican benefitted by punishing the French King for his role in forcing the suppression of the Jesuits. They also poisoned the Pope and later led the French revolutionists to confiscate

all Church property in France and execute 30,000 Roman priests. Such is the Jesuit revenge.

The Jewish bankers, who helped to finance the effort, found it in their interest to weaken both the monarchs and the Church in order to enhance their own power and influence. The Freemasons themselves were attracted to the plot because they too wanted to destroy the power of the Church and the Monarchs.”

Napoleon Bonaparte was the best military general to come out of the French Revolution in the early 1790’s. At the time, Pope Pius VI was furious when the French overthrew the Church in that country and he retaliated by massacring as many French people in Italy as possible, along with many Italians who likewise wanted to be free of papal dominion. King Louis XVI attempted to protect papal power in France, but he was executed. The Pope in turn excommunicated the entire nation and continued to kill French people in Italy. The French then prepared to invade Italy. The job fell to Napoleon. The French army advanced on Rome. The Pope, fearful of losing everything, signed a treaty. This amounted to a complete overthrow of the Pope’s rule. This Pope was one of the worst so far as his debauchery was concerned and his two sons whom he had by his sister robbed the Church and the Pope, but the people took all of it back once they had formed a constitutional government. But all of this cast the Pope into a despondency, which amounted almost to idiocy. Finally the governor of Rome informed him officially that the people had taken back their rights and that he was no longer anything in the government. He was taken captive and driven to Tuscany. An earthquake destroyed the convent where he was being held, so he was moved again. However, he continued to intrigue against France to regain his power. It appeared for a while he might succeed, but the French prevailed and he was sent into exile at Valens, in Dauphiny. He died there in 1799, being robbed one last time by one of his illegitimate sons.

Once Napoleon had conquered Rome and reduced the Pope to a prisoner of war, he decided that he still needed a Pope to crown him as Emperor. Cardinal Barnabas Louis Chiaramonti became the next Pope on March 4, 1800, taking the

name of Pius VII. Napoleon allowed this new Pope to return to Rome and signed a concordat with him in 1801. In this concordat, the Pope gave the French government rights to make the priests take an oath of loyalty to the Emperor, but it also gave the Pope the right to appoint bishops in France. This latter clause was used to resurrect the papacy and overthrow France once again.

The Pope instigated French bishops then to weaken the restrictions of the concordat, and even reasserting the rights of the Bourbon line to return to the throne of France. Napoleon's response was simply to ask the Pope to come to France to consecrate him as Emperor. This coronation took place in 1804 in Paris.

In 1810 the Pope began to transfer the Papal home from Rome to Paris. About 3000 boxes from the Vatican archives were moved to Paris and carefully cataloged by the occultic Mason, Charles Nodier. The Pope himself moved to Fontainebleau in France in 1812.

One of Napoleon's primary motives in this was not merely to gain power over the papacy, but to find records of the whereabouts of the treasure that the Goths had plundered from Rome in 410 A.D. This included the treasure that Rome had taken from Jerusalem in 70 A.D. The Goths had taken the treasure to the southern part of France near the Pyrenees Mountains, where it had been concealed somewhere in the silver mines of the region. Napoleon wanted that treasure, even as Nazi Germany wanted it 140 years later during World War II. But only a portion of it has surfaced over the years.

Napoleon then invaded Russia, where his army was destroyed. In 1814 he fell from power. The Papacy, traumatized by their near death experience, reinstated the Jesuits as their papal army. Then the Congress of Vienna met to redraw the map of Europe. In 1815 they restored the crown to the French Kings (Louis XVIII), and the Italian Papal States to the Pope. The Pope again assumed civil power. The papacy with its Jesuit army came back to life. Thus, the "fatal wound" was healed (Rev. 13:3)

The second beast then, the dragon in sheep's clothing, is not a singular corporate entity, or organization, like the first beast was, but rather is this spirit of messianism, mixed with the occult, inherit in several organizations each intent on their ruling the world. This group is referred to

by historians as "The Holy Alliance." While the elements of this group all first joined together to try to destroy the Roman Church, they all did so with the thought or hope that they might destroy each other as well. However, when the revolution was over this "Alliance" restored the Papacy to power, even returning some the papal states to the Papacy so that it once again had at least some temporal power and authority. As time passed, the Roman Church again lost these states to the new Kingdom of Italy in 1860 and never recovered them again. It had to be content with ruling nations by the power of religion. Still, this "Alliance" caused men to worship the first beast as before.

The biggest winner, or perhaps the only winner, in all this was the Jewish bankers that financed it all. N. M. Rothschild, founded in 1798 by Nathan Rothschild, quadrupled his fortune in the fall of Napoleon, promoting him to become a major monetary power-house.

(Re-read Rev. 13:13, 14) Verse 13 is symbolic, but an event occurred that gives us a literal fulfillment as well. I personally was not really aware of this until I became friends with a Catholic priest several years ago. Even though he belongs to a group that believes that the current Papacy is fraudulent and that the real Pope is another man, he sends me material quite often that without exception dwells to a certain extent on this event. In 1917 in Fatima, Portugal the most important sign of the century was said to have been seen by 70,000 people. The whole story can be read online at www.fatima.org. This started with three children who began having apparitions of Mary on May 13 with a message for mankind. The culmination happened on Oct. 13 quite literally with a great sign of fire coming down out of heaven. According to the website,

"On October 13th, 1917, in the presence of 70,000 eye witnesses, a miracle was worked in the sky above Fatima at the exact moment and in the precise spot that the children had announced earlier. Witnesses recounted that the sun appeared to actually 'dance' in the sky and seemed to fall to the ground before resuming its normal place in the heavens."

Unquestionably, something happened. It would be hard to fool 70,000 people. However, the astronomers noticed nothing unusual. The sun

continued its journey as it always had in ages past. It could have been a mass vision, but it was not an astronomical event. The heart of the message that was received by these children was in the form of three “secrets.” The third secret has not been revealed as of yet, but the first secret was, “a horrifying vision of hell.” This is in accordance with Roman Catholic doctrine. The second was “Russia’s consecration and the conversion of ‘that poor nation’ to the Catholic Faith.” This is consistent with Roman Catholic political policy.

To understand this we need to know that the Russian church is Orthodox and the Orthodox Church had split from Rome over the word *filoque* back in 1054 A.D. Since that time Rome has continually attempted to assert its authority over the Orthodox Church. When Constantinople fell in 1453, the headquarters of the Orthodox Church moved to Moscow. When Russia fell to the forces of Lenin in 1917, the headquarters moved to Kosovo in Serbia. Rome has consistently made war on the Orthodox Church, killing millions of them in Croatia during World War II, all with the blessing of the Pope and the bishops. This, I’m sure, had much to do with our bombing of Kosovo in the 1990’s, something I never understood until studying for this lesson.

However, out of all this has come one more “image” –The Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, blessed by the Pope in 1967. The Pope is still trying to “consecrate” Russia. This means that the Roman Church is still trying to destroy the Russian Orthodox Church there and replace it with the Roman Catholic Church, simply a typical power struggle.

We will continue with our study of Rev. 13 in our next issue. JRL

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH

We are continuing our study of Jeremiah 25 in this issue beginning with verse 12. (Read Jeremiah 25:12-14) After the 70 years, God says He will then punish Babylon and make it a perpetual desolation. In Isa. 14 we studied the proverb against the king of Babylon that will take place after the end of the 70 years. God mocked him for thinking himself on the same level or above God and referred to him as a falling star, Lucifer (the day star) and told him that he would be brought to the grave just as any other man. Then in Daniel 5 we find the fulfillment of both the proverb and this prophecy as Darius the Median and Cyrus the Persian conquered Babylon in one night. Today the location of the city of Babylon is total ruins and the native people will not stay there overnight.

God also says that He will deal with all the other nations in accordance with how they treated Judah. Obviously some of these nations were completely destroyed.

(Read Jeremiah 25:15-33) Jeremiah is instructed by God to take the wine cup of God’s fury and cause all the nations to whom God sends

him to drink of it. Jeremiah then took the cup and made all the nations, to whom he was sent, to drink it. He was to start with Jerusalem, and then we are given a list of all of the then known nations and some who were not known. If any nation was to refuse, God says they will drink of it. Verse 29 tells us, **“For, lo, I begin to bring evil on the city which is called by my name, and should ye be utterly unpunished? Ye shall not be unpunished: for I will call for a sword upon all the inhabitants of the earth, saith the LORD of hosts.”** Then verse 32 tells us, **”Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth.”** This was not something that was going to all happen right away. This is a long term prophecy that is still in effect. There has never been peace on the earth for any length of time from that day until now. There has always been nations fighting against nations somewhere.

(Read Jeremiah 25:34-38) God makes it plain that the leadership of these various nations is not going to be spared from the prophecies concerning the turmoil of the nations.

(Read Jeremiah 26:1-7) Keep in mind that this happened at the beginning of Jehoiakim’s reign, so God hadn’t rendered His final sentence. There was still time to repent and obey God. The priests and the prophets as well as the people heard what God had given Jeremiah to say.

(Read Jeremiah 26:8-9) The very idea that God would destroy the temple and the city of Jerusalem was something that the prophets, priests and people could not fathom. To them, even though they had gone on their own evil ways, what Jeremiah was saying was blasphemy and deserved the death penalty. The temple was their security blanket, so to speak, so for someone to tell them that it was going to be destroyed was more than they could take. As usual, instead of heeding the message, killing the messenger was the thing to do.

(Read Jeremiah 26:10-11) The rulers, hearing the uproar that was taking place in the temple, came to see what was happening. They were told that Jeremiah deserved to die because he had the gall to prophesy that the temple would be destroyed as Shiloh was destroyed.

(Read Jeremiah 26:12-15) Jeremiah doesn’t back down from the princes, but states to

them the same warning that he has spoken to the priests, prophets, and the people. He tells them to amend their ways and God would repent of the destruction that He had pronounced against them and the temple. Then he tells them that they can do whatever they want to him, but that wasn’t going to change God’s Word.

(Read Jeremiah 26:16-24) The princes did not see things the same way as the priests and the people, but rather acknowledged that Jeremiah had spoken in the name of the LORD their God, therefore they did not feel he should be sentenced to death. Then some of the elders apparently felt they could say what they were thinking without retribution. They began to defend Jeremiah, first reminding the people of what the prophet Micah had prophesied during the time of Hezekiah and that Hezekiah had harkened to what Micah had said and God did repent of destroying the city and the temple at that time. Then the opposite side argued that there was a man named Urijah who had prophesied the same that Jeremiah was prophesying. (The story of this man is not found elsewhere in Scripture.) It was related how that Jehoiakim had set out to kill him. He fled to Egypt, but Jehoiakim sent men to Egypt to bring him back and when they did Jehoiakim slew him. The chapter ends by telling us that Ahikam was supporting Jeremiah. Ahikam was the father of Gedaliah whom we will see that Nebuchadnezzar appointed to be governor over the people that were left in Jerusalem after Nebuchadnezzar took the rest captive. He also was a friend of Jeremiah. We will see that Ahikam also had at least two other sons that were friendly toward Jeremiah.

Though chapter 27 says Jehoiakim in the first verse, this is either a translator’s error or as Dr. Bullinger claims that the prophecy was given to Jeremiah in the beginning of Jehoiakim’s reign, but not declared to Zedekiah for 13 years (see vs. 12). I tend to think it is a translator’s error. (Read Jeremiah 27:1-11) These yokes would have been wooden yokes. Jeremiah was to put a yoke upon his own neck and then to send yokes to the kings of Edom, Moab, Ammon, Tyre, and Zidon by way of messengers that came from these various kings to king Zedekiah at Jerusalem. The message that was to go with them was that God was instructing them to voluntarily place themselves in submission to Nebuchadnezzar. God points out that He made the earth, man, and the beasts and by His

great power He gives it to whomever He sees fit. He tells them He has given their land and the beasts of the field into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar and all these nations were going to serve him, his son and his son's son. Then He says He is to cause many nations and great kings to make Babylon serve them. Any nation that refuses to put their neck into the yoke of Babylon, God would punish with the sword, famine and pestilence until they are consumed by the hand of Nebuchadnezzar. If they voluntarily put their neck into the yoke of Babylon, God says that they will remain on their own land and continue to dwell there.

(Read Jeremiah 27:12-18) Jeremiah went to king Zedekiah with the same message. It was no longer possible for God to change His mind. Judah was going into captivity to Babylon. The only choice they had was whether they would be allowed to stay in their own land or not. He warns Zedekiah to not listen to the false prophets who were telling Zedekiah and the people that God would cause the vessels of the LORD'S house, that had been taken to Babylon when Jehoiachin was taken captive, to be returned to Jerusalem and to the temple. He says that if they are God sent prophets, then let them make intercession to God that the vessels that are still there in Jerusalem be left there.

(Read Jeremiah 27:19-22) Jeremiah tells Zedekiah that God says that not only the rest of the vessels, but the pillars, the brass sea and its brass bases will be taken by Nebuchadnezzar back to Babylon and will remain there until He visits them, or attends to them, and then He will bring them up, and restore them to the temple.

(Read Jeremiah 28:1-4) Hananiah, though he was the son of a prophet and may have been a prophet himself, spoke to the priests and the people in the temple and told them the opposite of what Jeremiah had prophesied. He says that within two years, God would bring Jeconiah, or Jehoiachin, and all the captives of Judah, plus all the vessels that Nebuchadnezzar had already taken, back to Jerusalem.

(Read Jeremiah 28:5-9) Jeremiah responds that he is all in favor of what Hananiah is saying is going to happen, but as with all the prophets before him, Jeremiah says that when there is actually peace, then they would know if the LORD had truly sent Hananiah as a prophet.

(Read Jeremiah 28:10-11) Hananiah

makes a big mistake. He took the yoke off of Jeremiah and broke it saying **“Thus saith the LORD; even so will I break the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon from the neck of all nations within the space of two full years.”** At this point, Jeremiah did not have further word from God, so he left and went his way.

(Read Jeremiah 12-14) However, it was not long before God gave Jeremiah His Word. **“Go and tell Hananiah, saying, Thus saith the LORD Thou hast broken the yokes of wood; but thou shalt make for them yokes of iron.”** If we go back to the 28th chapter of Deuteronomy, God tells Israel what He will do if the people turn from obedience to His laws and worship false gods. All that He tells them is to discipline them, to cause them to turn back to Him, but things can get pretty severe. The most severe is to place on them a yoke of iron. I suggest that you read verses 49-68 for a description of what the iron yoke means. Basically, if they had submitted to the wooden yoke, though they would have been in submission to the king of Babylon, they would have been allowed to remain in their own land. Hananiah, speaking for the nation, refused to submit to the wooden yoke. Thus God says that in that refusal, he had brought the iron yoke upon them.

In our recent 9/12 meeting the discussion revolved around the removal of access to our public lands and the reasons for it. This is something that started many years ago, but is now down to the actual denial of access. My wife and I were discussing this as we returned home. We already know that we are in submission to foreign powers through the Federal Reserve Act, but the question is, how much worse will this get, especially with mandates of the UN Agenda 21 that though the United States is not a signatory to that treaty, all of our presidents since it was devised have pushed following its mandates. The ultimate goal of this treaty to return at least 50% of all the land to a totally uninhabited state, or wilderness area, including all of the natural resources that are part of it. There are a number of reasons why this is happening and why different peoples are supporting it. As we were discussing just how far God will allow this to go on, we reminded ourselves that the land belongs to God. So no matter what man thinks he can do, at some point God will take over the land. The other thing that we need to be

mindful of is that we are the Israel of the Bible and God says of Israel in His unconditional promise to David in II Samuel 7:10, **“Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will plan them, that they may dwell in a place of their own, and move no more; neither shall the children of wickedness afflict them any more, as beforetime.”** I believe we are at the appointed place, but not fully at the time that the children of wickedness won’t afflict us. We are still susceptible to the wooden yoke, something that I believe we are encumbered with at the present time, but I believe we are near the time when that will be removed from us and we will turn to and obey our God as we should.

Getting back to Jeremiah, Judah was going to have the iron yoke upon them. This meant famine, pestilence, the sword, and the survivors were going to be taken to another land other than their own and there they would serve the king of Babylon. We might point out again that the people who were taken with Jehoiachin were the good figs, they were under the wooden yoke and even though they were under submission to the king of Babylon, God provided a leader of Judah’s own people, Daniel, to rule over them. It would not be so well with those that were left when they were taken to Babylon because of their rejection of God’s law.

(Read Jeremiah 28:15-17) Hananiah would not see this, Jeremiah was instructed to tell him that he would die because he had taught rebellion to the people. He died two months later.

God tells Jeremiah to write a letter to those captives who were taken into captivity at the time that Jehoiachin was taken captive. (Read Jeremiah 29:1-7) Originally, the official immigration policy of the United States was designed to encourage well educated and/or well skilled people to immigrate to the U.S. The captivity of King Jehoiachin his princes, the carpenters and the smiths was done for the same purpose for the

kingdom of Babylon. So these people were not taken to Babylon and put in prison camps, but rather were expected to contribute to the Babylonian society. This was God’s idea as well, thus He had Jeremiah write a letter encouraging the people to build houses, dwell in them, plant gardens and eat of the fruit of them, get married and give their daughters and their sons in marriage among the captives. God tells them that He wants them to increase, not decrease in captivity. They were to seek the peace of the cities where they were sent and pray to God for that peace.

(Read Jeremiah 29:8-9) Like their counterparts still in Jerusalem, they apparently had prophets telling them that they would soon return to Jerusalem. God tells them to not believe these false prophets because He did not send them. JRL