

Two Baskets of Figs

Jeremiah 21:11 – 24:10

by Don Falkos

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The prophet Jeremiah went to Judah's king and said, "Do what is right! Exercise justice toward immigrants, orphans, and widows. Stop murdering the innocent! If you obey, the Lord will bless you, and there will always be a descendant of King David sitting on the throne. If not, you will suffer the consequences of your evil ways, and this palace will become a pile of rubble."

At the time, prophets of God seemed to proliferate in Judah. But most were not true prophets at all. They simply made up what they thought the people would want to hear and claimed, "This is a message from the Lord." Jeremiah warned against these false prophets.

God gave Jeremiah a vision and asked, "What do you see?"

"I see two baskets of figs sitting in front of the Temple. One basket is full of the finest quality figs. They look simply delicious. The other is full of rotten figs that are not fit to be eaten."

The Lord explained, "Those of my people who are taken into exile in Babylon will be to me like these good figs. I will watch over them and care for them. I will bring their descendants back to this land. I will build them up, not tear them down. I will plant them, not uproot them. I will give them the desire and the ability to know me. They will be my people and I will be their God. But the king, his officials, and all those who choose to remain here in this land will be to me like these rotten figs. I will scatter them. They will be an object of repulsion, a disgrace, and a curse. Wherever they go, violence, misfortune, and disease will follow until they have all been destroyed."