



HE STIFFENED HIS NECK By: *David W. Lankford*

P.O. Box 669 Alexis, NC 28006 704-263-1945 ["Radio" Blog Talk / "Media" TV www.thevoiceofevangelism.com
Shortwave Frequencies: 9.350 Mon. & Tues. 5-6 PM E.S.T. & 4.840 Sat. at midnight 12 AM E.S.T.

We take our scripture text from **2ND Chronicles 36:11-16**, "Zedekiah was one and twenty years old when he began to reign, and reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord his God, and humbled not himself before Jeremiah the prophet speaking from the mouth of the Lord. And he also rebelled against king Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God: but he stiffened his neck, and hardened his heart from turning unto the Lord God of Israel. Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the heathen; and polluted the house of the Lord which he had hallowed in Jerusalem. And the Lord God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place. But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against his people, till there was no remedy". The Scriptures tell us that Zedekiah reigned for eleven years as the king of Judah. The number 11 is associated with disorder and judgment throughout the entirety of the Bible. Since the number 10 represents law and responsibility, 11 means a broken law and broken responsibility, which will always bring judgment and disorder to a nation. Zedekiah through the sovereignty of God was placed on the throne by king Nebuchadnezzar. Zedekiah was a very weak and anemic king and he did not have strong leadership skills. In his fourth year, history records that he visited Babylon: but he eventually rebelled against king Nebuchadnezzar.

Nebuchadnezzar then came and destroyed Jerusalem and he also took Zedekiah and put out his eyes and carried him away in chains back to Babylon where he died in prison. We read in Jeremiah 52:10-11, "And the king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes: he slew also the princes of Judah in Riblah. Then he put out the eyes of Zedekiah; and the king of Babylon bound him in chains, and carried him to Babylon, and put him in prison until the day of his death". We see in our scripture text in verse 12, that Zedekiah did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord his God. Regretfully, this is the state of our nation and the state of today's church. It seems as though our leaders are hell bent on doing and committing great evil. Paul the apostle declared in **1ST Thessalonians 5:22**, "Abstain from all appearance of evil". Regretfully, our nation has become the personification of evil. America will pay a great price for murdering tens of millions of innocent babies. Even the president of these United States now sees people who stand for pro-life as terrorist. When did standing up in behalf of innocent children qualify one to be a terrorist? Some time ago, there was very little media coverage of a black physician in Philadelphia, who after failed abortions of babies that had not died, would then place their living bodies on a gurney. He would then come along with scissors and snip their spinal cords and finish killing them. That is the personification of shedding innocent blood before the living God of Abraham. Do not believe for one moment that America is not going to pay a grave penalty for making it legal to murder children in such a diabolical way. Just like Zedekiah, the leadership of this nation will not humble itself

relative to the prophetic words and messages that have been given to it. God has been warning this nation for quite some time, yet there is no evidence of true repentance. The reason that this nation is in its present condition is because we have a lack of preachers who are willing to preach an uncompromising message of God's word. The state of this nation is due to the spineless preachers which stand in the pulpits each Sunday. The scriptures tell us clearly in **2ND Chronicles 7:14-15**, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place". I want to bring to your attention as to the reason why the state of our nation is the responsibility of the church and the people of God. Jesus said in **Matthew 5:13-16**, "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost its savor, wherewith shall it be salted? it is there forth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven". Now, Jesus said if the salt has lost its savor, it is good for nothing but to be cast out and to trodden underfoot of men. Because of the backslidden condition of the church, professing Christians are going to be trodden underfoot of men just like Nebuchadnezzar ran roughshod over Jerusalem. Just a little side note,

the phrase, "if the salt has lost his savor", in the Greek means that one has become a *simpleton*, or one who has become a fool. The word savor in the Greek is #3471, **moraino** and that is where we get our English word *moron*. This nation has become moronic in every sense of the word. Webster says a moron is a mentally retarded person who has a potential mental age of between eight and twelve years old and is capable of doing routine work under supervision. It also means to be insipid, dull, or stupid. Do you remember the moronic statement from the speaker of the house, Nancy Pelosi? "**We have to pass the legislation to see what is in it**" referring to Obama care"? The church no longer is a light on a hill. Jesus said the church was to be a light to shine before men so that men may see our good works and glorify our Father which is in heaven. The modern church has become just as defiled, corrupt, polluted, and profane as the world. I know my words may sound very harsh but you know I am telling the truth. Today's pulpiteers preach self gratification, as well as self exaltation. Jeremiah preached humility to Zedekiah but Zedekiah would not humble himself, but rather he stiffened his neck. We are told in **James 4:10**, "**Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up**". We also read in 1st Peter 5:6, "**Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time**". The psalmist declared in **Psalms 35:13**, "**I humbled my soul with fasting; and my prayer returned into mine own bosom**". Humility is some-thing that must be done personally, God will not do it for you. We are told in **2nd Chronicles 20:20**, "**Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper**". Sad to say, but few preachers are willing to preach an

uncompromising message today. We also see in verse thirteen that Zedekiah rebelled against king Nebuchadnezzar. Again he stiffened his neck. A stiff neck is the end results of rebellion and disobedience. We read in **Proverbs 29:1**, "**He, that being often reproveth hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed and that without remedy**". The New Testament version of **Proverbs 29:1** is found in **1st Corinthians 10:12**, "**Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall**". The scriptures tell us that Zedekiah hardened his heart, even God can do nothing with a hardened heart when one rebels and refuses to listen to the voice of the prophets. Zedekiah was destroyed suddenly. The scriptures tell us in verse 14 that the priest and the people transgressed very much after the abominations of the heathen, and that they polluted the house of God. Look at the sordid mess and games that are being played in the house of God today. I just read the other day where a preacher popped a beer in the pulpit and drank it before the congregation and said quote, "**see there's nothing wrong with that**". And you wonder why I preach with such conviction? It is an abomination and a mockery concerning the things that are taking place in God's house today. Yet in God's great love he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place, thus, he sent messengers quickly or very early to lead the people to repentance but they misused his prophets. The word *misused* in the Hebrew means to cheat, to maltreat, to treat cruelly, and to abuse. We read in **Jeremiah 32:3**, "**For Zedekiah king of Judah had shut him up, (Jeremiah) saying, Wherefore dost thou prophesy, and say, Thus saith the Lord, Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall take it**". The words of the prophet scorched the King so Zedekiah misused Jeremiah and thus we read in **Jeremiah 38:6**, "**Then took they Jeremiah, and cast him into**

the dungeon of Malchiah the son of Hammelech, that was in the court of the prison: and they let down Jeremiah with cords. And in the dungeon there was no water, but mire: so Jeremiah sunk in the mire". Don't think for one moment that God is not going to judge America for its sins. Our scripture text says that it got so bad until there was no remedy, and the word remedy means healing. Thus, Jeremiah said in **Jeremiah 8:22**, "**Is there no balm in Gilead: is there no physician there? Why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?**" Simply put, Judah was past mercy and there was no remedy for the apostasy that had filled their lives. Judgment would come and that without fail. But we rejoice, because there is a remedy through Jesus Christ the Son of God. I beseech you by the mercies of God that you repent and get right with God, for this nation is ripe for judgment, and regretfully it is inevitable. We covet your prayers more now than ever before because God is using the radio and TV ministry to touch people like we have never seen before. We just had a Muslim named Akeem request a free Bible from the TV program because he accepted Jesus as his Saviour. Your offerings and your gifts help us to carry the gospel literally around the world and to the nations. Jesus said in **Matthew 24:14**, "**And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come**". What is the gospel of the kingdom one may ask? **Repentance**: for we read in **Mark 1:15**, "**The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel**". And now you know the message that must be preached in all the world: **Repentance!** Again, thank you for your love, prayers, and financial support for The Voice of Evangelism International Ministries.

Serving With You All,

David W. Lankford