Meant To Be (Jeremiah 1:5)

Tony Mauck · Jeremiah 1:5

INTRODUCTION

- If it's meant to be, my question is, by who? Who's determining that it's supposed to be or meant to be?
- A substitute teacher, not even a permanent everyday teacher, loses her life in that horrible tragedy. Was that meant to be?
- I wonder if talk like this reflects that we want our lives to be meaningful, to have purpose, that there's something at work outside of ourselves that is greater than us.

1 The Forces at Work in the World

John 12

- The most powerful force that's working in the world is God Himself. And yet not everything that happens in this world is a result of God's specific activity.
- Nothing happens outside of his view, nor his ability to prevent or stop if he so desires.
- The devil is one of those forces. He is called the ruler of this world, the God of this world.
- Also, the deeds of men cause certain events to happen.
- Unless God is telling us this is what's going on behind the scenes in the spirit realm, we may not always be able to ascertain the number of forces that are at work.

2 The Death of Josiah

2 Chronicles 34:27–28; 2 Chronicles 18

- Your heart was tender. And you humbled yourself before God when you heard his words against this place and against its inhabitants.
- Behold, I will gather you to your fathers, and you shall be gathered to your grave in peace. So your eyes shall not see all the evil which I will bring on this place.
- Stop for your own sake from interfering with God who is with me that he may not destroy you.
- You can disguise yourself, but you can't get away from random arrows if God wants them to hit the target. They're not so random after all.
- God sort of spoke this as a blessing to him that he would not see the destruction that is about to come about. But it does seem this was meant to be.

3 Jeremiah and Paul: Was It Just Meant to Be?

Jeremiah 1:5; Galatians 1:15; Psalm 139:16

- And before you were born, I consecrated you, I have appointed you as a prophet to the nations.
- When he who had set me apart even from my mother's womb and called me through his grace.

- Thine eyes have seen my unformed substance, and in thy book they were all written. The days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them.
- If that's the case, what about for you? Is it all just simply meant to be? Has God predetermined everything?

4 You're My Guy, Be My Guy

Jeremiah 1:17–19

- Gird up your loins and speak to them all, which I command you. Do not be dismayed before them. Lest I dismay you before them.
- Yes, Jeremiah, I saw this from eternity. That you would be the man in this moment. You're my guy, but at the same time, he's saying, Be my guy.
- God, knowing the future, does not rob any person of the personal freedom of choice.
- God knew what choice he would make. But it was still Saul's choice.

5 Why the Urgent Appeals?

2 Corinthians 5:10–11; Acts 13:46–48

- Why reason with me? Why the urgent appeals for action? Repent or perish.
- Knowing the terror of the Lord, we persuade men, Paul says, we must all stand before the judgment seat of God.
- Since you repudiate it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life. Behold, we're turning to the Gentiles.
- These Gentiles believed as a result of their choice. And because they were believers, they were thus appointed to eternal life.
- You're either going to be appointed to eternal life because you chose to embrace the gospel, or you're going to judge yourself unworthy of eternal life because you reject the message.

THE CHALLENGE

What will you decide about your spiritual destiny? The New Testament says it's in your hands.

MY NOTES