

A Study of **JEREMIAH**



Lesson Three – Chapters 5-8

“SUCH A NATION AS THIS...”

Jeremiah 5:1-17

No one was trying to do right (5:1; Gen 18:32) and it was only getting worse (5:6)

- Pretend religion (5:2 vs 4:2)
- Stubborn and rebellious (5:3, 23)
- Ignorant of God’s will (5:4)
- Idolatrous (5:7)
- Adulterers (5:7-8)
- False prophets comforted them (5:12-13)
- They did not fear God (5:24)
- They mistreated the poor and needy (5:28-29)

“WILL YOU NOT TREMBLE AT MY PRESENCE?”

Jeremiah 5:20-25

To “fear” God sometimes refers to reverence. But on other occasions it calls for men to be very afraid of Almighty God.

- 1. In this context (Jer. 5:20-25) does God speak of being respectful, being afraid, or both?**
- 2. What about Heb. 10:30-31, and 12:29?**
- 3. What about creation should make us fear God? (Jer 5:22)**
- 4. What is the fear factor in Matt 10:28?**

“YOUR SINS HAVE WITHHELD GOOD THINGS FROM YOU”

Jeremiah 5:25

1. Because of their sin, God withheld rain and their crops failed (5:24-25). They reacted with stubbornness (5:3), astonishment (5:19) and denial (5:12).
2. What other good things were they going to lose out on because of their own sins?
3. What good things can we miss out on in this life because of sin?

“AN ASTONISHING AND HORRIBLE THING!”

Jeremiah 5:30-31

² “Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. ³For the time will come when they will not **endure** sound doctrine, but according to their own **desires**, because they have **itching ears**, they will **heap up** for themselves teachers; ⁴and they will **turn** their ears away from the truth, and be **turned** aside to fables”: (2Tim 4:1-4).

REASONS FOR COMING JUDGMENT

Jeremiah 6

*“Therefore I am full of the fury of the LORD.
I am weary of holding it in” (11)*

1. The Lord is longsuffering but He does not withhold judgment forever (Gen 15:6; 1Pet 3:20)
2. This provides for a demonstration of both His mercy and His justice.
3. Years of warnings had been provided to Judah. Now time was up. (Jer 7:13, 25, and 9 other similar passages in Jeremiah!)
4. Babylon was coming with a great army to besiege and destroy Jerusalem (1, 6, 22-26)

REASONS FOR COMING JUDGMENT

Jeremiah 6

“As a fountain wells up with water, so she wells up with her wickedness” (7)

1. The Word of the Lord is a reproach to them (10)
2. Everyone is given to covetousness (13)
3. Everyone deals falsely (13)
4. Accepted false assurances (14)
5. Not ashamed, did not know how to blush (15)
6. Rebellious disobedience (19)
7. Unacceptable sacrifices (20)

“ASK FOR THE OLD PATHS”

Jeremiah 6

“Thus says the LORD: “Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls.” But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’” (11)

1. There is a path that is the “good way” and there are “crooked paths” (Isa 59:8).
2. You have to be wise enough to know which is which and then deliberately choose the good way.
3. It really does make a difference which path you choose. Only one provides rest.
4. The “good way” may not be the ‘latest and greatest’ trend. (Note that this is not about old man-made traditions)

“ASK FOR THE OLD PATHS”

Jeremiah 6

Which is Better?

1. The old arrangement of two week meetings or the newer practice of multiple shorter meetings? Of two services on Sunday vs. one?
2. The practices of the church in the 1840's – early in the (so-called) 'restoration movement' vs the practices today?
3. The relative fervor and unity of the church of the 1940's vs now.
4. So the “good way” is not necessarily older or newer. In Judah's case, it was the path that they were on prior to their rebellious apostasy.
5. It was the path established and illuminated by the Word of God.

“ASK FOR THE OLD PATHS”

Jeremiah 6:27-30

1. What is an assayer?
2. How was Jeremiah an assayer?
3. What tool did he use to do his work?
4. What is the purpose of a smelter?
5. What fire and bellows were used in the Lord’s smelter of Judah?
6. What was the result of the Lord’s attempt to purify Judah?



FALSE RELIGION

Jeremiah 7:1-24

1. The message of Jeremiah 7 was to **religious people** (29-10)
 - They claimed to worship God (2)
 - They trusted in the power of their religious symbols (4)
 - After all, they were Jews, God's chosen people (Matt 3:9)
 - It was a sham, a pretend religion – a cover for oppression, violence, idolatry, adultery, theft, lying, etc.
2. What God wanted was not primarily 'keepers of the rituals' but rather people who were obedient to His commands.

Isaiah 1:10-17

“WE ARE DELIVERED TO DO ALL THESE ADOMINATIONS”

Jeremiah 7:10

1. Oh really? By what?

- **Grace?** No! (Rom 6:1-7, 15, 22)
- **Worship? The temple itself? No!** (Jer 7:4, 12-14)
- Religious works? No! (Matt 7:21-23)
- Jewishness? No! (Rom 3:1, 9:4-5, Matt 3:7-10)

2. ‘Jeremiah accuses them of trusting in the ceremonial of the temple instead of leading holy lives. "You break," he says, "the Ten Commandments, and then you go to the Temple; and when the service is over you say, We are delivered. We have atoned for our past actions, and may start afresh with easy minds upon a new course of wickedness’ (Barnes).

Isaiah 1:10-17

“... not ... but ...”

Jeremiah 7:22-24

*“For I did **not** speak to your fathers, or command them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices” (22)*

Really? See Lev 1-4

*“**But** this is what I commanded them, saying, ‘Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people. And walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well with you.’”*

A Hebrew figure of speech meaning NOT just this BUT ALSO (and more importantly) this ... (see Isa 1:10-17; 1 Sam 15:22)

LESSONS FROM SHILOH

Jeremiah 7:12-14

1. The people were genuinely religious (Like those of Matt 7:21-23)
2. They trusted in 'religious places, things, and rituals – like the temple (v4)
3. Such trust was misplaced – the temple was to suffer the same fate as **Shiloh**
 - Shiloh was the first home of the tabernacle in Israel (Jos 18:1)
 - Israel revered the ark as having special powers (1Sam 4:3)
 - The Lord allowed the Tabernacle to be captured by the Philistines (1Sam 4:10-11, Psa 78:60)



LESSONS FROM SHILOH

Jeremiah 7:12-14

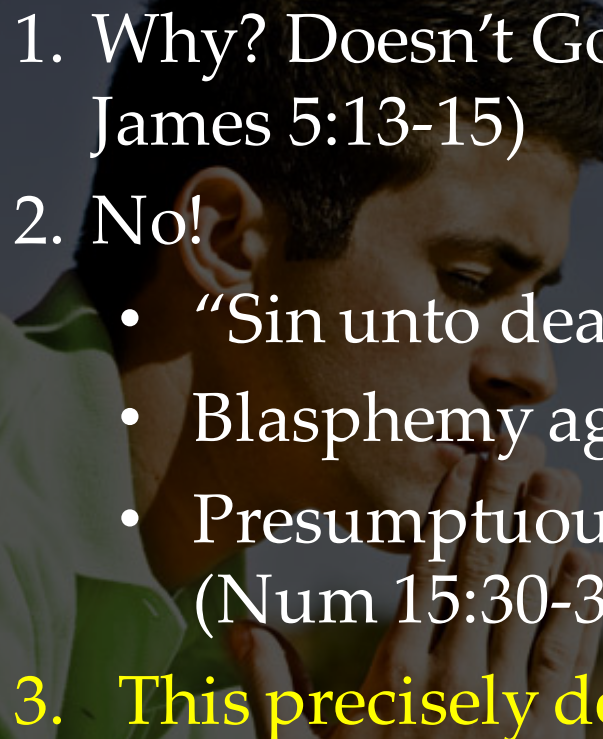
1. Any lessons for us?
2. What would be the modern equivalent of saying, “The temple of the Lord, the Temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord” (Jer 7:4)



“DO NOT PRAY FOR THIS PEOPLE”

Jeremiah 7:16

“Therefore do not pray for this people, nor lift up a cry or prayer for them, nor make intercession to Me; for I will not hear you.”

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1. Why? Doesn't God always accept prayers for His mercy? (see James 5:13-15)
 2. No!
 - “Sin unto death” (1Jo 5:16)
 - Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit (Mark 3:29)
 - Presumptuous / rebellious / unrepentant sinners (Num 15:30-31 – Notice meaning of “brings reproach!”)
 3. **This precisely describes the sin of Judah** (Jer 7:25-26)

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THE TESTIMONY OF DRIED BONES

Jeremiah 8:1-3



They worshipped idols. Did those idols preserve them? Where is the honor and blessing they may have expected? Can those idols now reassemble and resurrect these piles of bleached bones?