

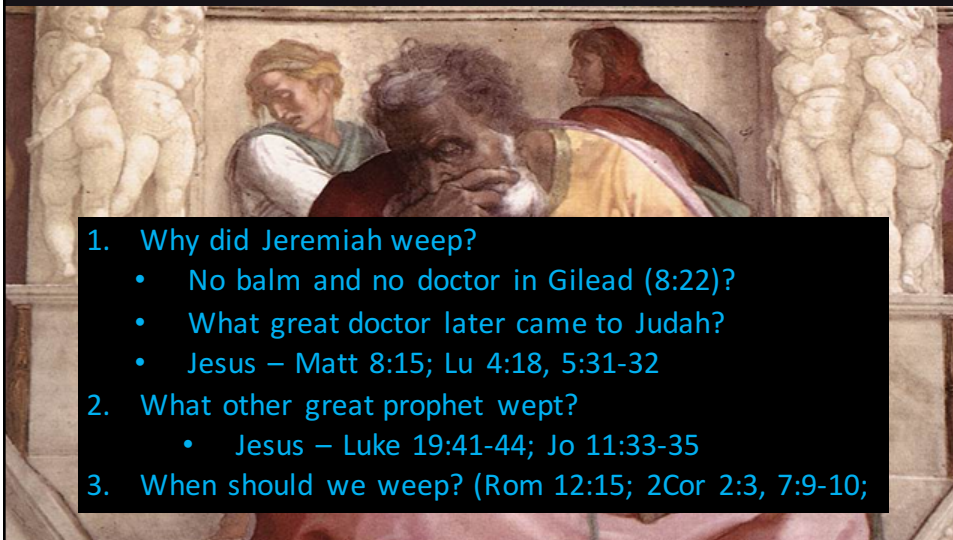
A Study of **JEREMIAH**



Lesson Three – Chapters 9-12

JEREMIAH, THE WEEPING PROPHET

Jeremiah 8:21-9:1



1. Why did Jeremiah weep?
 - No balm and no doctor in Gilead (8:22)?
 - What great doctor later came to Judah?
 - Jesus – Matt 8:15; Lu 4:18, 5:31-32
2. What other great prophet wept?
 - Jesus – Luke 19:41-44; Jo 11:33-35
3. When should we weep? (Rom 12:15; 2Cor 2:3, 7:9-10;

FROM EVIL TO EVIL

Jeremiah 9:2-16

The character of Judah

1. Adulterers (2)
2. Treacherous (2)
3. Liars – not valiant for truth (3, 5)
4. Proceed from evil to evil (3)
5. Do not know God (3)
6. Deceive and mistreat neighbors (4-5, 8)
7. Slanderers (4)

In summary... (12-14)

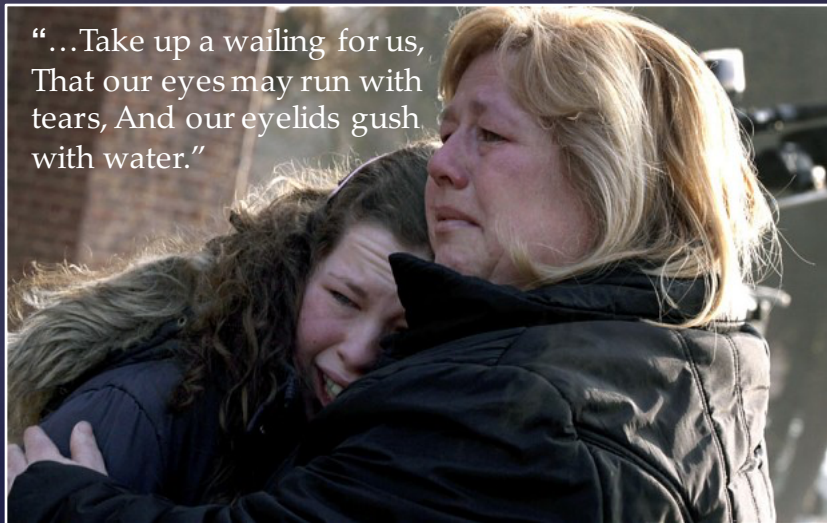
Therefore ...

1. I will refine and try them (7)
2. I will punish them – I will avenge Myself (9)
3. I will destroy Judah and especially Jerusalem (10-11)
4. I will scatter them among the Gentiles (16)

TEACH YOUR DAUGHTERS WAILING

Jeremiah 9:17-22

“...Take up a wailing for us,
That our eyes may run with
tears, And our eyelids gush
with water.”



“GLORY IN THIS”

Jeremiah 9:23-24 – 2 Cor 10:17-18

What are some other things that Judah gloried in?

Idols-Allies-Jewishness

Should a wise man be happy that he has wisdom, the powerful that he is not weak or the rich that they have money?

What does it mean to not glory in these things?

- To NOT have inordinate affection,
- With boasting and pride,
- And misplaced trust in these things

How does one glory in the Lord rather than earthly things?

- Let Him and His favor be the thing you value and esteem
- Put your trust in Him rather than yourself

“GLORY IN THIS”

Jeremiah 9:23-24

“²³Thus says the LORD: ‘Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches;

²⁴But let him who glories glory in this: That he understands the LORD, and that he exercises righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,’ says the LORD.”

**This is very difficult
for many
(1Cor 1:26; Luke 18:25)
WHY?**

What is the result of obeying God in this matter?

“UNCIRCUMCISED IN THE HEART”

Jeremiah 9:25-26

Read Jer 9:25-26

1. In what sense(s) was Egypt uncircumcised?
2. In what sense(s) was Judah uncircumcised?
3. What does this mean?

Read Rom 2:25-29

FUTILE CUSTOMS

Jeremiah 10:1-18

Whether a decorated tree or the work of skillful craftsmen, idols are a “futile custom” (v3), a “worthless doctrine” (v8), a “lifeless falsehood (v14), and “a work of errors” (15).

“The Portion of Jacob is not like them, For He is the Maker of all things, And Israel is the tribe of His inheritance; The LORD of hosts is His name” (v16).



“IT IS NOT IN MAN...”

Jeremiah 10:23

“O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.”

“IT IS NOT IN MAN...”

Jeremiah 10:23



Kids say, “I can do it! Let me...!”

Teens sometimes say, “Leave me alone. I don’t need you to tell me what to do.”

Men say, “I don’t need the instruction manual. I’ve got this.”

But more seriously, some think they have the way to happiness and eternal life all figured out.

God says, ‘No you don’t.’

“IT IS NOT IN MAN...”

“O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps” (Jer 10:23)

Since the days of Adam and Eve, many men have been cursed with an exalted appraisal of their own ability to figure things out regarding God and how to please Him.

Why is this be a ‘curse?’

Why can’t really smart men determine the truth about God’s will as to how our steps are to be directed?

Pro 3:5-8, 12:15, 14:12, 16:2, 26:12, 21:2, 30:12
 Luke 10:21, Rom 12:16, 1Cor 1:1-25

“IT IS NOT IN MAN...”

“O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps” (Jer 10:23)

“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.” Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”

“IT IS NOT IN MAN...”

“O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps” (Jer 10:23)

“...Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence” (1Cor 1:18-29).

“IT IS NOT IN MAN...”

“O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps” (Jer 10:23)

“Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. ⁷Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon.

⁸“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. ⁹“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts” (Isa 55:6-9).

Pro 3:5-8, 12:15, 14:12, 16:2, 26:12, 21:2, 30:12
 Luke 10:21, Rom 12:16, 1Cor 1:1-25

“IT IS NOT IN MAN...”

Wisdom From the Proverbs on this Topic

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, **And lean not on your own understanding**; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. **Do not be wise in your own eyes**; Fear the LORD and depart from evil” (3:5-7).

“**The way of a fool is right in his own eyes...**” (12:15).

“**There is a way that seems right to a man**, But its end is the way of death.” (15:12).

“**All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes**, But the LORD weighs the spirits” (16:2).

“**There is a generation that is pure in its own eyes**, yet is not washed from its filthiness” (30:12).

“IT IS NOT IN MAN...”

“O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps” (Jer 10:23)

What is the practical application for us?

26:12, 21:2, 30:12

TENDER CORRECTION

Jeremiah 10:24

“O Lord, correct me, but with justice; not in Your anger, lest You bring me to nothing.”

Should we desire chastening? Explain.
(Heb. 12:5-11)

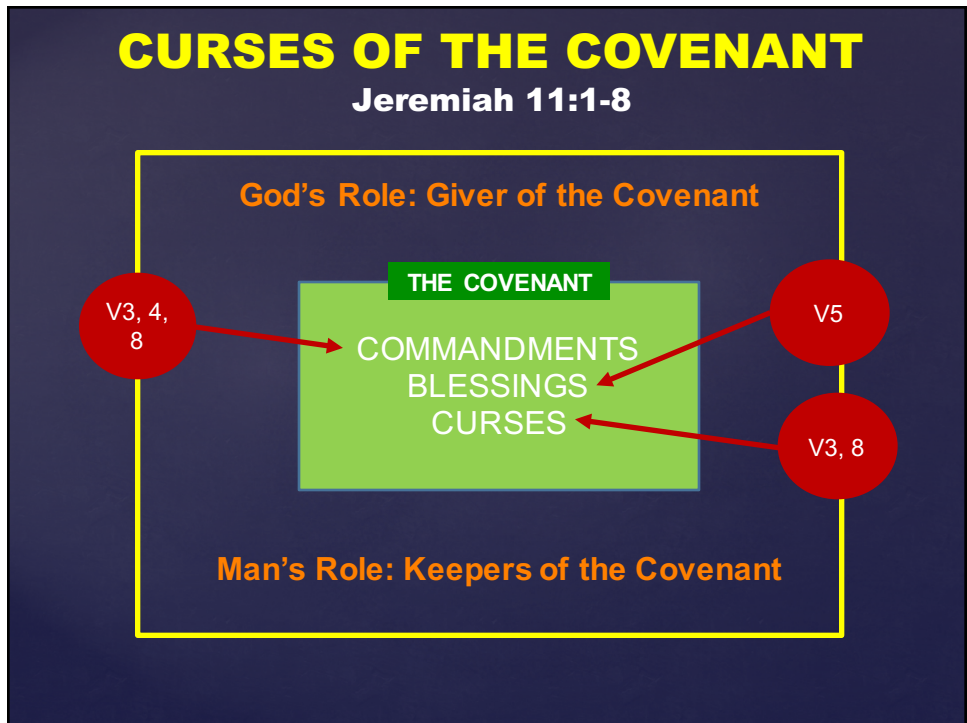
“O LORD, do not rebuke me in Your anger, Nor chasten me in Your hot displeasure. ²Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am weak “ (Psa 6:1-2)

CURSES OF THE COVENANT

Jeremiah 11:1-8

“The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, “**Hear the words of this covenant**, and speak to the men of Judah and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and say to them, ‘Thus says the LORD God of Israel: “**Cursed is the man who does not obey the words of this covenant** which I commanded your fathers in the day I brought them out of the land of Egypt, from the iron furnace, saying, ‘Obey My voice, and do according to all that I command you; so shall you be My people, and I will be your God.’”

‘For I earnestly exhorted your fathers in the day I brought them up out of the land of Egypt, until this day, rising early and exhorting, saying, “Obey My voice.” **Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but everyone followed the dictates of his evil heart; therefore I will bring upon them all the words of this covenant**, which I commanded them to do, but which they have not done.’”



CURSES OF THE COVENANT

Jeremiah 11:1-8

- God gave the covenant to Israel at Sinai nearly 1,000 years before the time of Jeremiah
- For all of those years the Lord sent prophet after prophet to remind them of the terms of the covenant and to encourage them to obey it.
- Israel steadfastly refused to repent and to obey the covenant
- Now it was time for the vengeance of the covenant (Lev 26:25).
- This demonstrated the longsuffering, justice, holiness, and veracity of God

CONSPIRACY AGAINST JEREMIAH

Jeremiah 11:18-23

Those of Anathoth, Jeremiah's hometown threatened him saying, "Do not prophesy in the name of the LORD, lest you die by our hand" (v21).

The Lord had said to Jeremiah, "You shall go to all to whom I send you, And whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid of their faces, For I am with you to deliver you..."

Jeremiah did his part – He did not freeze in fear but continued to prophesy as commanded.

God did His part – He protected Jeremiah and punished Anathoth.

WHY DO THE WICKED PROSPER?

Jeremiah 12:1-4

Righteous are You, O LORD, when I plead with You; Yet let me talk with You about Your judgments. **Why does the way of the wicked prosper?** Why are those happy who deal so treacherously? ²You have planted them, yes, they have taken root; They grow, yes, they bear fruit.

³...Pull them out like sheep for the slaughter, and prepare them for the day of slaughter.”

Lord is righteous while those of Judah – **especially the conspirators of Anathoth** (11:18-23), are wicked. Why does He allow them to prosper? God had promised justice (11:21-23) but Jeremiah was impatient.

What would be your answer to Jeremiah?

GOD'S RESPONSE TO JEREMIAH

Jeremiah 12:5-13

“If you have run with the footmen, and they have wearied you, Then how can you contend with horses?” (v5)



This threat from Anathoth caused Jeremiah much concern! (v6). But if he had trouble dealing with this matter, how would he deal with greater threats to come – like those from the kings of Judah?

HOPE FOR THE GENTILES

Jeremiah 12:14-17

“I will pluck them from their land” – The Gentiles of Palestine exiled by the Babylonians just as Judah was

“I will “pluck out the house of Judah from among them” – The Persian king Cyrus allowed Judah to return home.

“I will have compassion ... bring them (the Gentiles) back” – Like Judah, the Gentile people from surrounding countries were also allowed by Cyrus to return home

Then, if the Gentiles learn and obey My will, “they shall be established”

WHAT WERE THE GENTILES TO LEARN AND OBEY?

Jeremiah 12:14-17

1. Is this exclusively a reference to on of the following?

- Obey the Law of Moses – i.e., become a Jewish proselyte? (Ex 12:49; Acts 6:5, 10:2; 13:42, 43)
- Obey the unwritten ‘law of the heart’ (Rom 1:11-16)

2. Or is this a Messianic reference?

- Obey the Law of Christ (Eph 2:12-22, et al.)