

A Study of JEREMIAH



Lesson Five—Chapters 13-16

THE SIGN OF THE LINEN SASH

Jeremiah 13:1-11

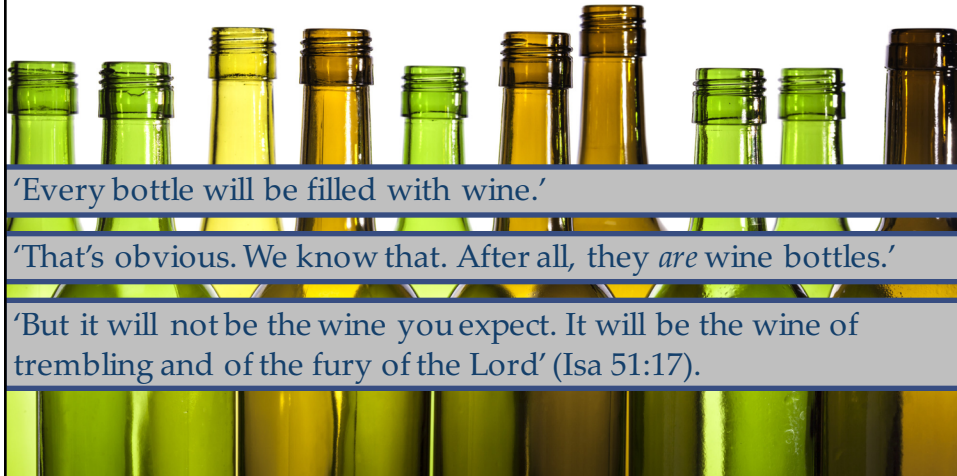
- Jeremiah obtained and wore a linen sash
- Then buried it near the river
- And it became “ruined [and] profitable for nothing”
- “In this same manner I will ruin the pride of Judah...” (9)

‘For as the sash clings to the waist of a man, so I have caused the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah to cling to Me,’ says the LORD, ‘that they may become My people, for renown, for praise, and for glory; but they would not hear’” (11).



THE SIGN OF THE WINE BOTTLES

Jeremiah 13:12-14



'Every bottle will be filled with wine.'

'That's obvious. We know that. After all, they *are* wine bottles.'

'But it will not be the wine you expect. It will be the wine of trembling and of the fury of the Lord' (Isa 51:17).

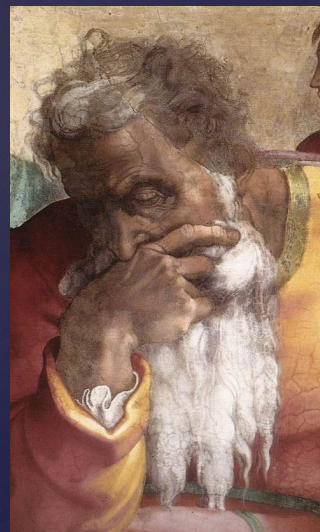
OUR COMPASSIONATE GOD

Jeremiah 13:17

"Hear and give ear. Do not be proud ...
But if you will not hear it, My soul will
weep in secret for your pride; My eyes
will weep bitterly And run down with
tears, Because the LORD'S flock has
been taken captive."

Jeremiah wept, as did the Lord, for the
lost. So did Jesus (Luke 19:41) and Paul
(2Cor 2:4).

Do we?



WARNING, REBELLION, AND DISASTER!

Jeremiah 13:17

“Say to the king and to the queen mother, ‘Humble yourself...’ For your rule shall collapse, the crown of your glory ... Judah shall be carried away captive, all of it...” (18-19).

Wicked young Jehoichin must have been full of pride at his new crown.

But in less than 3 months, he, the queen mother, and other 10,000 others were taken into Babylonian captivity (2Kings 24:8-16).

A repeating pattern...

WARNING!

REBELLION

DISASTER!

IS REPENTANCE ALWAYS POSSIBLE

Jeremiah 13:23



“Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil.”

Luke 18:25-27

2Pet 3:9

Heb 6:4-6

“CONCERNING THE DROUGHTS

Jeremiah 14:1-6

Moses had warned, ¹⁵“...If you do not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, ²³... your heavens which are over your head shall be bronze, and the earth which is under you shall be iron. ²⁴The LORD will change the rain of your land to powder and dust; from the heaven it shall come down on you until you are destroyed” (Deu 28:15, 23-24).

But the people did not obey and, as a result, endured drought – and other curses (Jer 14:1-6)

Then they said, “Why have these things come upon me?” (Jer 13:22).

CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD

Jeremiah 14:13-15:21



Five prayers by Jeremiah and the Lord's response

Jeremiah's First Intercession
"DO NOT LEAVE US!"
Jeremiah 14:7-12

Righteous Jeremiah prayed for God to forgive the sins of Judah and end the chastening – "Do not leave us!" (14:7-9)

- "Do it for Your name sake" (7). Otherwise it may look like You "cannot save" (9)
 - But would forgiving unrepentant sinners glorify God?
 - Do it because You "are in our midst" (9)
 - Oh really? – Isa 59:1-2
 - Do it because "We are called by Your name" (9)
 - Only when they obey Him – Deut 28:9-10
- [And these were religious people; fasting and offering sacrifices (12). Wasn't that enough?
- Remember 1Sam 15:22 and Isa 1:11-17

Jeremiah's First Intercession
"DO NOT LEAVE US!"
Jeremiah 14:7-12

The Lord replied with a responding 'NO!' – "DO NOT PRAY for this people, for their good ... I WILL NOT HEAR their cry; and ... I WILL NOT ACCEPT them. But I will consume them by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence" (14:10-12)

- Is prayer for the sins of other sometimes authorized? (James 5:16; Jesus; Stephen)
- Are there occasions when such prayers are inappropriate? (v11-12; 1Jo 5:14-17)

What's the difference? How do we know when to pray that one be forgiven of his sins?

Jeremiah's Second Intercession
'BUT THE PROPHETS SAID...'
Jeremiah 14:13-18

The Lord spoke of coming destruction yet certain prophets had proclaimed that everything would be fine (13).

- Like those who said, "Peace, peace" (6:14)
- Like the Satan with Eve in the garden (Gen 3:4-5)

"And the LORD said to me, "The prophets prophesy lies in My name. I have not sent them, commanded them, nor spoken to them; they prophesy to you a false vision, divination, a worthless thing, and the deceit of their heart" (14).

- We also are warned about false prophets (Matt 24:11, 24; 1Jo 4:1)

Note the damning effect of believing the false prophets (16)

- Remember 2Thes 2:9-12 and the young prophet in 1Kings 13

Jeremiah's Third Intercession
HAVE YOU UTTERLY REJECTED JUDAH?
Jeremiah 14:19-22

- Have you rejected Judah? Do You now hate her? (19). We've been looking for Your restoration but things are not getting better (19)
- "We acknowledge, O Lord, our wickedness" (20)
 - Why was that not enough?
- "Do not disgrace the throne of your glory" (21)
 - 'Don't embarrass Yourself by allowing Your people to be destroyed'
- "Do not break your covenant with us" (21)
 - Is that even a possibility? (1Cor 1:9; Heb 6:18).
 - Man does the covenant breaking, not God
- You are the only one who can help us (22)

Parallels Moses' intercession for Israel (Ex 32:11-14)

Jeremiah's Third Intercession
HAVE YOU UTTERLY REJECTED JUDAH?
Jeremiah 15:1-9

The Lord's Response to Jeremiah

- One might think that Jeremiah's intercession would carry great weight. But not even Moses and Samuel could change God's mind about Judah (1)
- Their inevitable destiny was death by a Babylonian sword, famine during the siege, or Babylonian captivity (2)
- God was "weary of relenting" (6)
- This would happen because:
 - Of the sin of Manasseh (4)
 - And because of their own unrepentant sin (7)

WOE IS ME!
Jeremiah 15:10

Jeremiah's response to the Lord's words were:

Woe is me. It would me better if I had not been born. I am a good man but everybody hates me! (10)

A few comments:

- Better not born? God decides that, After all, God chose him before he was born (Jer 1:5)
- Don't be surprised that good men are persecuted (2Tim 3:12)
- Strive comes with the territory. A prophet/preacher has to say what people do not want to hear (1Tim 4:3; 2Tim 4:3)
- Are we sympathetic. Imagine how hard his life was – like Noah (2Pet 2:5) and like Lot (2Pet 2:7)

GOD COMFORTS JEREMIAH

Jeremiah 15:11

“The LORD said [to Jeremiah]: “Surely it will be well with your remnant; Surely I will cause the enemy to intercede with you In the time of adversity and in the time of affliction” (11).

God’s promise was fulfilled a few years later. After the fall of Jerusalem, “Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon gave charge concerning Jeremiah to Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard, saying, ‘Take him, and look well to him, and do him no harm; but do unto him even as he shall say unto thee” (Jer 39:11-12).

JEREMIAH COMPLAINS

Jeremiah 15:15-18

Oh Lord, help me! (15)

After all, I have done much for You (15-16)

And I am a good person (10, 6-17)

I have suffered so much (17-18)

Can you really be trusted to help me? (18)



GOD CALLS FOR JEREMIAH TO REPENT

Jeremiah 15:19-21



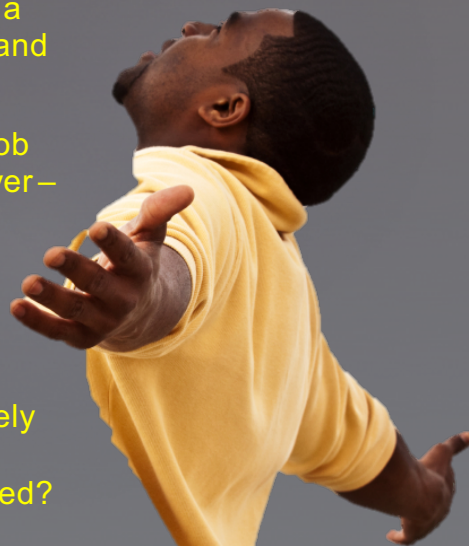
The Lord said:

- Return
 - Purge out the vile
 - Don't conform
-
- I will bring you back and you shall stand before Me
 - I will protect and deliver you

Jeremiah doubted God's judgments (12:1-2)
Perhaps he doubted the Lord's honesty (14:13, 21)
And he did not trust His salvation (15:18)

WHAT IS THE TONE OF OUR PRAYERS?

- Like sending a formal letter to a business? With little intensity and emotion?
- With the burning intensity of Job who wrestled with God in prayer – but never went too far?
- Like Moses who talked with God face-to-face as a friend? (Ex 33:11)
- Like Jeremiah who passionately opened his heart to God but perhaps went too far and sinned?



JEREMIAH WAS NOT TO MARRY AND HAVE A FAMILY

Jeremiah 16:1-4



The Lord commanded Jeremiah, "You shall not take a wife, nor shall you have sons and daughters in this place"(16:1)

Why? As a way to warn the people about the terrible destruction of families that was coming (16:3-4, 9)

"WHY? WHAT IS OUR INIQUITY?"

Jeremiah 16:13

"And it shall be, when you show this people all these words, and they say to you, '**Why** has the LORD pronounced all this great disaster against us? Or what is our iniquity? Or what is our sin that we have committed against the LORD our God?'"

"...**Because** your fathers have forsaken Me,' says the LORD; 'they have walked after other gods and have served them and worshiped them, and have forsaken Me and not kept My law. And you have done worse than your fathers, for behold, each one follows the dictates of his own evil heart, so that no one listens to Me.'"

"**Therefore** I will cast you out of this land into a land that you do not know"

PROMISE OF RESTORATION

Jeremiah 16:14-21

“The days are coming” (14)

- Used 15 times by Jeremiah to refer to (1) judgment, (2) return of the exiles, and (3) Messianic times

“I will bring them back”(15)

- Refers to deliverance by Cyrus while also containing cloudy images of the Messiah’s calling His people to Him

“For My eyes are on their ways” (17)

- He has not forgotten His people. Feels compassion
- His eyes see deep into their heart (Heb 4:12-13)
- There can be is no hiding or denial of sin (v10)

“And first I will repay...” (18)

- The holy and just God cannot ignore sin nor His past warnings about their consequences