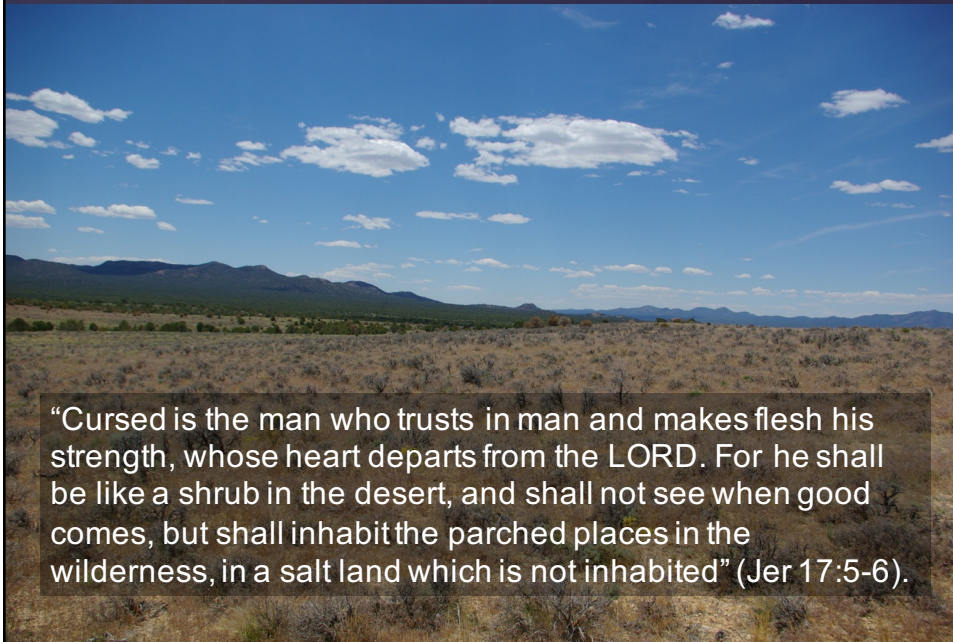


A Study of **JEREMIAH**



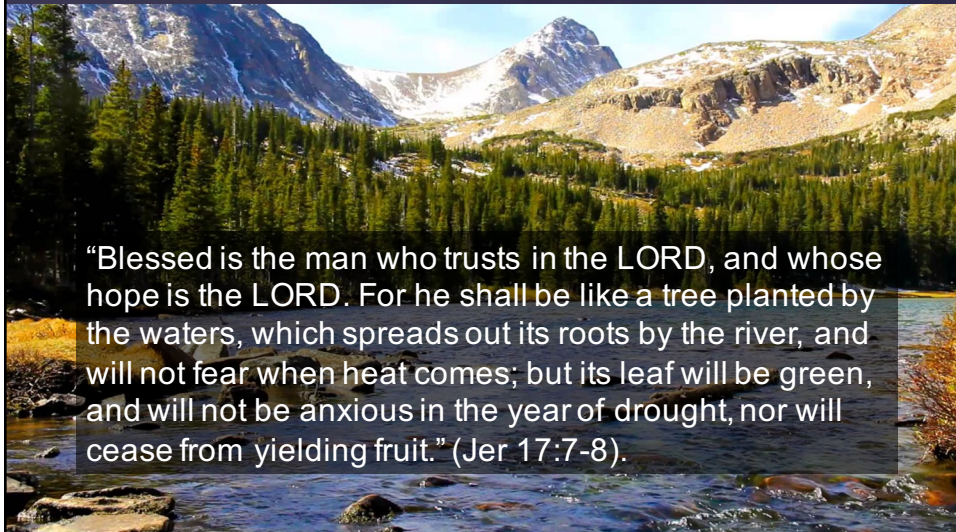
Lesson Six– Chapters 17-20

IN WHOM DO YOU TRUST?



“Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the LORD. For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when good comes, but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land which is not inhabited” (Jer 17:5-6).

IN WHOM DO YOU TRUST?



“Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is the LORD. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; but its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit.” (Jer 17:7-8).

What does it mean to “trust in the Lord?”
What are the elements of such a trust?

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings” (Jer 17:9-10)



THE ALL-KNOWING GOD

Jeremiah 17:9-10

“For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things” (1Jo 3:20).

“For I know nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord.” 1Cor 4:4).

“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account” (Heb 4:12-13).

THE FOUNTAIN OF LIVING WATER

“... They have forsaken the Lord, the fountain of living waters” (Jer 17:11-13) “and hewn themselves cisterns – broken cisterns that can hold no water” (Jer 2:13)

Sounds like a bad deal – but that is always the deal sin offers: bondage for liberty, the valueless for the precious, the profane for the holy.

“HALLOW THE SABBATH DAY”

- God said, “Hallow the Sabbath Day” (Jer 17:19-27)
- Part of the law given at Sinai (Ex 20:8-11)
- A sign of the covenant (Ex 31:13; Ezek 20:20)
- Blessings for obedience (Jer 17:24-26)
- Curses for disobedience (Jer 17:27)



THE SIGN OF THE POTTER



Jer 18:1-10

Illustrating the Sovereignty of God Almighty

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD



The Potter Illustrates God's Sovereignty

1. In creation (Isa 64:8)
2. In deciding Judah's fate (Jer 18:1-10)
3. In choosing how He will dispense His grace (Rom 9:20-23)
4. In demanding obedience (Isa 29:16)

THAT IS HOPELESS!

Jeremiah 18: 11-17

What is hopeless? God's salvation?

- No! A repentant response to Jeremiah's words was hopeless.

They fully knew the blessings of obedience but:

- Rejected the cool clean waters the Lord provided (14)
- Rejected the safe highway for a rugged pathway (15)

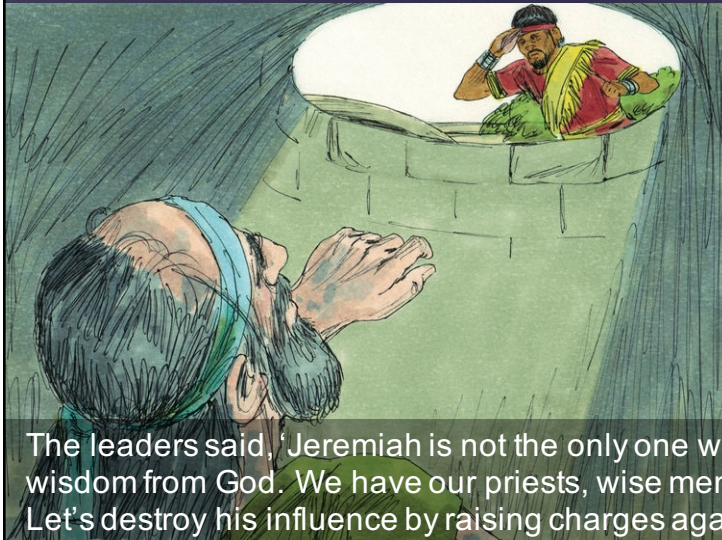
"Who has heard of such a thing!" (13) How would anyone make such a bad trade then refuse to trade back if they could?

The Hebrew writer explained:

- "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance..." (Heb 6:4-6).

CONSPIRACY AGAINST JEREMIAH

Jeremiah 17: 18-23



Jeremiah
prayed:

Give heed, to
me, Oh Lord

I spoke good for
them

Now they dig a
pit for me

Take vengeance
on them!

The leaders said, 'Jeremiah is not the only one who speaks wisdom from God. We have our priests, wise men, and prophets. Let's destroy his influence by raising charges against him' (18)



THE SIGN OF THE BROKEN FLASK

"Go and get a potter's earthen flask..."

1. Told to take a flask and some of the leaders to the Valley of the Son of Hinnom (1) and to an area called Tophet (14)
2. Announce the coming catastrophe (3-5)
3. Valley of Hinnom to be renamed the Valley of Slaughter (6)
4. Description of the coming judgment (7-9)
5. "Break the flask" (10)
6. Jerusalem will be like Tophet (11-14)
7. "Because they have stiffened their necks that they might not hear My words" (15)

Jeremiah 19: 1-15

TOPHET AND THE VALLEY OF THE SON OF HINNOM

- A valley near Jerusalem (Jos 18:16). Tophet was an area of that valley
- Came to be a place where children were sacrificed by fire (Isa 30:33; Jer 7:31, 32:35 – Ahaz- Manasseh-2Chr 28:3, 33:6)
- Josiah defiled the site and ended child sacrifice there (2Kings 23:10)
- Later reportedly used as an area to continuously burn trash including the dead animals from Jerusalem. Human burials and cremation also occurred there

TOPHET AND THE VALLEY OF THE SON OF HINNOM

- ❖ Jeremiah used it to comment on the coming judgment.
 - It would be renamed “The Valley of Slaughter” because of all those to be killed by Babylon and buried there
 - Jerusalem would be defiled and burned like Tophet (Jer 19:11-13)
- ❖ The Potter’s Field, in which Judas was buried, was in the Valley of Hinnom
- ❖ The Hebrew word *gê’ hinnom* (literally the valley of Hinnom) was transliterated in the Greek as *Gehenna* or Geenna
- ❖ It is used in the NT to refer to the fires of Hell, the destination of the wicked (e.g., Mark 9:43-44).



PASHHUR PERSECUTES JEREMIAH

Jeremiah 20: 1–6

1. Pashhur, priest, chief governor – part of the establishment (1)
2. Struck Jeremiah (40 lashes-De 25:3?) and put him in stocks (2)
3. Jeremiah did not back down. Voiced judgment against Jerusalem and against Pashhur
4. Imagine Jeremiah's confusion. 'Lord, you said you would protect me (1:7, 17-19). This does not feel like protection!'



Was the Lord faithful toward Jeremiah?

JEREMIAH COMPLAINS TO GOD

Jeremiah 20: 7–18

1. Understandably, Jeremiah was despondent – to the point of wishing he had never been born (14-18)
2. God had forcefully recruited him for the work of prophet (20:7, 1:10-10)
3. A high calling? With appreciation and honor from those he served? Not really.
 - Instead he got derision and mocking (7), threatening (10), and persecution (11)
4. It got so bad he wanted to quit – but he could not (8-9)
 - Why? Irresistible calling? Too much to lose?
5. In the midst of despair, Jeremiah praised God, acknowledged His care, and prayed for help (11-13)