

## JEREMIAH LESSON 1

We will find in this book why Jeremiah was known as the weeping prophet. He was born to a priestly family. He was born in Anathoth, which was a suburb of Jerusalem.

Jeremiah was reluctant to answer the call of God, because he was just a teenager when God called him. He is like many of us, who feel unworthy to do the task God calls us to.

His ministry covered a period of sad times. Judah is overrun and the Hebrews are carried away captive to Babylon. He, as many other prophets, brought warning from God. The people did not heed the warning and were taken. He later prophesies of the return of the Hebrews to Jerusalem.

This book is, of course, penned by Jeremiah. Jeremiah prophesied during the reign of 5 kings.

We will find that Jeremiah preached, as well as prophesied. When the Hebrews were taken captive, Jeremiah was given the privilege of staying in Jerusalem, if he wished, and he stayed. A band of Jews forced him to go to Egypt, and he prophesied there.

Jeremiah did not choose to be a prophet. God chose Jeremiah. God had placed such a burden for the people on Jeremiah, that he was compelled to prophesy. God touched his mouth and put His words in Jeremiah's mouth. The message, then, was God's message, spoken through Jeremiah.

The name "Jeremiah" means Jah will rise. Jeremiah was a contemporary of Ezekiel and Daniel. Daniel was God's choice to prophesy in the Babylonian palace. Ezekiel prophesied and acted as priest to the rural people. Jeremiah stayed in Jerusalem and saw it destroyed.

We will now begin this lesson in Jeremiah 1:1 "The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah, of the priests that [were] in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin:"

We see several things from this verse. 1. Jeremiah's daddy was a priest. 2. His father's name was Hilkiah. 3. He was from Anathoth. 4. Anathoth was in the land of Benjamin. 5. The first statement lets us know that Jeremiah penned this prophecy.

Jeremiah 1:2 "To whom the word of the LORD came in the days of Josiah the son of Amon king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign."

We know that Josiah was king in Judah. He did right in the sight of the Lord. Josiah's father was an evil man, however. There is, also, a specific time set for the Word of the Lord to come to Jeremiah. It was in the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah. The Word of the LORD came to Jeremiah. As we have learned in Isaiah, and many of the other prophetic books, the message Jeremiah was to speak, came directly from the LORD.

Jeremiah 1:3 "It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, unto the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah the son of

Josiah king of Judah, unto the carrying away of Jerusalem captive in the fifth month."

This is not speaking of the entire prophecy of Jeremiah, but is speaking of the warning given before Judah is carried away into Babylon. This is just saying the prophecy extended into the reign of Jehoiakim, and even unto the eleventh year of the reign of Zedekiah. Jehoiakim was, also, Eliakim. It was during the reign of his son, Jehoiachin, that Nebuchadnezzar battled Jerusalem and took the people captive to Babylon. He had just been in power three months when the battle against Jerusalem occurred. The name Zedekiah was given to Mattaniah, by his uncle Nebuchadnezzar. Judah was carried away into captivity the 5th month.

Jeremiah 1:4 "Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,"

We see, from this, that Jeremiah actually heard the voice of the LORD. This is just establishing the fact, that the Lord directed Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 1:5 "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, [and] I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations."

This is the Word of the LORD. The LORD called Jeremiah to prophesy, even before he was born. His sole purpose in life was to prophesy to Judah. This is very similar to the call of John the Baptist. They had no private life, at all. Their lives were for the purpose of God to be fulfilled. The LORD, not only, called him to prophesy before he was born, but set him aside for the purpose of God {sanctified him}, before he was born. We remember from the book of Luke, that John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Ghost in his mother's womb. This is a very special call. The LORD did not want Jeremiah weighted down with worldly things. He separated him for a purpose. Jeremiah did not choose to be a prophet. God poured out His Spirit on Jeremiah and ordained him for this purpose. Notice that Jeremiah was to prophesy to nations {plural}, not just to Judah.

Jeremiah 1:6 "Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I [am] a child."

This does not mean that Jeremiah was a small child, but was an expression used of someone in their teens. I personally believe that he was about 17. "Ah, LORD God!" is a statement of shock. Jeremiah felt totally inadequate to do the job. He was very much like Moses, who said he could not talk. God asked Moses, who gave you your mouth? The word "behold" is saying look and see that I am too young. Many of us, when we are called, give some feeble excuse. That is what the age factor is here. God is not concerned about Jeremiah's youth, so why should he be concerned?

Jeremiah 1:7 "But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I [am] a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak."

God would not listen to the excuses of Jeremiah. He even tells Jeremiah to hush. In the very next sentence, He reassures Jeremiah that He will be with him. Jeremiah will not have to think up something to say. God will put the Words in Jeremiah's mouth. Look, with me, at what Jesus said about this very thing. Luke 12:11 "And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and

[unto] magistrates, and powers, take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say:" Luke 12:12 "For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say."

Jeremiah 1:8 "Be not afraid of their faces: for I [am] with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD."

I love what Jesus said in the following Scripture along these same lines. Matthew 10:28 "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." The worst a man can do to you is to kill your body. If they kill you, would immediately be with God. That is nothing to fear. God alone can destroy the body and soul in hell. If the LORD is with you, there is nothing to fear.

Jeremiah 1:9 "Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth."

I believe this happened. I know that the touch of the LORD can change your life completely. Jeremiah could rely on the Words of God. They will not fail. These Words did not come from the innermost place of Jeremiah. They were placed in his mouth by the LORD. Jeremiah would speak much more boldly, knowing the Words were the LORD's. I believe ministers would be much more effective, if they allowed God to speak through them, rather than preparing their own message. God has a message for each congregation. When God speaks through the minister, His Words apply to their current needs.

Jeremiah 1:10 "See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant."

Had the LORD, chosen someone of greater age, or someone highly respected as a priest in the temple, or even a king to speak: it would have appeared it was their power. God knew that no one would expect these mighty prophecies to come from such a youth. When he spoke, they would know that the message had to be from God. This would have been a difficult job for anyone, but would be unusually difficult for a youth. He, probably, asked himself, who would listen? Let me say, that God can send whoever He chooses. A king is a king, because God allowed it. God has literally put this young man in charge over the nations. He is like a watchman, or an overseer. Jeremiah will speak judgment on these people. It is actually God speaking judgment on them through the mouth of Jeremiah. Whatever comes out of Jeremiah's mouth will be, because it is the Word of God. God is aware of all that they do. He is causing the Babylonian captivity to come to cause them to repent.

Jeremiah 1:11 "Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Jeremiah, what seest thou? And I said, I see a rod of an almond tree."

Aaron's rod bloomed and brought forth almonds. Numbers 17:8 "And it came to pass, that on the morrow Moses went into the tabernacle of witness; and, behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds." It seems to me, that the LORD has shown Jeremiah that his rod has bloomed like Aaron's. The things Jeremiah puts his hand to do will be blessed of God. The "rod of the almond tree" means to awaken and be ready to do whatever God has for him to

do. This could, also, mean that God is ready to bring judgment on Judah. The almond is the first to bloom. It usually blooms in January. The rod could, also, be the rod of correction. All of these things prevail at the time of Jeremiah's prophecy.

Jeremiah 1:12 "Then said the LORD unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten my word to perform it."

It seems, that not only does the LORD put His Words in Jeremiah's mouth, but He opened Jeremiah's understanding, as well. God is telling Jeremiah, this is soon coming.

Jeremiah 1:13 "And the word of the LORD came unto me the second time, saying, What seest thou? And I said, I see a seething pot; and the face thereof [is] toward the north."

The "seething pot" is speaking of the soon doom for the country of Judah. Seething indicates it is just about to boil over. To those who have received much, much is required. God's punishment on them will be great, because they are His, and should know better than to worship idols. The "seething pot" sometimes indicated impending war. The pot is facing the prophet.

Jeremiah 1:14 "Then the LORD said unto me, Out of the north an evil shall break forth upon all the inhabitants of the land."

The Babylonians were northern people. This does not specifically mention Babylon, but they know from the direction, who it is. Actually the road leading to Babylon went north. The army of Babylon will overflow the land and capture it.

Jeremiah 1:15 "For, lo, I will call all the families of the kingdoms of the north, saith the LORD; and they shall come, and they shall set every one his throne at the entering of the gates of Jerusalem, and against all the walls thereof round about, and against all the cities of Judah."

This is actually a description of how they camp at the gate outside the wall. The kings and rulers will set up at the gate of the city. They would not enter the city. The city will have to come out to the gate to surrender. Jerusalem was besieged first, and then, the other cities of Judah.

Jeremiah 1:16 "And I will utter my judgments against them touching all their wickedness, who have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, and worshipped the works of their own hands."

God's people had committed spiritual adultery. They had been unfaithful to the LORD. They even burned incense to false gods and made statues of false gods with their own hands. God is jealous. He will not allow the worship of other gods. His judgment comes, because of their unfaithfulness to Him. God has judged them and found them guilty of unfaithfulness. He speaks the judgment on them to cause them to repent and return to Him.

Jeremiah 1:17 "Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them."

"Gird up thy loins" is an expression to prepare yourself and be ready. Do not just sit there, get on with the work God has called you to do. Jeremiah is to show no fear at all. He must place his confidence in the Lord, and not waver at all in the things God has him to say.

Jeremiah 1:18 "For, behold, I have made thee this day a defenced city, and an iron pillar, and brasen walls against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against the princes thereof, against the priests thereof, and against the people of the land."

God has placed a hedge of protection around Jeremiah. God is his defense. Iron shows the strength God has given Jeremiah. A pillar holds something up. This pillar is Jeremiah, who holds up the Word God has given him. Brass has to do with judgment. The whole land is judged. The poor, the rich, the kings, even the priests of the temple have been judged guilty as charged.

Jeremiah 1:19 "And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I [am] with thee, saith the LORD, to deliver thee."

Of course, the people will not want to accept this message that Jeremiah speaks, because it speaks of doom for them. They will fight back, but God is with Jeremiah. God will deliver Jeremiah out of their hands.

## Jeremiah 1 Questions

1. What kind of prophet was Jeremiah known as?
2. He was born to a \_\_\_\_\_ family.
3. Where was he born?
4. Why was Jeremiah reluctant to answer the call of God?
5. How can we relate to Jeremiah?
6. What terrible things went on in the time of Jeremiah's ministry?
7. Did the people heed his warning?
8. Who penned this book?
9. Jeremiah prophesied during the reign of \_\_\_\_\_ kings.
10. Was Jeremiah taken into captivity?
11. A band of Jews forced him to go where?
12. Jeremiah did not choose to be a prophet. \_\_\_\_\_ chose Jeremiah.
13. How do we know that Jeremiah's message was actually God's message?
14. What does the word "Jeremiah" mean?
15. Who were contemporaries of Jeremiah?
16. Where did each of them prophesy?
17. What was Hilkiah, Jeremiah's father?
18. When did the Word of the Lord come to Jeremiah?
19. Was Josiah good, or bad?
20. What time is verse 3 speaking of?
21. Who was the king of Babylon, who took Jerusalem?
22. Who named Zedekiah?
23. When was Jeremiah known of God?
24. What was Jeremiah's sole purpose in life?
25. What excuse did Jeremiah give, for not answering God's call?
26. How old does the author believe Jeremiah was when he was called?
27. What was Jeremiah to speak?
28. Quote Luke chapter 12 verses 11 and 12.
29. Why should Jeremiah not be afraid of their faces?
30. Quote Matthew chapter 10 verse 28.
31. What miraculous thing did God do for Jeremiah?
32. What had God set Jeremiah over?
33. What did Jeremiah see?
34. Who else had a similar experience?
35. What are some of the things this could mean?
36. What did Jeremiah see the second time?
37. What is "seething pot" speaking of?
38. Which direction will the enemy come from?
39. Why has God brought judgment against Judah?
40. What does "gird up thy loins" mean?
41. How would Jeremiah be protected?
42. What does Jeremiah's message bring to them?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 2:1 "Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying,"

The word "moreover" makes you think this is a continuation of what we heard in chapter 1. The LORD is still speaking to Jeremiah here.

Jeremiah 2:2 "Go and cry in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the LORD; I remember thee, the kindness of thy youth, the love of thine espousals, when thou wentest after me in the wilderness, in a land [that was] not sown."

This proclamation was for all the people. It was to be spoken so every ear could hear. The Hebrews would listen, when Jeremiah began with the statement "Thus saith the LORD". God has not overlooked the loyalty of their past. The LORD still loves His people. Their espousal was to God. They were the wife of the LORD. They sought God, when they were in Egypt and helpless. God led them, and cared for them 40 years in the wilderness. They were always repentant and thankful, when God performed a miracle for them, but they would soon fall back into idolatry the minute the problem was over.

Jeremiah 2:3 "Israel [was] holiness unto the LORD, [and] the firstfruits of his increase: all that devour him shall offend; evil shall come upon them, saith the LORD."

Israel had been set aside by God to walk holy lives before Him. They were to demonstrate His holiness here on the earth. Israel was actually the firstfruits of God's family. They had first son status with God. The firstborn son of each family had to be bought back with silver shekels of redemption. The Levitical tribe took the place of the firstborn son in the work in the temple. God blessed those who blessed Israel, and cursed those who did evil to Israel. They were God's chosen people.

Jeremiah 2:4 "Hear ye the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel:"

This message was sent to God's people. This message was not for the heathen world. They are cautioned to listen carefully.

Jeremiah 2:5 "Thus saith the LORD, What iniquity have your fathers found in me, that they are gone far from me, and have walked after vanity, and are become vain?"

God had made covenant with the Hebrews through Abraham. God had kept His part of the covenant to the last letter. God is Righteousness, and Holiness, and Truth. It is impossible for God to lie. Hebrews 6:18 "That by two immutable things, in which [it was] impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:" There was no iniquity in God, so their fathers could not have found iniquity in Him. Vanity causes people to want to please their flesh. This was no different. They pleased their flesh by worshipping things they could see with their physical eyes, or touch with their physical hands. This is committing spiritual adultery.

Jeremiah 2:6 "Neither said they, Where [is] the LORD that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, that led us through the wilderness, through a land of deserts and of pits, through a land of drought, and of the shadow of death, through a land that no man passed through, and where no man dwelt?"

They were not seeking the True God, who did all of these miraculous feats for them. They worshipped whatever was convenient at the time. Look at the list of things God had done for them that would have left no doubt who God is. He parted the Red Sea to save them from Pharaoh's men. He rained Manna from heaven to feed them. He brought water from the Rock to quench their thirst. Their shoes and clothes did not even wear out in 40 years. How could they even consider another? With this True God as their heritage, why would they seek a nothing {idol} who could not help them in any way? The Bible says, Seek and ye shall find. They should seek this God of miracles who is truly God.

Jeremiah 2:7 "And I brought you into a plentiful country, to eat the fruit thereof and the goodness thereof; but when ye entered, ye defiled my land, and made mine heritage an abomination."

God brought them into a land of milk and honey. The promised land was a fertile land. It was so fertile, one cluster of grapes had to be carried by two men. The land was almost like the garden of Eden, when they took it. Their sin had caused the blessings of God to be removed from them. They inter-married with non-believers and brought idols into their homes.

Jeremiah 2:8 "The priests said not, Where [is] the LORD? and they that handle the law knew me not: the pastors also transgressed against me, and the prophets prophesied by Baal, and walked after [things that] do not profit."

The priests should have stood up and stopped them. It appears the priests and pastors did not take a stand for God. This is very similar to the compromise that is going on in the church today. The pastors and priests must uphold the Word of God. They must warn the people when there is error in their belief. The priests and pastors must not waver in teaching the Truth. It appears great compromise had entered the church. The worst thing of all, is they listened to the prophets of Baal, a false god. Elijah had shown, beyond a shadow of doubt that Baal had no power at all. Baal was powerless to help them. What good could come of worshipping a false god? The answer is none.

Jeremiah 2:9 "Wherefore I will yet plead with you, saith the LORD, and with your children's children will I plead."

God had given them every opportunity. He had sent prophets and holy men to warn them of this very thing. God has still not given up. He has now sent Jeremiah to plead with them to turn from their wicked ways. This terrible captivity that comes upon them, is actually God pleading with them to repent and come back to Him. God will not quit trying to reach them. Christianity in Jesus was offered to the Jew first, and then to the Gentile. Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

Jeremiah 2:10 "For pass over the isles of Chittim, and see; and send unto Kedar, and consider diligently, and see if there be such a thing."

"Chittum" represents the lands away from the holy land and "Kedar" represents the Arabs who live around them. The Arabs were descended from Abraham through Ishmael. They were sons of the flesh, and not of the Spirit.

Jeremiah 2:11 "Hath a nation changed [their] gods, which [are] yet no gods? but my people have changed their glory for [that which] doth not profit."

They are challenged to look at the heathens who worship false gods, and realize the false gods cannot, and will not help them. Why would you trade the real God who helps you, for a god that is a nothing that cannot help?

Jeremiah 2:12 "Be astonished, O ye heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid, be ye very desolate, saith the LORD."

"Be astonished" is just a way of expressing how ridiculous this would be. The heavens would be astonished, and horribly afraid, because they would know the results of such actions. Their desolation would be overwhelming, when God removes His blessings from them.

Jeremiah 2:13 "For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, [and] hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water."

The following is a statement made by Jesus about these living waters. John 7:38 "He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." The children of Israel drank from this living water, when Moses struck the Rock {Jesus} and the water flowed. The living water always proceeds from the throne of God. Israel has abandoned God, who is their very present help. He controls nature, and no other god can furnish natural things to their people. They have abandoned God and started worshipping things they made with their own hands. This is not only idolatry, but idolatry from those who should know better. These cisterns are things made with human hands and are very limited. The first evil thing they did, was turn away from God. The second evil thing they did, was turn to false gods.

Jeremiah 2:14 "[Is] Israel a servant? [is] he a homeborn [slave]? why is he spoiled?"

Israel belonged to the family of God. They were slaves to no man. The only One Israel was to serve was the most high God. They were made slaves to the Babylonians to cause them to repent and turn back to God.

Jeremiah 2:15 "The young lions roared upon him, [and] yelled, and they made his land waste: his cities are burned without inhabitant."

Satan is like a roaring lion. This is specifically speaking of those who come against Jerusalem, and destroy the city, and take the citizens captive. The yelling just lets us know that this was not a silent take-over. It was violent. They burned the cities, and took the people captive. They could not have done this, had God not been angry with Israel and allowed this to happen.

Jeremiah 2:16 "Also the children of Noph and Tahapanes have broken the crown of thy head."

This is speaking of two other areas that side with Babylon against Judah.

Jeremiah 2:17 "Hast thou not procured this unto thyself, in that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God, when he led thee by the way?"

Now we see, they deserve what they get. They brought all of this on themselves, when they turned their backs on God. When God was with them, no one could win a battle against them. God fought their battles for them. They turned away from God toward false gods. This happened to them, because the protection God had around them was now removed. They sinned, and now, they would pay for it. He had been with them and led them every step they took. His power was shown to them many times, when He destroyed their enemies before them. Now, He will not protect them, because they have forsaken The LORD, who was their God.

Jeremiah 2:18 "And now what hast thou to do in the way of Egypt, to drink the waters of Sihor? or what hast thou to do in the way of Assyria, to drink the waters of the river?"

"Egypt" symbolizes the world. They had chosen the world over God. The water from Egypt, or from Assyria, will not give them what they need. The world, and its system, will be of no help to them. God is their only help, and they have left Him. They will just have to go into captivity.

## Jeremiah 2 Questions

1. What does the word "moreover", in verse 1, cause you to think?
2. Who was Jeremiah to cry to?
3. What got the Hebrews attention?
4. Their espousal was to \_\_\_\_\_.
5. When had they sought God?
6. Israel was \_\_\_\_\_ unto the LORD.
7. What were the Israelites to demonstrate on the earth?
8. How was the firstborn of each family purchased back from God?
9. God blessed those who \_\_\_\_\_ Israel.
10. Who does verse 4 tell us this message was for?
11. God is \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Quote Hebrews chapter 6 verse 18.
13. What does vanity cause a person to want to do?
14. List some of the miraculous things God had done for them.
15. When God brought them into the fruitful land, what did they do to it?
16. How big was one cluster of grapes in the promised land?
17. What should the priest and the pastor have been saying to the people?
18. Instead of listening to God, who had they been listening to?
19. Who had shown this very false god up before?
20. How long will God plead with them?
21. Who had God sent to warn them?
22. What is this terrible captivity that comes upon them, really?
23. Quote Romans chapter 1 verse 16.
24. What does "Chittum", in verse 10, represent?
25. Who does "Kedar" represent?
26. Why would the heavens be astonished?
27. What were the two evils they had committed?
28. Quote John chapter 7 verse 38.
29. Who controls nature?
30. Who was Israel slave to?
31. Who are the young lions in verse 15?
32. Who really brought these problems on them?
33. Why will God not protect them from Babylon?
34. Who does "Egypt" symbolize?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 2:19 "Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee: know therefore and see that [it is] an evil [thing] and bitter, that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God, and that my fear [is] not in thee, saith the Lord GOD of hosts."

We see, from this, they will reap what they have sown. Their bondage will be bitter, because they have shown bitterness toward God in forsaking Him. God is very angry with them, because they did not fear Him and worship Him. This is like rebellion from a spoiled child. Fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. He leaves no doubt at all who speaks this. It is the Lord GOD of hosts.

Jeremiah 2:20 "For of old time I have broken thy yoke, [and] burst thy bands; and thou saidst, I will not transgress; when upon every high hill and under every green tree thou wanderest, playing the harlot."

Those of you, who have studied Exodus, know this is a very true statement. They would make promises to be faithful to God, if He would only help them. He would feel sorry for them, and forgive them. The minute God helped them out of their problems, they would go right back into disobedience to God again. God broke the yoke of the Egyptians, and brought them to the promised land. They were unfaithful over and over, and every time God would forgive them and give them a fresh start. This was spiritual harlotry here. The high places were a common place to go and worship the false gods. Under the green trees had to do with grove worship which was also of false gods.

Jeremiah 2:21 "Yet I had planted thee a noble vine, wholly a right seed: how then art thou turned into the degenerate plant of a strange vine unto me?"

The vine mentioned, here, implies the Vine which is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the Vine, we Christians are the branches. The Jews were blessed with God in their fruitful vineyard. God had originally started them out right, but they had turned away from God. The church is, many times, spoken of as God's vineyard. God had forbidden cross breeding of vines in Leviticus. We can see from this, that to be a degenerate plant, would be to be like a wild plant with no direction.

Jeremiah 2:22 "For though thou wash thee with nitre, and take thee much soap, [yet] thine iniquity is marked before me, saith the Lord GOD."

God is not interested in the outward cleanliness of man. The clean heart is what is pleasing to God. We know that Jesus called the scribes and Pharisees "whited sepulchres" in the following verse. Matthew 23:27 "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead [men's] bones, and of all uncleanness." You can wash all you want to on the outside, but it will not make you acceptable unto God. The cleanliness that God appreciates, is the inward cleanliness which comes from being washed in the blood of the Lamb.

Jeremiah 2:23 "How canst thou say, I am not polluted, I have not gone after Baalim? see thy way in the valley, know what thou hast done: [thou art] a swift dromedary traversing her ways;"

Just to say you have not sinned is not enough. God knows the heart of man. These people had gone through the motion of worshipping God, but their hearts were far from Him. They went to the temple on the holy days, but did not even understand why they were going. Their hearts were not in worshipping God. It had just become a routine happening. This is much the case in churches today. We must not become religious in our worship. Christianity is a personal relationship with the Lord, not a set of rules to keep.

Jeremiah 2:24 "A wild ass used to the wilderness, [that] snuffeth up the wind at her pleasure; in her occasion who can turn her away? all they that seek her will not weary themselves; in her month they shall find her."

This is speaking of the month of the year that we would call the mating season. This would mean no matter how far in the wilderness she was, the mate would find her. They do not care what happens to her, unless it benefits them. This is the way with false religion as well. They are not interested in her welfare. A false god does not help the people who worship him.

Jeremiah 2:25 "Withhold thy foot from being unshod, and thy throat from thirst: but thou saidst, There is no hope: no; for I have loved strangers, and after them will I go."

This could, perhaps, have something to do with dancing barefoot in the worship of Baal. They drink of the cup of sin. There is no hope in a false god. Sin carries guilt. These strangers imply false gods. To go after a false god, brings no hope. The only hope is in the Lord.

Jeremiah 2:26 "As the thief is ashamed when he is found, so is the house of Israel ashamed; they, their kings, their princes, and their priests, and their prophets,"

The shame comes from the guilt they have. They thought they had not been noticed of God for their evil doings. Now that Jeremiah has spoken, they realize they have wandered far away from God. This sin is not just one class of the people, but has spread from the poorest to the richest. Even the king and the priests and prophets had strayed from the Truth. The whole nation needs to repent and return to God.

Jeremiah 2:27 "Saying to a stock, Thou [art] my father; and to a stone, Thou hast brought me forth: for they have turned [their] back unto me, and not [their] face: but in the time of their trouble they will say, Arise, and save us."

This is almost like evolution. The word the stone was taken from is a feminine word indicating this stone was thought of as their mother. "Stock", in the verse above, means tree, or part of a tree. It, also, means wood. This, again, has to do with worshipping under the tree. Perhaps, even worshipping idols made from the tree, instead of God the Father.

Jeremiah 2:28 "But where [are] thy gods that thou hast made thee? let them arise, if they can save thee in the time of thy trouble: for [according to] the number of thy cities are thy gods, O Judah."

It seems they had begun to worship many gods. Some of them made from wood into idols. A piece of wood, no matter how beautifully carved, has no power to help anyone. God tells them to call on these idols to help them, and see how far they get.

Jeremiah 2:29 "Wherefore will ye plead with me? ye all have transgressed against me, saith the LORD."

It seems the only time they call on the LORD is when they are in trouble. He says, here, if these false gods are so powerful, why are you calling on Me?

Jeremiah 2:30 "In vain have I smitten your children; they received no correction: your own sword hath devoured your prophets, like a destroying lion."

The smiting of the children by God was to cause them to repent. He says, here, He smote them, but it did not change them as it should have. They did not learn from His correcting them. They had killed the prophets who God sent to teach them His ways. God had always purged His people to make them better. It was like cutting the vine back to make the new growth better. God loved Judah. He just wanted them to live the way He had intended them to live. He was deeply hurt by their idolatry. The only way He could get them to repent and call on Him, was when they were in dire need of His help.

Jeremiah 2:31 "O generation, see ye the word of the LORD. Have I been a wilderness unto Israel? a land of darkness? wherefore say my people, We are lords; we will come no more unto thee?"

God had brought light, and happiness, and joy to His people. They had been supernaturally protected from their enemies. He had brought rain when the crops needed it, and gave abundant crops for their effort. He had been a blessing to them in every way. This rebellion was like the rebellion of Lucifer. They wanted to be their own god. They thought too highly of themselves. Instead of looking to God for their answers, they looked to themselves. They believed a lie, and began to worship false gods.

Jeremiah 2:32 "Can a maid forget her ornaments, [or] a bride her attire? yet my people have forgotten me days without number."

The bride's attire is her wedding dress. Her ornaments are the beautiful things the groom had given her. These are things a woman never forgets. God is better to His bride than any earthly groom. His gifts are for eternity, and the attire of the bride is white linen washed in the blood of the Lamb. This is the robe of righteousness, which puts us in right standing with God. To forget that, would be unthinkable.

Jeremiah 2:33 "Why trimmest thou thy way to seek love? Therefore hast thou also taught the wicked ones thy ways."

There is even a bit of discipline required in the worship of false gods. They have conformed to that way, and now are leading others.

Jeremiah 2:34 "Also in thy skirts is found the blood of the souls of the poor innocents: I have not found it by secret search, but upon all these."

The poor innocents are the true prophets who have been killed by these who have followed false gods. These innocents are martyrs. They have been slain by the sword, and their blood is evident on the skirts of their slayers. God did not have to look in secret places to find this. They had done this right out in the open, all the time proclaiming they were doing this for God.

Jeremiah 2:35 "Yet thou sayest, Because I am innocent, surely his anger shall turn from me. Behold, I will plead with thee, because thou sayest, I have not sinned."

Much wrong is done claiming to be doing God's will, when it is not God's will. They proclaimed innocence. They thought if they said they were innocent, it would fool God into believing they were innocent. This will not fool God at all. He knows their hearts.

Jeremiah 2:36 "Why gaddest thou about so much to change thy way? thou also shalt be ashamed of Egypt, as thou wast ashamed of Assyria."

They had run to the world leaders for help, when they should have been going to God. All the running about to this country and that for help, will not stop this judgment of God on them.

Jeremiah 2:37 "Yea, thou shalt go forth from him, and thine hands upon thine head: for the LORD hath rejected thy confidences, and thou shalt not prosper in them."

To have confidence in the world, or in themselves, would bring nothing but headaches. God does not count their confidence in the world, or in themselves, as faith. We need to learn from this. The world has no power. We have no power within ourselves. The only power available to us is the power of God. When we put our trust and faith in God, then we will prosper, because He blesses us.

### Jeremiah 3 Questions

1. In verse 19, what shall correct them?
2. What is verse 19 really saying?
3. \_\_\_\_\_ is the beginning of wisdom.
4. God broke the yoke of the \_\_\_\_\_, when He carried them to the promised land.
5. What was their unfaithfulness to God?
6. What is the noble Vine in verse 21?
7. Who is, many times, spoken of as God's vineyard?
8. Where do we read that God had forbidden cross breeding?
9. What would the degenerate plant be like?
10. God is not interested in the \_\_\_\_\_ cleanliness of man.
11. The clean \_\_\_\_\_ is what is pleasing to God.
12. Who did Jesus call "whited sepulchres"?
13. What should we be washed in?
14. What were they saying, in verse 23, that was just not enough?
15. We must not become \_\_\_\_\_ in our worship.
16. What is Christianity?
17. What is verse 24 speaking of?
18. What false religion was the "foot being unshod" speaking of?
19. What is the shame mentioned in verse 26?
20. Who has sinned?
21. What had they said to the stock?
22. What does "stock", in verse 27, mean?
23. What does God tell them to do with the idols of wood?
24. What good had it done to smite them?
25. What had God brought to these Israelites, that should have caused them to worship Him?
26. What is the bride's attire?
27. How does God's gift differ from the earthly groom's?
28. What is verse 33 speaking of?
29. Who are the poor innocents of verse 34?
30. What did they say they were in verse 35?
31. Who had they run to for help in verse 36?
32. To have confidence in the world, or in themselves, would bring nothing but a \_\_\_\_\_.

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 3:1 "They say, If a man put away his wife, and she go from him, and become another man's, shall he return unto her again? shall not that land be greatly polluted? But thou hast played the harlot with many lovers; yet return again to me, saith the LORD."

The reference of the husband and wife here, is most assuredly speaking of the ordinance in Deuteronomy 24:1 "When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give [it] in her hand, and send her out of his house." Deuteronomy 24:2 "And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's [wife]." Deuteronomy 24:3 "And [if] the latter husband hate her, and write her a bill of divorcement, and giveth [it] in her hand, and sendeth her out of his house; or if the latter husband die, which took her [to be] his wife;" Deuteronomy 24:4 "Her former husband, which sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after that she is defiled; for that [is] abomination before the LORD: and thou shalt not cause the land to sin, which the LORD thy God giveth thee [for] an inheritance." The physical house of Israel {Jews} were the wife of God. We have been studying in recent weeks how they had forgotten God, and started worshipping false gods. This is spiritual adultery. From the above Scripture in Deuteronomy, it seems God would not forgive them, and take them back. God's love {Agape} is so much greater than man knows how to love. God forgives them over and over, even though they have been unfaithful to Him.

Jeremiah 3:2 "Lift up thine eyes unto the high places, and see where thou hast not been lien with. In the ways hast thou sat for them, as the Arabian in the wilderness; and thou hast polluted the land with thy whoredoms and with thy wickedness."

This is just saying, take a look and see your sins. Look how unfaithful you have been to God. Spiritual whoredom, or harlotry, is even more serious than physical whoredom. It is like a contagious disease that overcomes the whole land. He is also saying, you cannot deny it, it is everywhere for all to see.

Jeremiah 3:3 "Therefore the showers have been withholden, and there hath been no latter rain; and thou hadst a whore's forehead, thou refusedst to be ashamed."

We see that God has not just sat idly by, and He has withheld the rain as punishment. A whore's forehead has a hardened look from committing much sin. Repetitious sin has a way of making a person so hardened, that they soon get to where they know no shame.

Jeremiah 3:4 "Wilt thou not from this time cry unto me, My father, thou [art] the guide of my youth?"

This cry is from the sinner to the Father. Fathers are more forgiving than husbands. Perhaps, this is why He is addressed as Father, here. Israel was the family of Jacob, while they dwelt in Egypt. They became the nation of Israel on the journey to the promised land. God had given His law to the Israel nation, when they were just formed. He was their Guide, and their

Instructor in righteousness. They have wandered, but perhaps, if they repent, God will take them back. They appeal to Him as a child would to a father.

Jeremiah 3:5 "Will he reserve [his anger] for ever? will he keep [it] to the end? Behold, thou hast spoken and done evil things as thou couldst."

The big question is, will God forgive them? The answer is yes, if they will truly repent. II Chronicles 7:14 "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

Jeremiah 3:6 "The LORD said also unto me in the days of Josiah the king, Hast thou seen [that] which backsliding Israel hath done? she is gone up upon every high mountain and under every green tree, and there hath played the harlot."

The Lord is explaining to Jeremiah exactly what He is angry about. Backsliding Israel is speaking of those who once knew God, and have gone away, {similar to the apostate church today}. It was not enough that they removed themselves from worshipping God, they sought false gods on the high mountain and "under every green tree". These were two favorite places for the worship of false gods in that day.

Jeremiah 3:7 "And I said after she had done all these [things], Turn thou unto me. But she returned not. And her treacherous sister Judah saw [it]."

Israel is spoken of as "she" in the verse above. The church has always been spoken of as she, as well. The first "she" represents the 10 tribes of Israel. Judah is the 2 tribes of Judah and Benjamin. They are the treacherous sister.

Jeremiah 3:8 "And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also."

It appears that the captivity that came on the 10 tribes of Israel, happened earlier than the Babylonian captivity of the tribe of Judah, to show them what unfaithfulness to God would bring. God still hoped they would repent and return to the worship of God. They did not. They were unfaithful too, just as the 10 tribes. The same punishment would come to them. The bill of divorce, meant God would no longer protect her, and bless her as a wife. He would put her away from Him.

Jeremiah 3:9 "And it came to pass through the lightness of her whoredom, that she defiled the land, and committed adultery with stones and with stocks."

We got into this in the previous lesson. The stock was a part of a tree. The idols were made of stone and wood stock. Again, the adultery was spiritual.

Jeremiah 3:10 "And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah hath not turned unto me with her whole heart, but feignedly, saith the LORD."

Judah did not learn a lesson from the 10 tribes of Israel. They remained in their sin, disregarding the punishment that lies ahead. "Feignedly", in the verse above, means an untruth. The LORD is saying, Judah had a form of Godliness, but it was not sincere. They were still going through the motions of the sacrifices, etc. They were worshipping idols all the time.

Jeremiah 3:11 "And the LORD said unto me, The backsliding Israel hath justified herself more than treacherous Judah."

The ten tribes had suffered greatly for their unfaithfulness to God. It had been 100 years since they had gone into captivity. Judah had things too good. They had been blessed abundantly and yet betrayed God.

Jeremiah 3:12 "Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the LORD; [and] I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I [am] merciful, saith the LORD, [and] I will not keep [anger] for ever."

God is forgiving. He is loving. He is long-suffering. I John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." It appears that the 10 tribes' sins are less than those of Judah, and God is offering them restoration. Micah 7:18 "Who [is] a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth [in] mercy."

Jeremiah 3:13 "Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy God, and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the LORD."

There is one condition to His forgiving them and restoring them. They must admit their guilt, and ask for forgiveness. God must have our obedience to Him. I Samuel 15:22 "And Samuel said, Hath the LORD [as great] delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey [is] better than sacrifice, [and] to hearken than the fat of rams." To obey God is very little to ask in return for His blessings.

Jeremiah 3:14 "Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion:"

We see that the salvation offered is to individuals. He will accept one at a time, or a whole village. They do not all have to come. Those who come, will receive His blessing. This is very much like Christianity. It is offered to the masses, one at a time. God saves individuals in those masses. Zion can be the holy mountain, or symbolically mean the church.

Jeremiah 3:15 "And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding."

The pastors are to feed them spiritual food. Notice, it is knowledge and understanding of God they will be taught by the pastors. God will choose the pastors.

Jeremiah 3:16 "And it shall come to pass, when ye be multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, saith the LORD, they shall say no more, The ark of the covenant of the LORD: neither shall it come to mind: neither shall they remember it; neither shall they visit [it]; neither shall [that] be done any more."

This is speaking of the time when the law will be replaced by grace. The Ark was the resting place for the law of God. Jesus {their Messiah} will bring in the age of grace. Jesus fulfilled the law in His life, crucifixion, and resurrection. There would be no need for further sacrifice. This is why they would not talk about the Ark anymore.

Jeremiah 3:17 "At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart."

From the time of the LORD, Jerusalem has been the spiritual center of the world. Jerusalem, in the sense it is used here, could be speaking of the church of the LORD. This will be the time when God's law will be in their hearts, not on tables of stone. All who love God will be drawn to fellowship in the church. This will be that special time when Christ will live within us. Galatians 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

Jeremiah 3:18 "In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given for an inheritance unto your fathers."

This is really speaking of the time when the physical and spiritual house of Israel come together in Jesus Christ. The following Scriptures are speaking of the same thing. Ezekiel 37:20 "And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes." Ezekiel 37:21 "And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land:" Ezekiel 37:22 "And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all:" Ezekiel 37:23 "Neither shall they defile themselves any more with their idols, nor with their detestable things, nor with any of their transgressions: but I will save them out of all their dwellingplaces, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them: so shall they be my people, and I will be their God." Ezekiel 37:24 "And David my servant [shall be] king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them." David, in verse 24, is of course, speaking of Jesus. We will all be saved by Jesus and in Jesus.

Jeremiah 3:19 "But I said, How shall I put thee among the children, and give thee a pleasant land, a goodly heritage of the hosts of nations? and I said, Thou shalt call me, My father; and shalt not turn away from me."

Notice, nations is plural. This is speaking of those from all nations who accept Jesus as their Saviour. Galatians 3:8 "And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, [saying], In thee shall all nations be blessed." Revelation 7:9 "After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;" These are the saved in Christ.

Jeremiah 3:20 "Surely [as] a wife treacherously departeth from her husband, so have ye dealt treacherously with me, O house of Israel, saith the LORD."

Now this has jumped back to the physical house of Israel {Jews}, who have been unfaithful to God. God is reminding them of their unfaithfulness.

Jeremiah 3:21 "A voice was heard upon the high places, weeping [and] supplications of the children of Israel: for they have perverted their way, [and] they have forgotten the LORD their God."

This is in the area where the practice of idolatry was. Now this is the very place they cry and repent of their unfaithfulness to God.

Jeremiah 3:22 "Return, ye backsliding children, [and] I will heal your backslidings. Behold, we come unto thee; for thou [art] the LORD our God."

God is inviting them back, if they will repent and return to Him. The last part of this is the people answering, and promising God they will return to the One true God.

Jeremiah 3:23 "Truly in vain [is salvation hoped for] from the hills, [and from] the multitude of mountains: truly in the LORD our God [is] the salvation of Israel."

There is no salvation in the worship of idols, or false gods. Jesus is salvation for all mankind. The pagan worship on the mountains had brought no help at all. In fact, it had angered God. Romans 3:24 "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:" Ephesians 1:7 "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;" Hebrews 9:12 "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption [for us]." There is no redemption in anyone or anything but Jesus Christ.

Jeremiah 3:24 "For shame hath devoured the labour of our fathers from our youth; their flocks and their herds, their sons and their daughters."

All of this had been taken away, because of their unfaithfulness to God. All they had worked for was gone, because they committed spiritual adultery.

Jeremiah 3:25 "We lie down in our shame, and our confusion covereth us: for we have sinned against the LORD our God, we and our fathers, from our youth even unto this day, and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God."

It seems that God's people have finally realized that they brought the destruction upon themselves by worshipping false gods. They lie down defeated. They realize they cannot help themselves. The very first step to restoration, is to repent and ask for God's help. They realize, here, they have sinned. They realize they have disobeyed God. They are ashamed of what they have done. God loves an humble heart. He will rescue them from their despair.

## Jeremiah 4 Questions

1. What ordinance is verse 1 speaking of?
2. Who is the harlot in verse 1?
3. Who were the wife of God?
4. What had they done wrong?
5. What is the name for God's love?
6. How does it differ from man's love?
7. What is more serious than physical whoredom?
8. What had been withholden, because of their sin?
9. How does a whore's forehead look?
10. Why do they feel no shame for their sin?
11. Fathers are more forgiving than \_\_\_\_\_.
12. When did the family of Jacob become the nation of Israel?
13. What is the big question in verse 5?
14. Quote 2 Chronicles chapter 7 verse 14.
15. What kind of Israel did He call them in verse 6?
16. What is this like today?
17. Why did He mention "under every green tree"?
18. What was Judah called in verse 7?
19. Why had God put her away?
20. When Judah saw Israel fall, what did they do?
21. What does the word "feignedly" mean?
22. What was God saying about Judah?
23. In verse 11, Judah is described as being \_\_\_\_\_.
24. God is \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
25. What did God want them to do in verse 13?
26. Quote 1 Samuel chapter 15 verse 22.
27. Salvation is offered to \_\_\_\_\_.
28. What is Zion symbolic of?
29. What are the pastors to do?
30. What time is verse 16 speaking of?
31. Why would they remember the Ark no more?
32. Where will be called the throne of the LORD?
33. Quote Galatians chapter 2 verse 20.
34. What 2 houses will walk together in that day?
35. What does the author believe this is referring to?
36. Quote Galatians chapter 3 verse 8.
37. Does Israel repent?
38. Quote Ephesians chapter 1 verse 7.

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 4:1 "If thou wilt return, O Israel, saith the LORD, return unto me: and if thou wilt put away thine abominations out of my sight, then shalt thou not remove."

We see, again, an offer from God to forgive them and start them all over. God will not take them back, until they give up their idols. When they give up their idols, God will welcome them back.

Jeremiah 4:2 "And thou shalt swear, The LORD liveth, in truth, in judgment, and in righteousness; and the nations shall bless themselves in him, and in him shall they glory."

This is very similar to the confessing with the mouth in Romans. This is speaking of the promise God made to Abraham, that all the nations would be blessed through him. There was only one condition. They must follow God with all their heart. Look at the following Scripture what they must confess. Romans 10:9 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." It is not enough to just believe in your heart. You must confess with your mouth.

Jeremiah 4:3 "For thus saith the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem, Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns."

"Fallow", in the verse above, means freshly plowed. This, to me, would mean to prepare the heart, and then plant the seed. The heart, unprepared, will not receive the seed of the Word. It will be choked out with the cares of the world.

Jeremiah 4:4 "Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, and take away the foreskins of your heart, ye men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem: lest my fury come forth like fire, and burn that none can quench [it], because of the evil of your doings."

We find in the Scripture above, and in the following, that God is not satisfied with just the formality of circumcision, but wanted the heart of the people pure. Romans 2:28 "For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither [is that] circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:" Romans 2:29 "But he [is] a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision [is that] of the heart, in the spirit, [and] not in the letter; whose praise [is] not of men, but of God." If they do not learn to follow God with all their heart, He will destroy them. I Samuel 12:24 "Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart; for consider how great [things] he hath done for you."

Jeremiah 4:5 "Declare ye in Judah, and publish in Jerusalem; and say, Blow ye the trumpet in the land: cry, gather together, and say, Assemble yourselves, and let us go into the defenced cities."

This declaration to God was to be throughout their land. The blowing of the trumpet was for two things. It gathered them for worship, or for war.

Jeremiah 4:6 "Set up the standard toward Zion: retire, stay not: for I will bring evil from the north, and a great destruction."

The standard was to be raised pointing to Jerusalem, or the church. The standard must be raised by God's people, for others to follow. The road into Jerusalem, that the enemy would come on, led to the north.

Jeremiah 4:7 "The lion is come up from his thicket, and the destroyer of the Gentiles is on his way; he is gone forth from his place to make thy land desolate; [and] thy cities shall be laid waste, without an inhabitant."

The near interpretation is Nebuchadnezzar coming against them. Gentiles, here, possibly means nations. The lion, here, could be the antichrist, who will come up from beneath and will destroy nations. The destroyer is Satan, or someone greatly influenced of Satan. He will destroy nations. The last nation, of course, will be Israel. The thicket could be hell, or place of destruction. Notice, also, where he came from. It was from his place. The land to be made desolate is Israel.

Jeremiah 4:8 "For this gird you with sackcloth, lament and howl: for the fierce anger of the LORD is not turned back from us."

God controls Satan, the same as He controls everyone else. God can stop him at any time. The sackcloth, here, is the garment of mourning. When the LORD is angry with His people, He will allow the enemy to attack them.

Jeremiah 4:9 "And it shall come to pass at that day, saith the LORD, [that] the heart of the king shall perish, and the heart of the princes; and the priests shall be astonished, and the prophets shall wonder."

In a situation like this, the king has no more protection than the people. In many cases, he has less. These heathen people will not respect the office of the priest either. God will allow this, because He is angry with His people.

Jeremiah 4:10 "Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! surely thou hast greatly deceived this people and Jerusalem, saying, Ye shall have peace; whereas the sword reacheth unto the soul."

God had promised there would be peace in Jerusalem. The problem is that God did not mean that very day, but a time in the future. It is as if Jeremiah was questioning God's intentions here. Men will try to bring peace to this region, but there will be no true peace, until the King of Peace comes to the earth and establishes His kingdom. There will be peace in Jerusalem then. There is a sword that reaches the soul in the following Scripture. Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God [is] quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and [is] a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Jeremiah 4:11 "At that time shall it be said to this people and to Jerusalem, A dry wind of the high places in the wilderness toward the daughter of my people, not to fan, nor to cleanse,"

The Jews are like a hot wind that brings no blessing. This wind is not the wind of the Holy Spirit. This wind does not cleanse or bless. The wind

of the Spirit comes from an unknown place and brings blessings. In verse 11, the wind comes from the mountain where the false gods were worshipped.

Jeremiah 4:12 "[Even] a full wind from those [places] shall come unto me: now also will I give sentence against them."

This is an ill wind, that brings no good. God is the One who brings judgment against them.

Jeremiah 4:13 "Behold, he shall come up as clouds, and his chariots [shall be] as a whirlwind: his horses are swifter than eagles. Woe unto us! for we are spoiled."

Babylon does come against these people and overcomes them. God, we must remember, brings this as judgment against His people. In the next few Scriptures, we will see God's power in the wind, or the whirlwind. Nahum 1:3 The LORD [is] slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit [the wicked]: the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds [are] the dust of his feet. Matthew 24:30 "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." Daniel 7:2 "Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea." We can see from this, that it is God who controls the elements of the earth.

Jeremiah 4:14 "O Jerusalem, wash thine heart from wickedness, that thou mayest be saved. How long shall thy vain thoughts lodge within thee?"

Jeremiah cries out to Jerusalem to repent and be saved. It is as if he is saying, why can't you see why this trouble is coming? They imagine a vain thing. They appear to be caught up in their own values, overlooking the needs of others. God wants man to be saved so badly, that He sent His only Son to save us. Man has a part in his own salvation. He must wash in the blood of the precious Lamb.

Jeremiah 4:15 "For a voice declareth from Dan, and publisheth affliction from mount Ephraim."

It appears the enemy comes by the land of Dan and mount Ephraim. The affliction had already begun.

Jeremiah 4:16 "Make ye mention to the nations; behold, publish against Jerusalem, [that] watchers come from a far country, and give out their voice against the cities of Judah."

All of the countries surrounding Judah are to take notice of the fact of the attack against Judah. God allows them to speak evil about Judah, because He is angry with them. The Babylonians may be performing the physical battle, but it is really God who has come against Judah. He is using Babylon for His purpose.

Jeremiah 4:17 "As keepers of a field, are they against her round about; because she hath been rebellious against me, saith the LORD."

They have surrounded her as the keepers of the field do. They rebelled against God, and God brought this punishment on them.

Jeremiah 4:18 "Thy way and thy doings have procured these [things] unto thee; this [is] thy wickedness, because it is bitter, because it reacheth unto thine heart."

Their own sin brought this evil upon them. They were wicked and their bondage will be bitter. They have displeased God.

Jeremiah 4:19 "My bowels, my bowels! I am pained at my very heart; my heart maketh a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war."

This is a cry of the fearful. If this is Jeremiah speaking, it is because the pains of his people are his pains. The trumpet has blown, and it is time for war.

Jeremiah 4:20 "Destruction upon destruction is cried; for the whole land is spoiled: suddenly are my tents spoiled, [and] my curtains in a moment."

Even the tent dwellers are taken and spoiled. This is a destruction brought on by God. It is a terrible destruction.

Jeremiah 4:21 "How long shall I see the standard, [and] hear the sound of the trumpet?"

The standard bearer is usually the last one to fall, because if one falls another takes it up. Before this battle is over, there will be no standard bearer, or trumpet blower.

Jeremiah 4:22 "For my people [is] foolish, they have not known me; they [are] sottish children, and they have none understanding: they [are] wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge."

The word "sottish" means silly, or fool. These are children, who have made foolish decisions. They have chosen dumb idols over the true God. They have gone out of their way to sin. These are a people whose understanding is darkened. They had the Light of the world, and chose darkness over Light.

Jeremiah 4:23 "I beheld the earth, and, lo, [it was] without form, and void; and the heavens, and they [had] no light."

Jeremiah has jumped from their time, all the way back to the time before the Light was applied to this present world. This is the same Scripture as Genesis 1:2 "And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness [was] upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." Both of these speak of the time when there was no Light in the earth. It was a time when nothing, or no one, had the power to exist. The Light gives everything the power to be.

Jeremiah 4:24 "I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly."

This is speaking of an adjustment of the mountains and hills. Some terrible calamity had come upon the earth killing all the living. I believe this Scripture is a time before Adam and Eve. We must remember, that God lives in the eternal day. He lived in the present tense at the beginning of the world, and He will be living in the present tense at the end of the world. There is no separation of time in heaven where God dwells. There is just one eternal day.

Jeremiah 4:25 "I beheld, and, lo, [there was] no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled."

There had been an habitation, but there had been a total destruction, of that habitation. Who they were, and why they were destroyed, is none of our business. If God had wanted us to know, He would have told us.

Jeremiah 4:26 "I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place [was] a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the LORD, [and] by his fierce anger."

This speaks of total desolation brought on by God. The place that had brought forth fruit, is now a wilderness. We see the reason is the anger of the LORD.

Jeremiah 4:27 "For thus hath the LORD said, The whole land shall be desolate; yet will I not make a full end."

This earth that was null and void shall live again. God will apply the Light of the world, and it will live. It is the Light that brings life.

Jeremiah 4:28 "For this shall the earth mourn, and the heavens above be black: because I have spoken [it], I have purposed [it], and will not repent, neither will I turn back from it."

This is a time of no Light. The blackness symbolizes mourning. God is Truth. When He speaks, it happens.

Jeremiah 4:29 "The whole city shall flee for the noise of the horsemen and bowmen; they shall go into thickets, and climb up upon the rocks: every city [shall be] forsaken, and not a man dwell therein."

This is a terrible time of fear. The fear is so great, they flee from the onslaught, and run to the caves for help. No one is left in the cities.

Jeremiah 4:30 "And [when] thou [art] spoiled, what wilt thou do? Though thou clothest thyself with crimson, though thou deckest thee with ornaments of gold, though thou rentest thy face with painting, in vain shalt thou make thyself fair; [thy] lovers will despise thee, they will seek thy life."

All of the beautiful clothing and jewelry will not make them beautiful to God. We see that the ones they have thought of as lovers, will be of no help at all. This adulterous people, who were the wife of God, are now abandoned.

Jeremiah 4:31 "For I have heard a voice as of a woman in travail, [and] the anguish as of her that bringeth forth her first child, the voice of the

daughter of Zion, [that] bewaileth herself, [that] spreadeth her hands, [saying], Woe [is] me now! for my soul is wearied because of murderers."

This appears to be speaking of the physical house of Israel, who is destroyed. The first child is generally speaking of physical Israel. Zion can be the church or Jerusalem. She is crying, because of the murderous destruction of her children. The woe is for the loss.

## Jeremiah 5 Questions

1. To get back in good standing with God, what did Israel have to put away?
2. What was the only condition, if the nations were to be blessed?
3. What is "fallow" in verse 3?
4. What does the author believe this is saying?
5. What is the circumcision that is important to God?
6. Quote 1 Samuel chapter 12 verse 24.
7. How far-reaching was the declaration God made in verse 5?
8. For what two reasons was the trumpet blown?
9. Set up the standard toward \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Why must God's people raise the standard?
11. What is the near interpretation of verse 7?
12. Who is another the lion could be?
13. Who is the destroyer?
14. Why should they gird with sackcloth and lament?
15. What is the sackcloth?
16. What had God promised Jerusalem?
17. Quote Hebrews chapter 4 verse 12.
18. What are the Jews like, in verse 11?
19. Where does the wind of the Spirit come?
20. The wind, in verse 11, comes from where?
21. Quote Nahum chapter 1 verse 3.
22. Who controls the elements of the earth?
23. In verse 14, Jeremiah cries out for Jerusalem to do what?
24. Why does God allow them to speak evil of Judah?
25. Why is Jeremiah feeling pain in verse 19?
26. What is the last thing lost in battle?
27. What does the word "sottish" mean?
28. What is verse 23 speaking of?
29. The \_\_\_\_\_ gives everything the power to be.
30. The author believes the time, in verse 24, to be when?
31. Why had the fruitful place become a wilderness?
32. It is the \_\_\_\_\_ that brings life.
33. What has happened to this adulterous people, who were the wife of God?
34. What does verse 31 appear to be speaking of?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 5:1 "Run ye to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek in the broad places thereof, if ye can find a man, if there be [any] that executeth judgment, that seeketh the truth; and I will pardon it."

This is showing the total degradation in Jerusalem at the time of Jeremiah. There is not even one man in all the city, who is just in judgment. We know that God would have spared Sodom and Gommorah, if there had been 10 righteous people. Here He has reduced the number to one, and there is not even one.

Jeremiah 5:2 "And though they say, The LORD liveth; surely they swear falsely."

The difference in these people and the ones in Sodom, is that here they proclaimed to believe, but did not truly believe in their hearts.

Jeremiah 5:3 "O LORD, [are] not thine eyes upon the truth? Thou hast stricken them, but they have not grieved; thou hast consumed them, [but] they have refused to receive correction: they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return."

These people are so self-righteous, they are not even aware of how far away from God they really are. Because they go through the formality of worship, they believe God will spare them. They are so hardened to sin, they do not even realize anymore they are sinning. They do not repent, because they do not feel guilty of sin.

Jeremiah 5:4 "Therefore I said, Surely these [are] poor; they are foolish: for they know not the way of the LORD, [nor] the judgment of their God."

The foolish do not seek instruction in the ways of God. This reminds me so much of the situation in our land today. Many people attend church occasionally, some every Sunday, and yet do not truly have a relationship with the Lord Jesus. They are like these people. They go, because it is expected of them, and do not understand why they are there. You could say the people in the verse above, and the people of our day, are religious. The problem is their relationship with God. The truth we all need to know, is in God's Word {Bible}.

Jeremiah 5:5 "I will get me unto the great men, and will speak unto them; for they have known the way of the LORD, [and] the judgment of their God: but these have altogether broken the yoke, [and] burst the bonds."

The great men, in the verse above, must have been {at one time} leaders in their worship services. They {at one time} were acquainted with God's teachings. This is even worse than those who never knew. They have walked away from the teachings of God. They {of their own free will} have decided they will not be controlled by the LORD and His teachings anymore. They are free from following God.

Jeremiah 5:6 "Wherefore a lion out of the forest shall slay them, [and] a wolf of the evenings shall spoil them, a leopard shall watch over their cities: every one that goeth out thence shall be torn in pieces: because their transgressions are many, [and] their backslidings are increased."

We see the reason for their troubles, is the fact they have sinned against God. Their destruction is violent. The lion, as we studied in a previous lesson, is symbolic of a people who Satan himself is controlling. In this case, it could very well be Babylon. The description to these people was because of their familiarity with the destruction of a lion. "Wolves" seek their prey at night. This then, could be speaking of the sneaky way they come into Judah. The leopard is a swift animal, and this could be speaking of the swiftness of the destruction. Not only was Babylon ferocious as a lion, but they were sneaky as the wolf, and swift as the leopard.

Jeremiah 5:7 "How shall I pardon thee for this? thy children have forsaken me, and sworn by [them that are] no gods: when I had fed them to the full, they then committed adultery, and assembled themselves by troops in the harlots' houses."

A very common saying for this today would be, they were living in the lap of luxury. In other words, they had time on their hands. Sin, many times, comes from idleness and having too much of the world's goods. It is harder to be a Christian, when you are rich, than it is when you are poor. Since they did not need day to day help from God, they forgot Him, and went on to other false gods. They were doing things pleasing to their flesh. It seemed, at this time, that adultery was rampant. This adultery was spiritual, as well as physical.

Jeremiah 5:8 They were [as] fed horses in the morning: every one neighed after his neighbour's wife.

Horses hang around their own barn, until they are fed. This is speaking of the man as if he were a wild stallion, that would jump the fence and go to another's place. Until a person has taken care for their need to eat, they have very little time and energy to go to the neighbor's wife and commit sin with her.

Jeremiah 5:9 "Shall I not visit for these [things]? saith the LORD: and shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?"

Just the sin mentioned above, is a sin severe enough to bring the wrath of God, without any other sin being added. Notice, above, this is not a sin of an individual, but was a way of life in their nation. Again, this is not only speaking of physical adultery, but of idol worship which was spiritual adultery, as well.

Jeremiah 5:10 "Go ye up upon her walls, and destroy; but make not a full end: take away her battlements; for they [are] not the LORD'S."

We see that God will not allow total destruction of Jerusalem, or Judah. This whole attack is coming on them to cause them to repent and return to God. Notice, the destroyer can go just as far as God allows him to go. "Battlement", in this particular instance means off-shoot. It can, also, mean branch, or plant. This is as if the LORD is pruning them back to the root they started from. It is the recent growth that does not belong to the

LORD. The root is His. The pruning will bring new healthy growth from the root. Their captivity in Babylon is similar to pruning.

Jeremiah 5:11 "For the house of Israel and the house of Judah have dealt very treacherously against me, saith the LORD." Jeremiah 5:12 "They have belied the LORD, and said, [It is] not he; neither shall evil come upon us; neither shall we see sword nor famine:"

They both thought, because they were seeds of Abraham, they would not be punished by God. Belied means untrue. It, also, means deceive or lie. They have not been true with God, or themselves. They have believed a lie. Their deception has been of themselves. They are Abraham's seeds, but they have not remained with Abraham's teachings. Their safety remained as long as they lived Godly lives. They forgot the second part of the promise, which said curses would come, if they turned from God.

Jeremiah 5:13 "And the prophets shall become wind, and the word [is] not in them: thus shall it be done unto them."

The speaking of the prophets is like wind, because they do not receive his message. These people from the bottom to the top, do not receive the Truth. There is nothing left for God to do, but let the punishment begin. They will not listen, so He must get their attention with action instead of words.

Jeremiah 5:14 "Wherefore thus saith the LORD God of hosts, Because ye speak this word, behold, I will make my words in thy mouth fire, and this people wood, and it shall devour them."

The LORD God of hosts is speaking here. The words in Jeremiah's mouth will be like a fire that sets the wood on fire. We remember from chapter 1, that the words that came from Jeremiah's mouth were the Words of God. This Fire is the Fire of the Spirit of God.

Jeremiah 5:15 "Lo, I will bring a nation upon you from far, O house of Israel, saith the LORD: it [is] a mighty nation, it [is] an ancient nation, a nation whose language thou knowest not, neither understandest what they say."

The nation God will bring against them, is not a Hebrew nation. They do not speak the same language as Israel. We recall, from our studies in Genesis, that God had confused the languages at Babel, so they would not be able to understand each other. Genesis 11:9 "Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth." The nation about to attack them was an ancient and powerful nation.

Jeremiah 5:16 Their quiver [is] as an open sepulchre, they [are] all mighty men.

A "sepulchre" is a burying place, or a grave. This is saying then, their arrows have death in them. They are mighty warriors, who bring death and destruction.

Jeremiah 5:17 "And they shall eat up thine harvest, and thy bread, [which] thy sons and thy daughters should eat: they shall eat up thy flocks and thine herds: they shall eat up thy vines and thy fig trees: they shall impoverish thy fenced cities, wherein thou trustedst, with the sword."

People plant fields, so that they might harvest their fields to feed their family. This will not be what happens here. The invaders will get the food they have prepared for their family and the family will do without. The invaders will take their crops their animals and everything else they can lay hands upon. They will even take the people captive. What they do not take, they will destroy with the sword.

Jeremiah 5:18 "Nevertheless in those days, saith the LORD, I will not make a full end with you."

Just as in the past, there will be a remnant saved to begin again with. God will not totally destroy. He will leave that remnant.

Jeremiah 5:19 "And it shall come to pass, when ye shall say, Wherefore doeth the LORD our God all these [things] unto us? Then shalt thou answer them, Like as ye have forsaken me, and served strange gods in your land, so shall ye serve strangers in a land [that is] not yours."

The ridiculous thing, here, is they still do not realize why all of this is happening to them. They still claim the LORD as their God, even though they have been unfaithful to Him. As we said, they had gotten so deep into their idolatry, they had lost their guilty conscience. They will have plenty of time to think it over, while they are in captivity. God will allow them to serve strangers, as they have served strange gods. Judgment has come.

Jeremiah 5:20 "Declare this in the house of Jacob, and publish it in Judah, saying,"

This is God telling Jeremiah to go and tell Israel and Judah. At this time, it is really hard to separate the two. Judah is now spoken of as Israel, also.

Jeremiah 5:21 "Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding; which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not:"

These people do have physical eyes and ears, but they have no spiritual sight, or hearing. They believe only in things they can see with their physical eye. They are a foolish people. God is Spirit, and must be understood through the spirit. My prayer to God is, open my spiritual eyes Lord, and let me see. Open my spiritual ears, that I might understand you more fully.

Jeremiah 5:22 "Fear ye not me? saith the LORD: will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand [for] the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it?"

In verse 22 above, God is explaining His power and greatness. He even tells the sea to stop at the shore, and it does. How could they choose a god they had made with their own hands? The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. God is correct in calling them foolish. God's laws are for all of eternity. He tells the sea to roar, and it roars. He tells the sun to shine, and it shines. How can anyone choose some material thing to worship, instead of God who made it all?

Jeremiah 5:23 "But this people hath a revolting and a rebellious heart; they are revolted and gone."

The heart determines what a person is. We are either desperately wicked in our hearts, or we are in love with God in our hearts. We are what our hearts are. Rebellion is akin to witchcraft. To revolt, or rebel against God would be the worst thing you could do. They deserve death.

Jeremiah 5:24 "Neither say they in their heart, Let us now fear the LORD our God, that giveth rain, both the former and the latter, in his season: he reserveth unto us the appointed weeks of the harvest."

It is God that brings the rain to make our crops grow. Without rain, there is no crop. Rain, as is spoken of above, can also symbolize the Spirit which is poured out on mankind as a blessing from God. To get the full impact of the latter rain of the Spirit, read Joel chapter 2, beginning with verse 23. It is God who sets the time to plant and the time to reap. The end of the Gentile age is spoken of as the time of harvest. There will come a time when God will separate His wheat from the stubble. There is a harvest time. There were seven weeks between passover and feast of harvest {feast of weeks}, which is pentecost.

Jeremiah 5:25 "Your iniquities have turned away these [things], and your sins have withholden good [things] from you."

One of God's ways to punish the sins of the people, was to withhold their rain. Their sin brought the judgments.

Jeremiah 5:26 "For among my people are found wicked [men]: they lay wait, as he that setteth snares; they set a trap, they catch men."

God has not stopped calling them His people. He is like a father who is greatly disappointed in the moral character of His children. He is saying to them, you are living like the world, not like my children. They have forgotten to do unto others as they would have them do unto them. They are evil. They sin against their fellowman.

Jeremiah 5:27 "As a cage is full of birds, so [are] their houses full of deceit: therefore they are become great, and waxen rich."

We see from this, their wealth did not come as a blessing from God. They have cheated and stolen to take what belonged to others. They are so full of sin and deceit, they are like a cage of overcrowded birds. They must be thinned out.

Jeremiah 5:28 "They are waxen fat, they shine: yea, they overpass the deeds of the wicked: they judge not the cause, the cause of the fatherless, yet they prosper; and the right of the needy do they not judge."

They have used their wealth, they have attained, for their own personal wants. They are dressed up and groomed, because they use their money on themselves. They have no compassion for the needy. Everything they do is for self.

Jeremiah 5:29 "Shall I not visit for these [things]? saith the LORD: shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?"

God is explaining that He is justified in the punishment they receive, because they are so sinful. Their sin is both physical and spiritual. Sin has become a way of life for them. The wrath of God will come upon them to cause them to repent and seek Him.

Jeremiah 5:30 "A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land;"

It is wonderful, because it is not to be explained away by man. The judgment is so unexpected and so controlled, there will be no doubt at all it is from God. It will be horrible, from the standpoint of those who are being punished. This will be a terrible time for these back-slidden of God.

Jeremiah 5:31 "The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love [to have it] so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?"

There were false prophets in the land. The priests had changed God's law to fit their own needs. Now, the law was not God's, but the law of the priest. Jesus spoke harshly about the way God's law had been handled. He called it, your law. The prophet, the priests, and the people were all guilty. This is true in our churches today. There are many false prophets. We have ministers who twist the Word to fit their own needs. It is the obligation of the people to try the spirits, and see whether they be of God, or not. All have sinned. We all need a Saviour.

## Jeremiah 6 Questions

1. What is verse 1 showing?
2. What was the difference in these people and the people of Sodom?
3. What had God done, and they refused correction?
4. Why do they not repent?
5. Why could you classify them as foolish?
6. How does the author relate this to our church attendance today?
7. They are religious, but do not have a \_\_\_\_\_ with God.
8. Where can the Truth be found?
9. Who are the great men speaking of in verse 5?
10. What is the lion, in verse 6, symbolic of?
11. What is meant by the "wolf"?
12. What does the "leopard" mean?
13. What is a common saying of today, that would cover verse 7?
14. What does idleness sometimes cause?
15. What is the adultery of verse 7?
16. Is the sin of adultery, here, of an individual? Explain.
17. Why is the attack coming on Jerusalem?
18. What does "battlement" in verse 10 mean?
19. Why did they believe God would not punish them?
20. Why does the speaking of the prophet seem like wind?
21. Whose Words will be fire?
22. How do we know the nation coming against them is not a Hebrew nation?
23. Quote Genesis chapter 11 verse 9.
24. What is a "sepulchre"?
25. Besides destroying the city, what will the enemy do?
26. God will leave of them, a \_\_\_\_\_.
27. They had gotten so deep into their idolatry, they had lost their \_\_\_\_\_.
28. What are the people called in verse 21?
29. What is the author's prayer to God?
30. What is God explaining in verse 22?
31. What kind of heart does this sinful people have?
32. Where can we read to get a fuller impact of the latter rain?
33. God is greatly disappointed in the \_\_\_\_\_ of His children.
34. How does God describe what has happened to them in verse 28?
35. What had the priests done that was wrong?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 6:1 "O ye children of Benjamin, gather yourselves to flee out of the midst of Jerusalem, and blow the trumpet in Tekoa, and set up a sign of fire in Beth-haccerem: for evil appeareth out of the north, and great destruction."

The city of Jerusalem was part of Benjamin. Benjamin was favored greatly of God, because the temple grounds were in Benjamite territory. The temple had been spared before, but this time, even the temple will be attacked. Judah's land was on the outskirts of Jerusalem. Jeremiah is telling them to flee to the south for safety. If they were to leave immediately, they would have time to take possessions with them. You remember the trumpet blowing was to assemble the people. Tekoa was a town south of Jerusalem. The Babylonians will be coming from the north, so the road to the south is the way of escape. Beth-haccerem is about half-way to Tekoa from Jerusalem. The fire would delay the attackers. The people should gather to the trumpet blown.

Jeremiah 6:2 "I have likened the daughter of Zion to a comely and delicate [woman]."

"Comely" means suitable, or beautiful. God is the Father and it is not unusual for Him to call His own daughter, or son. "Zion", as we have seen before, indicates Jerusalem, but also, signifies the church. It would appear here, He is speaking of the church, since He says daughter. The church is spoken of as a woman. The daughter could, also, be speaking of the God's people fleeing Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 6:3 "The shepherds with their flocks shall come unto her; they shall pitch [their] tents against her round about; they shall feed every one in his place."

God is still trying to help His people. The shepherds will gather around them to protect them, if they will go to the south, as He has instructed them. The great Shepherd takes care of the sheep. Jesus is the great Shepherd, and the Christians are His sheep. The "her" in this is speaking of God's children.

Jeremiah 6:4 "Prepare ye war against her; arise, and let us go up at noon. Woe unto us! for the day goeth away, for the shadows of the evening are stretched out."

This has jumped to the Babylonians urging them to prepare for war. We must remember, in this, God is causing the Babylonians to come against Jerusalem and Judah. Noon time is generally a time of rest in Jerusalem. They would not be expecting them to come at that hour. This battle will go on until the evening.

Jeremiah 6:5 "Arise, and let us go by night, and let us destroy her palaces."

It seems from this they will march at night, to keep from being seen.

Jeremiah 6:6 "For thus hath the LORD of hosts said, Hew ye down trees, and cast a mount against Jerusalem: this [is] the city to be visited; she [is] wholly oppression in the midst of her."

The city of Jerusalem has a wall surrounding it. If the gates were closed, they would need the trees felled to be able to mount the wall. God is going to bring great oppression to Jerusalem, because of her great unfaithfulness to Him.

Jeremiah 6:7 "As a fountain casteth out her waters, so she casteth out her wickedness: violence and spoil is heard in her; before me continually [is] grief and wounds."

This is a very serious battle. The whole thing is happening to Jerusalem for her people to repent and cast their sins away. Their sin had been so great, the only way to rid them of it was for great loss of life to occur. This is a drastic act of God upon a people He loved, because their sin had been so drastic. There is much grief in this type of war.

Jeremiah 6:8 "Be thou instructed, O Jerusalem, lest my soul depart from thee; lest I make thee desolate, a land not inhabited."

God is pleading with His people, through the mouth of Jeremiah, to learn a lesson from this, and not get back into sin. He is begging them to repent, so He can stop this terrible suffering. If they do not repent after all of this, He will just destroy them all. God loves His family, and He loves Jerusalem. He wants them to learn a lesson, so further punishment will not be necessary.

Jeremiah 6:9 "Thus saith the LORD of hosts, They shall thoroughly glean the remnant of Israel as a vine: turn back thine hand as a grape-gatherer into the baskets."

We learned in our lessons on Leviticus, that there were always a few grapes left after the gleaning. We see that a few of God's children are left here. He tells Babylon to leave a few. We saw in an earlier lesson, that Jeremiah was one of the few spared.

Jeremiah 6:10 "To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? behold, their ear [is] uncircumcised, and they cannot hearken: behold, the word of the LORD is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it."

It is not so much, who will Jeremiah speak this to, as it is, who will take heed to what he says. He is speaking, but very few will listen and understand what he is saying. They have trained their ears toward worldly things {uncircumcised}. They are not interested in what God has to say. They have been seeking help from the world and the false gods of that world. They do not have high regard for the Word of God. They are disobedient to God. They find His Word of no importance to them.

Jeremiah 6:11 "Therefore I am full of the fury of the LORD; I am weary with holding in: I will pour it out upon the children abroad, and upon the assembly of young men together: for even the husband with the wife shall be taken, the aged with [him that is] full of days."

Jeremiah has wearied of these people, also. God is speaking through Jeremiah, and the people are not heeding the warning. Everyone is to taste of the wrath of God in this Babylonian attack. The children, young men, and the old alike will be affected by this overthrow of Jerusalem. The young men will, perhaps, be captured and turned into slaves. All ages and all relationships will feel this terrible punishment coming on these unfaithful people.

Jeremiah 6:12 "And their houses shall be turned unto others, [with their] fields and wives together: for I will stretch out my hand upon the inhabitants of the land, saith the LORD."

All they possess shall go to the captor. The wives will be taken to the homes of the Babylonians. In many instances, the husbands will be slaves in another area. The captors will spoil the land of all they can carry. The things they cannot keep, they will destroy. Remember, all of this happens, because God has stretched out His hand against them.

Jeremiah 6:13 "For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one [is] given to covetousness; and from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely."

God has raised His hand against them, because they are all caught up in a sinful way of life. The sin has even reached into the house of God. The priests and prophets are guilty, as well as their followers. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

Jeremiah 6:14 "They have healed also the hurt [of the daughter] of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when [there is] no peace."

These leaders in the church had spoken peace to the people to make them believe them. There is no peace, and will not be any peace, until the King of Peace {Jesus Christ} brings peace to the earth. We might take a lesson from this ourselves. Man cannot bring peace, only God brings peace.

Jeremiah 6:15 "Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall among them that fall: at the time [that] I visit them they shall be cast down, saith the LORD."

We discussed, in a previous lesson, how their conscience had been seared over with a hot iron. They had sinned so much, their conscience was not even operating. They were not even sorry for the sin they committed. Repetitious sin deadens the conscience. Those who blush, blush because their conscience tells them what they have done is wrong. Blushing has innocence connected with it. These are hardened to sin. "Saith the LORD" just reaffirms this punishment is from God.

Jeremiah 6:16 "Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where [is] the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk [therein]."

There is a straight and narrow path that leads to righteousness. There are few that find it, or even want to find it. I have said so many times, salvation is not a one time happening, but a walk through life with the Lord. It is important to live saved. Sin should not be in the vocabulary of

the saved. The LORD made the path for all of us, as well as for them to walk in. That is the only way to heaven. When we walk in His Light, we find rest for our souls. These were a rebellious people who chose to walk their own way, rather than to walk in God's path. Their way leads to destruction.

Jeremiah 6:17 "Also I set watchmen over you, [saying], Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken."

These watchmen gave warning of impending danger. Jeremiah and Isaiah were two of the watchmen. These people would not answer the call to assemble when the trumpet blew. I can easily relate this to the time when the trumpet will blow in the sky to gather God's people. Jesus is coming for those who are looking for Him. It would be terrible not to answer the call of the trumpet at that time.

Jeremiah 6:18 "Therefore hear, ye nations, and know, O congregation, what [is] among them."

God's people are spoken of as the congregation. He tells them, because you have been warned of what is to come, listen and respond. Not only must you listen, but understand.

Jeremiah 6:19 Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, [even] the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it.

Not only, would the houses of Judah and Benjamin notice what has happened to the unfaithful, but it is for all to see. This could be even be speaking to our generation. God is patient and long-suffering, but there is a time when He says it is enough. They had not only broken God's law, but kept their minds on evil things, as well.

Jeremiah 6:20 "To what purpose cometh there to me incense from Sheba, and the sweet cane from a far country? your burnt offerings [are] not acceptable, nor your sacrifices sweet unto me."

God does not want an outward show of their loyalty to Him. He will not accept sacrifices from them, or from anyone else, when their hearts are not in the sacrifice. It is but a shallow gesture, when they sacrifice from duty. God wants our love. God wanted His people to love Him, as He loved them. Jesus said it this way. Mark 7:6 "He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with [their] lips, but their heart is far from me."

Jeremiah 6:21 "Therefore thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will lay stumblingblocks before this people, and the fathers and the sons together shall fall upon them; the neighbour and his friend shall perish."

We can see from the Scripture above, and the one following, that they caused the stumblingblock to be there, because of their unfaithfulness to God. Revelation 2:14 "But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication."

Jeremiah 6:22 "Thus saith the LORD, Behold, a people cometh from the north country, and a great nation shall be raised from the sides of the earth."

It seemed the enemy of God's people always came from the north. This, of course, is speaking of Babylon. Babylon was a great nation by world standards. We will see in a later lesson, that Babylon is judged of God and is destroyed itself.

Jeremiah 6:23 "They shall lay hold on bow and spear; they [are] cruel, and have no mercy; their voice roareth like the sea; and they ride upon horses, set in array as men for war against thee, O daughter of Zion."

This is just speaking of the fierceness of Babylon's attack on Jerusalem. The roaring like the sea, speaks of the large number of people who come against Jerusalem. The "sea" is, many times, speaking of large numbers of people.

Jeremiah 6:24 "We have heard the fame thereof: our hands wax feeble: anguish hath taken hold of us, [and] pain, as of a woman in travail."

When a woman gives birth, her pain is severe and it comes on her quickly. This is what is spoken of here, the suddenness of the attack, and the severity of the attack. The people have heard of the fame of Babylon, and are too weak to resist the onslaught.

Jeremiah 6:25 "Go not forth into the field, nor walk by the way; for the sword of the enemy [and] fear [is] on every side."

This is just saying, after the battle begins, it will be too late to run. There will be no place they can run and be safe.

Jeremiah 6:26 "O daughter of my people, gird [thee] with sackcloth, and wallow thyself in ashes: make thee mourning, [as for] an only son, most bitter lamentation: for the spoiler shall suddenly come upon us."

Again, it is too late to put on sackcloth and wallow in the ashes after the battle has started. They are mourning, but they began to mourn too late to stop the battle. Their grief will be as bitter as it would be, if they had lost their only son. God's grief is great in this, also, He has lost His children to these false gods.

Jeremiah 6:27 "I have set thee [for] a tower [and] a fortress among my people, that thou mayest know and try their way."

Jerusalem was to have been a morally upright city. They were to be an example to all the rest. God had set them on high to watch over His people.

Jeremiah 6:28 "They [are] all grievous revolters, walking with slanders: [they are] brass and iron; they [are] all corrupters."

The leaders have gone bad. They have revolted against God who gave them their high positions. Those who were to lead, were walking in darkness themselves. They were leading the people into evil, not good. Brass has to do with judgment. It appears they were judging others, and needed to be judged themselves. Their judgment was hard {iron}. We are judged by the

judgment we give others. They were, too. Those who are corrupt themselves cannot lead others to righteousness. They have lost the path that leads to righteousness.

Jeremiah 6:29 "The bellows are burned, the lead is consumed of the fire; the founder melteth in vain: for the wicked are not plucked away."

There is no purification coming from this fire. The lead just melts, instead of being separated. The trash is not removed from the metal. It is melted in the metal.

Jeremiah 6:30 "Reprobate silver shall [men] call them, because the LORD hath rejected them."

"Reprobate", here, means to spurn, disappear, cast away, condemn, or reject. All of these meanings fit this silver. Silver is purified by heating, and then skimming the dross from the top. Silver symbolically means redemption. In the Scripture above, God has rejected salvation for them, because of their impure life. Even the world will call them castaways, because it is obvious God has spurned them.

## Jeremiah 7 Questions

1. Who, in verse 1, did God speak to specifically?
2. Where were they to blow the trumpet?
3. What was the trumpet blown for?
4. Where was Beth-haccerem located?
5. What had He likened the daughter of Zion to?
6. What does "Zion" indicate?
7. What does "comely" mean?
8. Verse 3 says, the \_\_\_\_\_ shall come unto her.
9. Who is verse 4 speaking to?
10. What were they to do to cast a mount against Jerusalem?
11. Why is this happening to Jerusalem?
12. What does verse 8 tell Jerusalem to do?
13. What is the remnant likened unto in verse 9?
14. What kind of ear did God say they had?
15. Where had they been seeking help from, instead of God?
16. Who is verse 11 speaking of, who was full of the fury of the LORD?
17. What will happen to the wives of those of Jerusalem?
18. How many of the people had been guilty of covetousness?
19. They had said \_\_\_\_\_, when there was no \_\_\_\_\_.
20. Why were they not ashamed of their sins?
21. Repetitious sin deadens the \_\_\_\_\_.
22. What was the good way?
23. The straight and narrow path leads to \_\_\_\_\_.
24. What should not be in the vocabulary of the saved?
25. Who had God put over them, to try to get them to listen for the trumpet?
26. They were not only to listen to the warning but to \_\_\_\_\_, as well.
27. Why were their sacrifices unacceptable?
28. What did God lay before the people?
29. Quote Revelation chapter 2 verse 14.
30. The enemy of God's people came from the \_\_\_\_\_.
31. What is said about the character of the Babylonians in verse 23?
32. The "sea", many times, is speaking of what?
33. What is he saying, in verse 24, when he compares the trouble to child birth?
34. What were signs of mourning in verse 26?
35. Jerusalem was to have been a \_\_\_\_\_ city.
36. What had happened to their leaders?
37. "Reprobate", in verse 30, means what?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 7:1 "The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying," Jeremiah 7:2 "Stand in the gate of the LORD'S house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the LORD, all [ye of] Judah, that enter in at these gates to worship the LORD."

The first thing that is apparent, here, is, this message is to God's people, not to the world. Jeremiah was to go to the house of God and tell God's people. The last chapter was devoted more to Benjamin's family. This is spoken to the house of Judah. Notice, "all ye of Judah". It appears the time that Jeremiah was to bring this, was a time when large numbers of those of Judah would come to the temple. This is inside the gate. As I said, this is a message for God's people alone. It is a time now that pastors should stand on the porch of the church and give God's message to the people of God. Notice carefully, Jeremiah was bringing this message from God, not from Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 7:3 "Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place."

Jeremiah was crying out to them in the name of the LORD to repent of their evil ways and return to God. God wants to bless them, but He cannot bless them when they are worshipping other gods. He is saying, it is not too late, if you will repent.

Jeremiah 7:4 "Trust ye not in lying words, saying, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, [are] these."

They are saying, over and over, the temple. They thought, if they came to the temple 3 times a year, that was all that was required. They did not live their faith in God after they left the temple. There is more to belonging to God than just attending church once in awhile. To be in right relationship, we must always worship God.

Jeremiah 7:5 "For if ye thoroughly amend your ways and your doings; if ye thoroughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbour;" Jeremiah 7:6 "[If] ye oppress not the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and shed not innocent blood in this place, neither walk after other gods to your hurt:"

We see, in these 2 Scriptures, that they were not representing God in their day to day dealings with other people. They were believers in name only. They lived like the rest of the world. As a formality, they came to the temple at the required times. We see a list of the things wrong in their lives in the verses above. God would not accept them as His family, until they had a change of heart, and lived every day as His representative on the earth. They must turn from the worship of false gods, and worship only the true God, and treat their fellowman as they would want to be treated.

Jeremiah 7:7 "Then will I cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers, for ever and ever."

Their being able to live in the promised land peacefully and prosperously, was conditional on them living as God would have them live. Blessings were for those who obeyed God.

Jeremiah 7:8 "Behold, ye trust in lying words, that cannot profit."

They had believed lies. They had turned from God to these false gods. What could they possibly profit from an idol, which is a nothing?

Jeremiah 7:9 "Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not;" Jeremiah 7:10 "And come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, We are delivered to do all these abominations?"

They were not free to do these sins, just because they belonged to God. This is so much like many Christians today, who believe they can live any way they want to and not be guilty of sin, because they have been baptized. Christianity is a day to day walk in the footsteps Jesus left for us to walk in. We must continue in our salvation we receive. When we receive the Lord, we are supposed to be brand new creatures in Christ. The old sinful life should have been buried in the watery grave of baptism. We should be walking in newness of life in Christ. We no longer live, but Christ liveth in us. This is the very same thing for these children of God {Judah and Benjamin}. Their lives should reflect God within them. They should not live like the lost world.

Jeremiah 7:11 "Is this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, even I have seen [it], saith the LORD."

The house of God is to be a holy place. God never intended it to be a gathering place for thieves and robbers. Jesus spoke of it this way. Matthew 21:13 "And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves." In Mark chapter 11 verse 17, and in Luke 19 verse 46, we read the same thing. God wants His people to be holy, as He is holy. He is our Tabernacle. He wants His people, and His house, to be holy and separated from the world. Christians should live holy lives, because we bear the name of Christ.

Jeremiah 7:12 "But go ye now unto my place which [was] in Shiloh, where I set my name at the first, and see what I did to it for the wickedness of my people Israel."

Shiloh is an interesting word. It appears to be the name of a place where the earliest sanctuary was located. It is the same area as Shechem. This had, undoubtedly, been somewhat of a permanent structure to house the Ark of the Covenant. It had been destroyed. It appears that many of the people in, and around, Jerusalem did not believe God would allow the Babylonians to destroy the temple in Jerusalem. This is a reminder that the first resting place had been destroyed, and Jerusalem would be no different. I want to mention something in passing here. The word "Shiloh" was not just a place but was, also, a name for the Messiah. Shiloh, the place, was destroyed, and so will Jerusalem be destroyed by the Babylonians, because of the sin in their lives.

Jeremiah 7:13 "And now, because ye have done all these works, saith the LORD, and I spake unto you, rising up early and speaking, but ye heard not;

and I called you, but ye answered not;" Jeremiah 7:14 "Therefore will I do unto [this] house, which is called by my name, wherein ye trust, and unto the place which I gave to you and to your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh."

God had warned them of the consequences of worshipping false gods. He had Jeremiah telling them of their error, and telling them the outcome, if they did not repent. It appears the warning was not heeded. They had trusted in the temple being in Jerusalem forever. God had given them the promised land, and had even dwelt with them in His temple in the most holy place.

Jeremiah 7:15 "And I will cast you out of my sight, as I have cast out all your brethren, [even] the whole seed of Ephraim."

In the near future, they will be captured {cast out} by Babylon. Ephraim is speaking of the 10 tribes of Israel, that were captured and {cast out} years before Babylon captured the land of Judah and Benjamin. It had happened recently enough that they were still familiar with it, however.

Jeremiah 7:16 "Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee."

We see, in this, that God's judgment is already set. Jeremiah is not to pray for their deliverance, because he would be praying against the judgment of God. We know that Abraham asked God to spare Sodom, if they could find as many as 10 righteous. There were not 10 righteous, and God did not spare them. God told Abraham ahead of time that He was going to destroy them, but All the prayers of Abraham could not have stopped the judgment. This is the case here, as well. There are certain things God has planned. To intercede in prayer in opposition to God's plans, will not work.

Jeremiah 7:17 "Seest thou not what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem?"

God brings Jeremiah's attention to the rampant sin in the cities. They must be punished for their sins. The punishment is to cause them to repent and turn to God.

Jeremiah 7:18 "The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead [their] dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto other gods, that they may provoke me to anger."

We see, from this, that even the wives and children are entering into the false worship with the fathers. This is an abomination before God. God is a jealous God. He will not tolerate the worship of false gods. Deuteronomy 6:15 "(For the LORD thy God [is] a jealous God among you) lest the anger of the LORD thy God be kindled against thee, and destroy thee from off the face of the earth." They not only are worshipping false gods, but are doing it openly for all to see their unfaithfulness. God's fury has come up in His face against them.

Jeremiah 7:19 "Do they provoke me to anger? saith the LORD: [do they] not [provoke] themselves to the confusion of their own faces?"

The answer is, yes. They do greatly anger God. The worst thing they have done, is now, they do not even know what they do believe. The "confusion of their own faces" just means they are totally confused in their worship. We had spoken earlier about their formality of sacrificing to God still going on, but at the same time, they were worshipping false gods. They did not know themselves what they believed.

Jeremiah 7:20 "Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, mine anger and my fury shall be poured out upon this place, upon man, and upon beast, and upon the trees of the field, and upon the fruit of the ground; and it shall burn, and shall not be quenched."

These people were symbolically God's wife. There is nothing that makes a husband more furious than an unfaithful wife. They have been unfaithful to the Lord God. His anger will cause them to fall in this great battle with Babylon. Deuteronomy 4:24 "For the LORD thy God [is] a consuming fire, [even] a jealous God." Zechariah 8:2 "Thus saith the LORD of hosts; I was jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I was jealous for her with great fury." This destruction will be so great that the trees, the fruit, and in fact, everything will be destroyed.

Jeremiah 7:21 "Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Put your burnt offerings unto your sacrifices, and eat flesh."

God is telling them to go ahead and cook and eat their sacrifices that they would have made to Him, because they are unacceptable to Him. The LORD leaves no doubt who He is here. He says, God of Israel.

Jeremiah 7:22 "For I spake not unto your fathers, nor commanded them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices:" Jeremiah 7:23 "But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you."

We know that God promised blessings to His people, if they obeyed Him, and curses, if they did not. This all began with the promises to Abraham. The ordinances and laws God gave were for the benefit of man. The sacrifices were, also, for man to express thankfulness to God for the provisions God had made for him. Some of the sacrifices were to bring forgiveness for sins. All were for man's benefit. We will understand this better, if we remember the great sacrifice that Jesus made for us. It was not for Jesus' benefit the sacrifice was made, but for man's benefit. If man had never fallen, there would have been no need for sacrifice. Look, with me, at one Scripture that expresses the same thought. I Samuel 15:22 "And Samuel said, Hath the LORD [as great] delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey [is] better than sacrifice, [and] to hearken than the fat of rams." To understand this more fully, study the book of Leviticus. God will not be our God, if we have other gods, He must be the only One, or He will not be our God at all.

Jeremiah 7:24 "But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels [and] in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward."

Man, by nature, is sinful. The example of this that stands out to me the best is the children of Israel headed for the promised land. God miraculously brought them out of Egypt with the 10 plagues He brought on Egypt. This, alone, should have convinced them that He was truly God, and there were no others. He parted the Red Sea, and took them over on dry land. He had Moses strike the Rock and water enough for the millions of people sprang forth. They still did not believe. They made the golden calf to worship. What does God have to do for man, before man realizes who is God? It appears man is so set on sinning, that he ignores all the evidence and follows the desires of his flesh.

Jeremiah 7:25 "Since the day that your fathers came forth out of the land of Egypt unto this day I have even sent unto you all my servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending [them]:"

God heard their cry in Egypt, and sent Moses to their rescue. God sent judges, prophets, holy men, and they would not believe. They were so caught up in the desires of the flesh, they would not listen to the Spirit of God.

Jeremiah 7:26 "Yet they hearkened not unto me, nor inclined their ear, but hardened their neck: they did worse than their fathers."

It seems the sins got worse with every generation. It was almost as if they were trying to outdo their fathers. The "hardening of their neck" just meant they were too stubborn to learn.

Jeremiah 7:27 "Therefore thou shalt speak all these words unto them; but they will not hearken to thee: thou shalt also call unto them; but they will not answer thee."

I feel so sorry for Jeremiah here. He brings the message from God to these people, and they will not listen, or believe. How discouraging this can be. Noah had the same problem, while he was building the ark. He preached of the coming disaster, and never had anyone believe him and change his ways. It is not the obligation of the messenger to make them believe, it is enough that he brings God's message to the people. It is their obligation to believe.

Jeremiah 7:28 "But thou shalt say unto them, This [is] a nation that obeyeth not the voice of the LORD their God, nor receiveth correction: truth is perished, and is cut off from their mouth."

Jeremiah says exactly what God tells him to. He says, you do not want the Truth. They have believed a lie. They do not want help.

Jeremiah 7:29 "Cut off thine hair, [O Jerusalem], and cast [it] away, and take up a lamentation on high places; for the LORD hath rejected and forsaken the generation of his wrath."

They were to cut their hair in mourning. It was a custom of the people, when they took a Nazarite vow, to grow their hair long and then cut it, and sacrifice it at the temple. This is saying, go ahead and take that hair to the high places, because God will not accept it in sacrifice to Him. God has rejected them and forsaken them. He wants no sacrifice to Him from them anymore.

Jeremiah 7:30 "For the children of Judah have done evil in my sight, saith the LORD: they have set their abominations in the house which is called by my name, to pollute it."

It appears Manasseh had built altars for all the host of heaven. The very first commandment is, Thou shalt have no other gods before me. This is an abomination, a revolting sin, in God's sight.

Jeremiah 7:31 "And they have built the high places of Tophet, which [is] in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire; which I commanded [them] not, neither came it into my heart."

This is the worship of Molech which was strictly forbidden. They practiced human sacrificing of their children to this false god.

Jeremiah 7:32 "Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that it shall no more be called Tophet, nor the valley of the son of Hinnom, but the valley of slaughter: for they shall bury in Tophet, till there be no place."

We realize from this, that this was a common thing and many children were killed. It would be correct to name it the valley of slaughter.

Jeremiah 7:33 "And the carcasses of this people shall be meat for the fowls of the heaven, and for the beasts of the earth; and none shall fray [them] away."

In the 28th chapter of Deuteronomy, beginning with the 25<sup>th</sup> verse, we read of this very thing.

Jeremiah 7:34 "Then will I cause to cease from the cities of Judah, and from the streets of Jerusalem, the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride: for the land shall be desolate."

The only thing we need to be reminded of here, is that this punishment comes from God. Babylon may be the instrument that God uses to carry this out, but the judgment is from God. This is the curse God brings on His children, who do not obey Him, and who go after strange gods. This is speaking of total destruction. There would be no happiness at all, only desolation.

## Jeremiah 8 Questions

1. The word that came to Jeremiah from the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. What did God tell Jeremiah to do in verse 2?
3. Who was the message for?
4. Why had God chosen this particular place to speak to the people?
5. What would they have to do for God to cause them to dwell in this place?
6. What are they really saying, when they say, the temple of the Lord?
7. What were some of the things mentioned they must change?
8. They were believers in \_\_\_\_\_ only.
9. Blessings were for those who \_\_\_\_\_ God.
10. Name some of the sins verse 9 mentions.
11. What was the wrong idea they had about their sins?
12. What does water baptism symbolize?
13. I no longer live, but \_\_\_\_\_ liveth in me.
14. What did God say, they thought His house had become?
15. Quote Matthew chapter 21 verse 13.
16. Where are two other places {in the Bible} you can read the same thing?
17. Why should Christians live holy lives?
18. Where was Shiloh located?
19. What happened to the place the Ark had been housed {at Shiloh}?
20. The word "Shiloh" was not just a place, but was, also, a name for \_\_\_\_\_.
21. What does verse 14 say, God will do to His house He had given them?
22. Who had God cast out of His sight, previously?
23. Who is Ephraim, in verse 15, speaking of?
24. Why was Jeremiah not to intercede for them?
25. What did God bring Jeremiah's attention to in verse 17?
26. Who were involved in this false worship of the queen of heaven?
27. Who will God pour His fury out on?
28. What makes a man more furious than anything else?
29. Quote Deuteronomy chapter 4 verse 24.
30. What is God telling them to do with their sacrifices?
31. What was more important to God than their sacrifices?
32. How did they respond to God's warnings?
33. What does God have to do, before man will recognize Him as God?
34. Who had God sent to them to warn them?
35. What did He mean by "hardened their neck"?
36. Why does the author feel sorry for Jeremiah?
37. What is the obligation of the messenger?
38. In verse 29, what are they to do with their hair they cut off?
39. What had Manasseh done that was spoken of in verse 30?
40. What was the valley of Tophet changed to?
41. The sacrificing of their children was the worship of the false god \_\_\_\_\_.
42. \_\_\_\_\_: What is the only thing we need to be reminded of in verse 34?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 8:1 "At that time, saith the LORD, they shall bring out the bones of the kings of Judah, and the bones of his princes, and the bones of the priests, and the bones of the prophets, and the bones of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, out of their graves:"

We see, in this Scripture, they had no regard for the bodies of the dead. It did not matter whether it was the bones of some official in the government, or some high official in the temple, they did not bury their bodies. They just left them to the vultures. It appears, also, from this, they might have even robbed some of the graves, and brought their bones out, too. This is showing total disgust and disregard for the people of Judah and Benjamin.

Jeremiah 8:2 "And they shall spread them before the sun, and the moon, and all the host of heaven, whom they have loved, and whom they have served, and after whom they have walked, and whom they have sought, and whom they have worshipped: they shall not be gathered, nor be buried; they shall be for dung upon the face of the earth."

The reason God allowed this, was so they could be placed in front of all these things they had worshipped falsely. It was to show that the sun, moon, and stars, and all the idols of false worship had no power to revive them. They were left to decay. Their bodies came from the earth, and they would decay and return to that earth.

Jeremiah 8:3 "And death shall be chosen rather than life by all the residue of them that remain of this evil family, which remain in all the places whither I have driven them, saith the LORD of hosts."

Even the fate of the dead was better than the fate of those left living. They would be taken into a foreign country as slaves. Death would have been welcomed. Notice, again, this judgment is from God.

Jeremiah 8:4 "Moreover thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the LORD; Shall they fall, and not arise? shall he turn away, and not return?"

These people had not just committed a single sin against God. They had taken on the sinful way of life. They were not repentant at all. God may turn away from them for a moment, because He cannot bear to look upon sin, but He is always ready to accept their repentance. It is not a natural thing for a person to fall, and not get back up. This can be in the spirit, as well as in the flesh. God will help them arise, if they repent and turn to Him.

Jeremiah 8:5 "Why [then] is this people of Jerusalem slidden back by a perpetual backsliding? they hold fast deceit, they refuse to return."

The word "perpetual" tells it all. They have continued in sin. Their backsliding is not for a moment, but is a continuous thing. It is not natural for them to do this. They should see the error of their ways, and turn back to God. They are too stubborn to ask for God's help. They cling to their belief in false gods. They have believed a lie.

Jeremiah 8:6 "I hearkened and heard, [but] they spake not aright: no man repented him of his wickedness, saying, What have I done? Every one turned to his course, as the horse rusheth into the battle."

A horse goes into battle without thinking, because he goes wherever his rider directs him. This is true with these people. They rush into sin, like the horse that does not think rushes into battle. They have their ears of understanding closed off to the message God sends them. They are on the road of sin, and have no intentions of turning around. They do not stop and consider what is happening. They do not repent of their sins. Jeremiah heard, but they just heard words which meant nothing to them.

Jeremiah 8:7 "Yea, the stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times; and the turtle and the crane and the swallow observe the time of their coming; but my people know not the judgment of the LORD."

Even the dumb animals know their appointed times, but man who could understand, does not even stop to consider the LORD. An animal follows the instincts God has given him. Even though all of this happened to these people of God, they never once considered that they brought it on themselves with their sins.

Jeremiah 8:8 "How do ye say, We [are] wise, and the law of the LORD [is] with us? Lo, certainly in vain made he [it]; the pen of the scribes [is] in vain."

These were not the heathen of the world, but God's chosen people. They say they know the law. They believe that just the knowledge of the law will save them. To be able to memorize the law of God, would be of no use at all, unless they understood the meaning of those words. The pen of the scribes wrote the law in book form for them to read. It would be in vain to read it without understanding it. By the law, no man is saved. Galatians 3:11 "But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, [it is] evident: for, The just shall live by faith." Abraham should have been their example. His faith in God was counted unto him as righteousness.

Jeremiah 8:9 "The wise [men] are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom [is] in them?"

The wisdom they possessed was of the world. Their wisdom is of nothing. The real wisdom that is a gift from God, comes when we fear and reverence God. The wisdom verse 9 is speaking of is not of God, but from the world. That kind of wisdom is worth nothing at all.

Jeremiah 8:10 "Therefore will I give their wives unto others, [and] their fields to them that shall inherit [them]: for every one from the least even unto the greatest is given to covetousness, from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely."

Their wives were taken by the Babylonians. The land and goods go to the victor. In this case, the victor is Babylon. The reason for this judgment from God, was the fact they were a sinful nation. The sin had even entered the temple. A few hundred years later, Jesus will tell the priests in the temple that the laws they practiced were their own, not God's. This was the case here, as well. They had twisted the law to fit their own needs. It was no longer recognizable as God's law.

Jeremiah 8:11 "For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when [there is] no peace."

The temple priests were crying peace, when war was at the door. The only true peace comes, when Jesus sets up His kingdom of peace.

Jeremiah 8:12 "Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore shall they fall among them that fall: in the time of their visitation they shall be cast down, saith the LORD."

They had committed so many sins, they had forgotten what was sin. Their conscience had been seared over. The more they sinned, the less they recognized sin for what it was. Judgment begins at the house of God. When Jesus judges the world, there will be many that will cry out to Him and say, didn't we do this, or that, in your name, and He will say, Get away from me, I never knew you. It will not matter how big the church was that you pastored. If your heart is not right with God, you will be cast down by Jesus. This was the same thing here.

Jeremiah 8:13 "I will surely consume them, saith the LORD: [there shall be] no grapes on the vine, nor figs on the fig tree, and the leaf shall fade; and [the things that] I have given them shall pass away from them."

God had miraculously fed them, but that will be no more. In some sense, they were the branches, but they produced no fruit. I believe in this, God is speaking of cutting of their source of help from Him, however. Now God will not look upon them and care for their needs. They will go without. The things of nature would no longer cooperate with them. This is like the curse on the ground, spoken of in Genesis.

Jeremiah 8:14 "Why do we sit still? assemble yourselves, and let us enter into the defenced cities, and let us be silent there: for the LORD our God hath put us to silence, and given us water of gall to drink, because we have sinned against the LORD."

This is certainly a bitter cup that they must drink. Remember, they brought it on themselves by being unfaithful to God. They are in silence, because they know it is true, and there is nothing left for them to say. They could have fled south, as they had been warned to do, but they just sat, and let it happen. I do not believe they thought God would allow this to happen to them.

Jeremiah 8:15 "We looked for peace, but no good [came; and] for a time of health, and behold trouble!"

Remember, their leaders had cried peace. They believed the leaders, and thought peace was on its way. They never once dreamed of the trouble that would come. They never even bothered to repent, and seek God's face.

Jeremiah 8:16 "The snorting of his horses was heard from Dan: the whole land trembled at the sound of the neighing of his strong ones; for they are come, and have devoured the land, and all that is in it; the city, and those that dwell therein."

This was a mighty army of horses and men that came and destroyed. Fear rose up in the people, when the horses got near enough for them to hear them snorting. The sad thing is, it was too late to run or even to repent. Everything was destroyed.

Jeremiah 8:17 "For, behold, I will send serpents, cockatrices, among you, which [will] not [be] charmed, and they shall bite you, saith the LORD."

The serpents that God sent were both physical, and of a figurative nature. It appears that vipers {very poisonous snakes} roved through the land biting people. Also, the army of invaders were like serpents. Look, with me, at another time when God sent serpents. Numbers 21:6 "And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died." Notice, also, why they came and who sent them, in the following Scripture. Numbers 21:7 "Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people." God controls the serpent, the same as He controls everything else.

Jeremiah 8:18 "[When] I would comfort myself against sorrow, my heart [is] faint in me."

Even though God had told Jeremiah ahead of time about all the problems, Jeremiah still felt great sorrow for these people. He was known as the prophet of sorrows. Jeremiah had not planned to grieve, but it was more than he could endure. His heart was broken.

Jeremiah 8:19 "Behold the voice of the cry of the daughter of my people because of them that dwell in a far country: [Is] not the LORD in Zion? [is] not her king in her? Why have they provoked me to anger with their graven images, [and] with strange vanities?"

The people of God have provoked God to bring this terrible punishment on them, the temple, and the land, by worshipping false gods. They cry out, because of their loss, not because they have repented. God never leaves Zion. Zion, as we have said before, is the mount in Jerusalem, but is also God's church. God never leaves the church. The answer, for them or us, is repent and come back to God.

Jeremiah 8:20 "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved."

The captivity of this people is not for just a season, but for many years. We know at the end of harvest the people rested, but there will be no rest for them. They have not been delivered from captivity. The children of Israel waited 400 years, or more, for God to send them a deliverer to bring them out of Egypt {world}. This captivity will be shorter, but will not be over in one year.

Jeremiah 8:21 "For the hurt of the daughter of my people am I hurt; I am black; astonishment hath taken hold on me."

The word translated "black" here, implies mourning. The mourning was great. It appeared to be the blackest time in their history. It was

difficult to see any hope for them. "Astonishment" is speaking of surprise at the terribleness.

Jeremiah 8:22 "[Is there] no balm in Gilead; [is there] no physician there? why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?"

We see a people, who seem to be desolate without hope. The "balm of Gilead" was a substance with healing power in it. It was very expensive. I think of the Aloe-vera plant when I see this mentioned. You can squeeze a little juice out for a burn, or rash, and it is very helpful. The only medicine that would help them, would come from the great Physician {Jesus}. Their illness was spiritual. They must seek God anew. They will not recover, until they repent of their false worship, and turn to God.

## Jeremiah 9 Questions

1. Whose bones will be brought out?
2. Where shall they spread the bones?
3. Why are the bones put in that place?
4. What will their bones become to the earth?
5. What was better than the fate of those left?
6. The judgment comes from \_\_\_\_\_.
7. What way of life had they taken on, that brought judgment on them?
8. When will God help them arise?
9. What kind of backsliding were they guilty of?
10. Who heard in verse 6?
11. What attitude did the people have?
12. What animal were they compared to in verse 6?
13. What did these evil people not consider even once?
14. What did they believe would save them?
15. What is wrong with that thinking?
16. Quote Galatians chapter 3 verse 11.
17. What kind of wisdom did they have?
18. What happened to their wives?
19. What did Jesus have to say about the law of the temple?
20. What were the leaders crying out, that was not true?
21. Why were they not ashamed of their sins?
22. How had these people been fed in the past?
23. What is the bitter cup spoken of as in verse 14?
24. When did they begin to fear that what Jeremiah had said was true?
25. What did God send to torment them, besides the army?
26. When was another time God sent the same thing to punish people?
27. What effect on Jeremiah did all of this have?
28. Why did the people cry out?
29. How quickly had they thought God would send them a deliverer?
30. What does "black" indicate in verse 21?
31. What was the "balm of Gilead"?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 9:1 "Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!"

We see from this, why Jeremiah was thought of as the weeping or mourning, prophet. His body did not produce enough tears to be sufficient to take care of the grief he felt over Jerusalem and God's family. These were people Jeremiah had prophesied to. He felt close to their sorrow.

Jeremiah 9:2 "Oh that I had in the wilderness a lodging place of wayfaring men; that I might leave my people, and go from them! For they [be] all adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men."

This is the LORD speaking of His people. He is tired of dealing with these sinful people. It is as if He is saying, Put them away from decent people. Put all the sinners together out in the desert away from those people they might influence. They are adulterers and treacherous men. They should not be in the main stream of society.

Jeremiah 9:3 "And they bend their tongues [like] their bow [for] lies: but they are not valiant for the truth upon the earth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they know not me, saith the LORD."

God has given up on changing them, and says just let them lie to each other and cheat each other; put them away. This reminds me of what society does to criminals today. In a sense, at the end of the Gentile age, this is just what happens. Jesus locks the devil up for a thousand years, so he cannot deceive the people anymore.

Jeremiah 9:4 "Take ye heed every one of his neighbour, and trust ye not in any brother: for every brother will utterly supplant, and every neighbour will walk with slanders."

It was not only a dangerous thing then to put your trust in relatives and friends, but it is dangerous now, as well. Mankind will let you down. The only One you can really trust is God. "Supplant", in the verse above, means to restrain, or keep from accomplishing something. Neighbors slander each other, and brothers are jealous and hold their brothers back, afraid they will get ahead. Proverbs 3:5 "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding."

Jeremiah 9:5 "And they will deceive every one his neighbour, and will not speak the truth: they have taught their tongue to speak lies, [and] weary themselves to commit iniquity."

Verses 4 and 5, above, are both speaking of people who are not following after God. God's people should be trustworthy. This is speaking of a generation that is not interested in the principles God has taught, and are living worldly lives. The world deceives to get ahead. They cheat, and steal, and lie to further their own cause. They are not interested in the golden rule. This is speaking of a people far away from God and His teachings.

Jeremiah 9:6 "Thine habitation [is] in the midst of deceit; through deceit they refuse to know me, saith the LORD."

They lived in an area where they were all sinners. It was a way of life to lie and cheat. These people were far from God. They were worshipping idols, because they would believe a lie before believing the Truth. It is a very dangerous thing to companion with those of unbelief. Whoever you are around on a regular basis, you will be like. Habitation is a place where you continually dwell.

Jeremiah 9:7 "Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, I will melt them, and try them; for how shall I do for the daughter of my people?"

"Melting" has to do with refining. It is well known, if you melt silver or gold, the trash comes to the top. The refiner skims the trash off, and then you have near pure metal. This is what this is saying here. The heat is applied to them to purge their sins away. All purging is done to help the one purged. God loved them so much, He would cause them to suffer a while to purify them.

Jeremiah 9:8 "Their tongue [is as] an arrow shot out; it speaketh deceit: [one] speaketh peaceably to his neighbour with his mouth, but in heart he layeth his wait."

We see from this, that these people have evil hearts, out of which comes deceitful words. We are what is in our heart. The tongue expresses the thoughts of the heart. A wicked tongue, then, means we have a wicked heart. In the verse above, the neighbor pretends to be a friend, but in his heart he hates. This is a two-faced person. Proverbs 26:23 "Burning lips and a wicked heart [are like] a potsherd covered with silver dross." He appears from the outside to be pure, but he is just covering his deceit. The tongue is a piercing weapon, when used against someone.

Jeremiah 9:9 "Shall I not visit them for these [things]? Saith the LORD: shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?"

The world does not see these sins. The people are covering them up. God looks on the heart of man. A nation of people like this should not be called by God's name. They do not do the ways of God, so they are not representing Him on the earth.

Jeremiah 9:10 "For the mountains will I take up a weeping and wailing, and for the habitations of the wilderness a lamentation, because they are burned up, so that none can pass through [them]; neither can [men] hear the voice of the cattle; both the fowl of the heavens and the beast are fled; they are gone."

The punishment brought upon these people hurt God worse than anyone. He is like a parent who has had to punish a child severely, because of his sin. The parent grieves more than the child at the punishment. This punishment was so severe, there was nothing left.

Jeremiah 9:11 "And I will make Jerusalem heaps, [and] a den of dragons; and I will make the cities of Judah desolate, without an inhabitant."

Jeremiah is speaking this with his mouth, but we remember that the words in Jeremiah's mouth were put there by God. It is actually God speaking through the mouth of Jeremiah. This speaks of the desolation left in Jerusalem and all of Judah.

Jeremiah 9:12 "Who [is] the wise man, that may understand this? and [who is he] to whom the mouth of the LORD hath spoken, that he may declare it, for what the land perisheth [and] is burned up like a wilderness, that none passeth through?"

All of this was spoken by Jeremiah in time for the people to leave, before the trouble began. They had time to repent, and then leave, so they would not be caught up in the destruction. Those who loved God believed Jeremiah. They were the wise men that knew Jeremiah was telling the truth. The mouth of God spoke this to all, but the great majority did not heed the warning. They stayed for the land to be totally destroyed. It appears much of the damage came from fire.

Jeremiah 9:13 "And the LORD saith, Because they have forsaken my law which I set before them, and have not obeyed my voice, neither walked therein;" Jeremiah 9:14 "But have walked after the imagination of their own heart, and after Baalim, which their fathers taught them:"

Over, and over again, God gave them the reason for bringing this destruction. The worst thing they had done, was to follow after false gods. Baalim, just happened to be one of the false gods. They had committed spiritual adultery. They had left their love for God, and been unfaithful with these false gods.

Jeremiah 9:15 "Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will feed them, [even] this people, with wormwood, and give them water of gall to drink."

"Wormwood" just means bad water. With all of the killing and burning going on, you can see the water had to be bad. Not only in the land where the destruction occurred would the water be bad, but when you are captured and carried to a foreign land, the food and water seem a bitter dose to take.

Jeremiah 9:16 "I will scatter them also among the heathen, whom neither they nor their fathers have known: and I will send a sword after them, till I have consumed them."

At the time this was written, all the world, except the Hebrews, were heathen. The family of Israel were the only ones who had the law of God. He had not revealed Himself to the rest of the world at this time. They were sent into a strange land. They, nor their fathers, had been acquainted with these people. Those who do not believe in God will be destroyed.

Jeremiah 9:17 "Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Consider ye, and call for the mourning women, that they may come; and send for cunning [women], that they may come:"

There were people in this day {mostly women} who were paid mourners. This is speaking of having these professional mourners to mourn for the whole nation. It appears there will be so much mourning needed, that there

will not be enough of this group to do the job. They will call all of the cunning women to come and help them mourn.

Jeremiah 9:18 "And let them make haste, and take up a wailing for us, that our eyes may run down with tears, and our eyelids gush out with waters."

The main purpose of the mourning women was to stir up the emotions of the people. They would wail and cry, until all the people took up the sorrow and began to cry, as well.

Jeremiah 9:19 "For a voice of wailing is heard out of Zion, How are we spoiled! we are greatly confounded, because we have forsaken the land, because our dwellings have cast [us] out."

Zion, here, could be speaking of Jerusalem. The people who are left standing, after the battle, have no homes to return to. This would be true mourning for their loss.

Jeremiah 9:20 "Yet hear the word of the LORD, O ye women, and let your ear receive the word of his mouth, and teach your daughters wailing, and every one her neighbour lamentation."

It appears this is a warning of how great the destruction will be. It is saying, grief will reach every family, so teach them all to mourn.

Jeremiah 9:21 "For death is come up into our windows, [and] is entered into our palaces, to cut off the children from without, [and] the young men from the streets."

The death toll from this destruction is not just the men as it is in most battles. This death reaches the children as well as the adults. It is not just at the battlefront, either. Many of the deaths occur in their homes. The mention of the palace means that even the children of the ruler are not safe.

Jeremiah 9:22 "Speak, Thus saith the LORD, Even the carcasses of men shall fall as dung upon the open field, and as the handful after the harvestman, and none shall gather [them]."

This is speaking of the vast number, who die and are not buried. They will be just left in the field where they die, to decay and return to the earth.

Jeremiah 9:23 "Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise [man] glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty [man] glory in his might, let not the rich [man] glory in his riches:"

This just says that worldly wisdom, strength, or wealth will not save them from destruction. They will all die together.

Jeremiah 9:24 "But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I [am] the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these [things] I delight, saith the LORD."

There is only one help, and He is the LORD. If they heed the message sent to them by Jeremiah and do the things God has told them to do, they will be spared. God's nature is not to punish. His nature is lovingkindness, judgment, righteousness. Because He is just, He must bring this correction on this people. There will be a remnant saved even in this terrible time.

Jeremiah 9:25 "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will punish all [them which are] circumcised with the uncircumcised;"

Just because they were descended from Abraham and have been circumcised to prove it, will not save them. They have been living like the uncircumcised world, and they will be punished the same as them. This says, to me, just because you claim to be a Christian is not enough. You must live the Christian life. Christ must indwell you to the extent that your whole being, inside and out, is Christlike. To be Christlike, saves you.

Jeremiah 9:26 "Egypt, and Judah, and Edom, and the children of Ammon, and Moab, and all [that are] in the utmost corners, that dwell in the wilderness: for all [these] nations [are] uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel [are] uncircumcised in the heart."

To belong to God is not a flesh experience, it is a heart experience. All the heathen lands, mentioned above, were not even circumcised in the flesh. These Hebrews were circumcised in flesh only. They had not had a change of heart, which is necessary to be saved. I call it a {heart transplant}. Salvation occurs in the heart, regardless of who you call yourself. My favorite Scriptures on this are the following. Romans 10:9 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Romans 10:10 "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Jew or Gentile, this is the way to heaven.

## Jeremiah 10 Questions

1. What is Jeremiah saying in verse 1?
2. Why was the Lord so disappointed in His people?
3. Their tongues are like what?
4. What happens to the devil at the end of the Gentile age?
5. Who could they trust?
6. What does "supplant" mean, in verse 4?
7. Quote Proverbs chapter 3 verse 5.
8. What kind of people are verse 4 and 5 speaking of?
9. Their habitation is in the midst of \_\_\_\_\_.
10. What does habitation mean?
11. Describe a two-faced person.
12. Quote Proverbs chapter 26 verse 23.
13. What is different about the way the world looks at you, and the way God looks at you?
14. Who does the punishment, that God sends upon them, hurt the worst?
15. Jeremiah speaks this with his mouth, but the message is from \_\_\_\_\_.
16. Who were the wise men of verse 12?
17. What explanation does God give for punishing them?
18. What does "wormwood" mean?
19. Who were the heathen?
20. Who were the mourners they called?
21. Why did they call the cunning women?
22. What was the main reason for the mourning women?
23. Why were they wailing from Zion?
24. What is meant by death is come upon our windows?
25. The carcasses of men shall fall as \_\_\_\_\_.
26. What was the only thing to glory in?
27. What is the nature of God?
28. What must all do to be saved?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 10:1 "Hear ye the word which the LORD speaketh unto you, O house of Israel:"

This is a request for Israel to listen to what Jeremiah is saying, because the words he speaks are the Words of the LORD.

Jeremiah 10:2 "Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them."

One of the ways of the heathen is to look to the stars for answers about their lives. Way, in the verse above, also means religion. This is the same thing we call horoscopes today. God told His people not to get involved with this. It is sin. Anything that takes the place of God in our lives, is sin. The heavens have no answers for us. The God who made the heavens is the answer for us. They may be living in the land of the heathen, but God forbids them to take up the ways of the heathen. Christians are like that, also. We are in the world, but we better not take up the ways of the world.

Jeremiah 10:3 "For the customs of the people [are] vain: for [one] cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe."

These customs, here, are speaking of religious customs. Their custom was idol worship. They worshipped wooden idols that had been carved out by man's hands. Vain, in the scripture above, means they got no benefit from their worship.

Jeremiah 10:4 "They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not."

They decorate it up to be an outwardly beautiful inanimate object. All of the silver and gold they put upon it, does not bring life into it. It is an idol {nothing}.

Jeremiah 10:5 "They [are] upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also [is it] in them to do good."

This just speaks of the utter uselessness of these idols they have made. They not only cannot help those who worship them, but they are a burden to the people, as well. They must be carried around by the worshipper. They have no power to even help themselves. Why would a person fear them? They have no power to do good, or evil.

Jeremiah 10:6 "Forasmuch as [there is] none like unto thee, O LORD; thou [art] great, and thy name [is] great in might."

There is no god like unto the real God. The extreme opposite of these idols is true of the LORD. He is alive for ever more. He has all power and all strength. The very life and breath of man is furnished by God. He is everything to those, who will just believe. He even affects those who do not

believe. He is their eternal Judge. There is absolutely no comparison, between God and these false deities.

Jeremiah 10:7 "Who would not fear thee, O King of nations? for to thee doth it appertain: forasmuch as among all the wise [men] of the nations, and in all their kingdoms, [there is] none like unto thee."

We see in this, that God is King of all nations, not just King of the Jews. God created all mankind. He created the heavens, and the earth, and then created mankind to dwell there. We are all His creation. We are all offered the opportunity to become His sons. These earthly kings that were created by God are humans, they are not to be worshipped. We must not worship any created being, or thing. We must worship the Creator, only. Even the wise men are created by God.

Jeremiah 10:8 "But they are altogether brutish and foolish: the stock [is] a doctrine of vanities."

The word "baar", that brutish was translated from, means to kindle, or burn. Stock, in the verse above, is speaking of wood. To worship a piece of wood, no matter how decorated it might be, is a foolish thing indeed. They are worshipping this piece of wood in vain.

Jeremiah 10:9 "Silver spread into plates is brought from Tarshish, and gold from Uphaz, the work of the workman, and of the hands of the founder: blue and purple [is] their clothing: they [are] all the work of cunning [men]."

The silver and gold, mentioned here, was used to decorate the idols of wood. Again, this is vain to worship. The silver and gold here is just a coating to make the wood appear to be something better than it was. It appears these cunning workman had colors scattered in the idols, as if they were clothing. None of this will make an idol live. They are nothings.

Jeremiah 10:10 "But the LORD [is] the true God, he [is] the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation."

The Creator has complete control of His creation. God is not dead, He is alive for ever more. He is the Beginning and the Ending. There was nothing before Him, and there will be nothing after Him. Living God is speaking of the great I AM. He is King. He is Truth. He is Life. He is Love. At one word from His mouth, the entire earth will shake. At His command, the planet we call earth came into existence. He flung it out in space, and told it to stay in perfect orbit, and it did. Everything and everyone are His.

Jeremiah 10:11 "Thus shall ye say unto them, The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, [even] they shall perish from the earth, and from under these heavens."

These false gods, made of wood would not last five minutes in a fire. Wood shows their worldliness, and that they are nothings. They did not make anything. They are the design of men's hands.

Jeremiah 10:12 "He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion."

The very first thing we are taught in the Bible, is that God spoke and created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." Each time God made something, the Bible says, and God said. The next sentence says, it was so. We read in John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:2 "The same was in the beginning with God." John 1:3 "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made." You see, the spoken Word of God created all things.

Jeremiah 10:13 "When he uttereth his voice, [there is] a multitude of waters in the heavens, and he causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; he maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of his treasures."

God controls all the elements of the earth. The rain must obey His voice, as does the wind, and everything else. A good example of that power over the elements, is when Jesus speaks to the raging sea and tells it to be still, and it obeys.

Jeremiah 10:14 "Every man is brutish in [his] knowledge: every founder is confounded by the graven image: for his molten image [is] falsehood, and [there is] no breath in them."

Man's knowledge is so small, when compared to God's knowledge. Man cannot create a living thing. God breathes the breath of life into every living thing. Anything man makes is an inanimate object. Worship of anything, or anyone, other than God is false worship.

Jeremiah 10:15 "They [are] vanity, [and] the work of errors: in the time of their visitation they shall perish."

Only a very foolish vain person would worship an idol. Anyone who worships anything, or anyone, other than God will perish on judgment day. Revelation 20:15 "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

Jeremiah 10:16 "The portion of Jacob [is] not like them: for he [is] the former of all [things]; and Israel [is] the rod of his inheritance: The LORD of hosts [is] his name."

The word "rod" was translated from the word shebet, which also means branch off, or clan, or tribe. We could understand the Scripture above, if we thought of Israel as the tribe of His inheritance. Israel is an offshoot of the family of Jacob. The LORD of hosts is the same one as the King of the Jews. Israel, remember, is made up of the physical house and the spiritual house of Israel. Romans 3:29 "[Is he] the God of the Jews only? [is he] not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also:" Galatians 3:29 "And if ye [be] Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

Jeremiah 10:17 "Gather up thy wares out of the land, O inhabitant of the fortress."

The "wares", here, are speaking of their belongings that they can carry. Inhabitant of the fortress is speaking of them being overrun.

Jeremiah 10:18 "For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will sling out the inhabitants of the land at this once, and will distress them, that they may find [it so]."

The "slinging out" indicates that they went, not of their own free will, but were forced out by God. Their distress was not just for the loss of their land and belongings, but they were slaves of the Babylonians now.

Jeremiah 10:19 "Woe is me for my hurt! my wound is grievous: but I said, Truly this [is] a grief, and I must bear it."

This could be Jeremiah grieving over their loss, or it could be the people themselves grieving over their loss. They are finally aware they must bear the grief, because they brought the trouble on themselves. This, too, will pass. They must just make up their minds to bear it.

Jeremiah 10:20 "My tabernacle is spoiled, and all my cords are broken: my children are gone forth of me, and they [are] not: [there is] none to stretch forth my tent any more, and to set up my curtains."

We see the complete desperation of people who no longer even have a tent to dwell in. Their children, who had helped raise the tent for time of resting, are captured and gone. We could, also, see in this a lamenting Father, who no longer has the tabernacle to dwell in with His children. The priests and high priest are captured, too.

Jeremiah 10:21 "For the pastors are become brutish, and have not sought the LORD: therefore they shall not prosper, and all their flocks shall be scattered."

"Pastor" means to tend a flock. There are two ways to tend a flock. The one, possibly intended here, is the shepherd in the country who tends the sheep, grazing them in the pastureland. It seems the other is important here, too. The minister of the church who actually is the pastor of his, or her, flock. It is a dangerous thing for either of these people to not seek the LORD. The shepherd who allows the wolves to come in and destroy, because the LORD was not guiding his actions is intended here. In an invasion of the country, the physical sheep will scatter. In the spiritual sense, the invasion of the church by the devil can, also, scatter the flock.

Jeremiah 10:22 "Behold, the noise of the bruit is come, and a great commotion out of the north country, to make the cities of Judah desolate, [and] a den of dragons."

Babylon is the dragon mentioned here. This is a large noisy army, that comes from the north, and invades Jerusalem and Judah.

Jeremiah 10:23 "O LORD, I know that the way of man [is] not in himself: [it is] not in man that walketh to direct his steps."

When men walk in their own ways, they fall. We are told, many times, in the Bible that a man that does what is right in his own sight is not living for God. The LORD has a path for all who believe in God to walk. It is a

straight, narrow path which leads to righteousness. We must walk in the Light of God to see the path clearly. I John 1:7 "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

Jeremiah 10:24 "O LORD, correct me, but with judgment; not in thine anger, lest thou bring me to nothing."

All that happened to these Israelites, happened to bring them back to God. They had wandered away, and God used this to correct them. Notice, in the following Scripture, why God allows this to happen to His children. Proverbs 22:15 "Foolishness [is] bound in the heart of a child; [but] the rod of correction shall drive it far from him." Those who are not chastised of God to correct them, do not belong to Him. Hebrews 12:8 "But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons." God corrected them, to save them.

Jeremiah 10:25 "Pour out thy fury upon the heathen that know thee not, and upon the families that call not on thy name: for they have eaten up Jacob, and devoured him, and consumed him, and have made his habitation desolate."

God had not intended for the heathen to destroy them with such vengeance. The heathen will be destroyed, because they went too far with their punishment. They were destroyed, also, because they did not believe in God. They were not destroyed until the captivity had finished.

## Jeremiah 11 Questions

1. Why were they to listen to the words of Jeremiah?
2. What was one of the evil practices of the heathen?
3. What do we call this today?
4. Even though they are living in the land of the \_\_\_\_\_, they are not to take up their ways.
5. The customs of the people are \_\_\_\_\_.
6. What are the customs mentioned in verse 3?
7. What were the idols made of?
8. What did they deck the idols with?
9. Why were they to not be afraid of the idols?
10. Idols have no power to do \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Describe some things that make God far superior to any idol.
12. Who is King of nations?
13. What does the word "nations" tell us?
14. What word was brutish translated from?
15. What are some other things it means?
16. What does the blue and purple, in verse 9, tell us?
17. Quote Jeremiah chapter 10 verse 10.
18. Living God is speaking of the great \_\_\_\_.
19. What will happen to all false gods?
20. What is the first thing we are taught in the Bible?
21. Quote John chapter 1 verses 1 through 3.
22. When is a good example of God having power over the elements?
23. Quote Revelation chapter 20 verse 15.
24. What was the word "rod", in verse 16, translated from?
25. What are some other things it means?
26. Quote Galatians chapter 3 verse 29.
27. What are the "wares" in verse 17?
28. What does "slinging out" indicate?
29. What is verse 20 speaking of?
30. What does "pastor" mean?
31. Who are the dragons in verse 22?
32. What happens when a man walks in his own ways?
33. Why did God allow this to happen to them?
34. Quote Proverbs chapter 22 verse 15.
35. Why will God pour out His wrath on the heathen?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 11:1 "The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying," Jeremiah 11:2 "Hear ye the words of this covenant, and speak unto the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem;"

To read a more detailed account of the covenant spoken of, read all of 2nd Kings, chapter 23. This will, also, go into detail about the sins of the people. Verse 2 above, is spoken to Jeremiah. Jeremiah is to first hear from God, and then speak to the men of Judah. This was not to be spoken to just those who held high positions, but to all inhabitants.

Jeremiah 11:3 "And say thou unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel; Cursed [be] the man that obeyeth not the words of this covenant,"

God had promised the land of milk and honey to those who kept covenant with Him. He, also, promised that those who broke the covenant, would be cursed. One of the most important things about the covenant, was to keep the passover. This was not optional, it was a requirement.

Jeremiah 11:4 "Which I commanded your fathers in the day [that] I brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, from the iron furnace, saying, Obey my voice, and do them, according to all which I command you: so shall ye be my people, and I will be your God:"

The passover was something they were to keep, as long as they were alive. The passover celebrated the night when death passed over the Hebrew houses that had the blood of the lamb over the door. It was the very thing that caused Pharaoh to release them. They had been slaves in Egypt. Egypt kept them under hard {iron} bondage. This was the birth of the Israelite nation. God promised to be their God, if they kept His commandments.

Jeremiah 11:5 "That I may perform the oath which I have sworn unto your fathers, to give them a land flowing with milk and honey, as [it is] this day. Then answered I, and said, So be it, O LORD."

God still wanted them to have the land of milk and honey, but they must keep their part of the bargain. So be it, and Amen, express the same thing. Jeremiah agrees with everything God has said.

Jeremiah 11:6 "Then the LORD said unto me, Proclaim all these words in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, saying, Hear ye the words of this covenant, and do them."

It appears, from this, that Jeremiah was to read the covenant again to the people of Judah, and in Jerusalem. It is a last warning for them to keep covenant with God.

Jeremiah 11:7 "For I earnestly protested unto your fathers in the day [that] I brought them up out of the land of Egypt, [even] unto this day, rising early and protesting, saying, Obey my voice."

The message from God had never changed. He wanted them to obey His commands. Their fathers, who were freed from Egypt, wandered in the

wilderness 40 years, because of their disobedience. It seems these people never learn. God would protect them, and provide for all their needs, if they would obey Him.

Jeremiah 11:8 "Yet they obeyed not, nor inclined their ear, but walked every one in the imagination of their evil heart: therefore I will bring upon them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded [them] to do; but they did [them] not."

Since they did not obey, they could expect the curses, instead of the blessings. Again, these are spelled out in detail in Deuteronomy chapter 28, beginning with the 15th verse through the 44th verse. Read all of it. I will give just the summation of it in the next verses. Deuteronomy 28:45 "Moreover all these curses shall come upon thee, and shall pursue thee, and overtake thee, till thou be destroyed; because thou hearkenedst not unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded thee:" Deuteronomy 28:46 "And they shall be upon thee for a sign and for a wonder, and upon thy seed for ever."

Jeremiah 11:9 "And the LORD said unto me, A conspiracy is found among the men of Judah, and among the inhabitants of Jerusalem."

The conspiracy was against God. I believe the conspiracy is just speaking of the fact that both Judah and Jerusalem had broken covenant with God.

Jeremiah 11:10 "They are turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers, which refused to hear my words; and they went after other gods to serve them: the house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken my covenant which I made with their fathers."

The iniquities of their forefathers were their determination to worship false gods. It seems that time had not caused their unfaithfulness to go away. They were committing the same sins their fathers committed. The main thing to remember, is that God did not break the covenant He made. Israel and Judah broke the covenant.

Jeremiah 11:11 "Therefore thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will bring evil upon them, which they shall not be able to escape; and though they shall cry unto me, I will not hearken unto them."

"Therefore" is the key word in this. It connects with the verse above, which told of the breaking of the covenant. The Scripture, here, is just explaining the results of their broken covenant. Their deliberate unfaithfulness to God, will bring the evil upon them. The sad thing in all of this, is that God will no longer hear their prayer. It is the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man that availeth much. The best way to get prayers answered, is be in right standing with God.

Jeremiah 11:12 "Then shall the cities of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem go, and cry unto the gods unto whom they offer incense: but they shall not save them at all in the time of their trouble."

Since God will not listen to their prayers, they go and pray to these false gods {idols}. That is the very thing that got them in trouble with God

in the first place. The idol has no power at all to help anyone. Their prayers, then, were an action in futility.

Jeremiah 11:13 "For [according to] the number of thy cities were thy gods, O Judah; and [according to] the number of the streets of Jerusalem have ye set up altars to [that] shameful thing, [even] altars to burn incense unto Baal."

Baal was the name of one of the many false gods. It appears they worshipped many false gods. Manasseh raised many altars to false gods.

Jeremiah 11:14 "Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up a cry or prayer for them: for I will not hear [them] in the time that they cry unto me for their trouble."

These people have placed their faith in false gods, so God tells Jeremiah not to pray to Him for them. He is saying, let their false gods help them. God's anger against their unfaithfulness is great. God will not help them this time.

Jeremiah 11:15 "What hath my beloved to do in mine house, [seeing] she hath wrought lewdness with many, and the holy flesh is passed from thee? when thou doest evil, then thou rejoicest."

We had mentioned, in an earlier lesson, how all of the family of Israel {including Benjamin and Judah} were spoken of as the wife of God. For them to follow after false gods, is the same thing as committing spiritual adultery. They were God's beloved, but they have left Him.

Jeremiah 11:16 "The LORD called thy name, A green olive tree, fair, [and] of goodly fruit: with the noise of a great tumult he hath kindled fire upon it, and the branches of it are broken."

Some of the olive trees in Israel are thought to have lived thousands of years. They are of a hardy stock. The green olive tree would have many years to produce fruit. The righteous man is, many times, spoken of as the green olive tree. They would have been God's forever, had they not strayed. Now, God has broken off the branches and will burn them. They are no more beautiful to God. There will be a remnant left. The stock will spring forth new branches.

Jeremiah 11:17 "For the LORD of hosts, that planted thee, hath pronounced evil against thee, for the evil of the house of Israel and of the house of Judah, which they have done against themselves to provoke me to anger in offering incense unto Baal."

This is very similar to the fig tree that Jesus cursed, because it did not produce fruit. God planted the olive tree that symbolizes Israel. He, also, planted the fig tree which symbolizes Israel. Sin cursed them. They had brought the sin upon themselves. When incense was burned to God, it represented the prayers that went up to God. This incense burned to Baal, showed they were putting their faith and trust in this false god Baal.

Jeremiah 11:18 "And the LORD hath given me knowledge [of it], and I know [it]: then thou shewedst me their doings."

When Jeremiah began to prophecy, we must remember, he was just a boy. He had not looked into the sins of these people, until God called him to prophecy against them. God has, now, shown him all the evil these people have done. God wants Jeremiah to understand why He is punishing them so harshly.

Jeremiah 11:19 "But I [was] like a lamb [or] an ox [that] is brought to the slaughter; and I knew not that they had devised devices against me, [saying], Let us destroy the tree with the fruit thereof, and let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name may be no more remembered."

God has shown Jeremiah that these evil men plan to kill him, and get rid of him. Jeremiah was helpless to stop them from killing him. He did not have any idea they planned to kill him. Jeremiah was just doing the job God sent him to do. He did not know they would take their anger about the message out on him. They felt Jeremiah was the tree from which these messages sprang from. They hated Jeremiah so much, that they did not want anyone to even remember his name. Their plans were to remove him from among the living.

Jeremiah 11:20 "But, O LORD of hosts, that judgest righteously, that triest the reins and the heart, let me see thy vengeance on them: for unto thee have I revealed my cause."

God would no longer hear the prayers of this evil people, but He would hear the prayer of Jeremiah. He knew his only hope was for God to take up his defense. Jeremiah knew that God was just, and would judge this fairly. God would take vengeance on them for Jeremiah. He would get to see the vengeance, because he was allowed to remain in Jerusalem, when Babylon attacked. God knows that Jeremiah is right in his heart. He is just being obedient to God.

Jeremiah 11:21 "Therefore thus saith the LORD of the men of Anathoth, that seek thy life, saying, Prophecy not in the name of the LORD, that thou die not by our hand:"

The men of Anathoth swore by the LORD that if Jeremiah would stop his prophecy, they would not kill him. In other words, if he did not stop his prophecy, they intended to kill him.

Jeremiah 11:22 "Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, I will punish them: the young men shall die by the sword; their sons and their daughters shall die by famine:"

They have sworn by a name they did not even believe in. God would not allow them to use His name anymore. They have, also, spoken against God's anointed. They have threatened to kill Jeremiah, so that is the punishment against them. Those who do not die in battle, will starve to death.

Jeremiah 11:23 "And there shall be no remnant of them: for I will bring evil upon the men of Anathoth, [even] the year of their visitation."

God was going to save a remnant of Israel, Benjamin and Judah. There would not be even a remnant left of Anathoth. The year of their visitation is their year of punishment.

## Jeremiah 12 Questions

1. Who was Jeremiah to speak to about the covenant?
2. Where can you find a more detailed explanation of the covenant?
3. Who specifically was Jeremiah to speak to?
4. Cursed be the man that \_\_\_\_\_ the words of this covenant.
5. Who had God promised the land of milk and honey to?
6. What was one of the most important things of the covenant to keep?
7. What did passover celebrate?
8. God would be their God, if they \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Where was Jeremiah to read the covenant?
10. Why had their fathers wandered in the wilderness 40 years?
11. Where, in Deuteronomy, are the curses spelled out in detail?
12. Quote Deuteronomy chapter 28 verse 45.
13. Who was their conspiracy against?
14. They had turned back to the \_\_\_\_\_ of their forefathers.
15. What were their iniquities?
16. Who broke the covenant?
17. What is the key word in verse 11?
18. If God will not hear, where do they go for help?
19. How many false gods did they worship?
20. What was the name of one specific false god?
21. What does God call them in verse 15?
22. Who were spoken of as the wife of God?
23. Following false gods was the same as what?
24. What do the olive tree and the fig tree have in common?
25. Why did Jeremiah not have knowledge of all they were doing in the beginning?
26. What did these evil men want to do to Jeremiah?
27. What did God do to them?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 12:1 "Righteous [art] thou, O LORD, when I plead with thee: yet let me talk with thee of [thy] judgments: Wherefore doth the way of the wicked prosper? [wherefore] are all they happy that deal very treacherously?"

In the previous lesson, we saw the grief of Jeremiah over what was happening to these people. Jeremiah recognizes the fact at the beginning of this verse, that the LORD is Righteous. God will allow us to ask questions, but not to question His judgment. Notice, in the following Scripture, that the judgments of the Lord are righteous. Revelation 16:7 "And I heard another out of the altar say, Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous [are] thy judgments." It seems to Jeremiah that the heathen {wicked} of the world are the ones who prosper. Many of us have thought the same thing from time to time. The reason we feel this way, is because we do not see the end, we just see the present. The end of Babylon is much worse than the destruction which comes on Jerusalem and Judah here. Jerusalem and Judah are restored from the remnant God left. Babylon will never be again, after their destruction. God is loving, kind, gentle, forgiving, but He is also just in His judgment. These Hebrews have committed spiritual adultery, they must be punished. Men may cry for justice, but what they truly want is mercy.

Jeremiah 12:2 "Thou hast planted them, yea, they have taken root: they grow, yea, they bring forth fruit: thou [art] near in their mouth, and far from their reins."

"Being far from their reins" just means that they are not being directed of God. The reins direct a horse where he should go. The control, here, is of the heart. The heart is really what a person is. They do not have God in their hearts. All mankind was created by God. In that sense, God planted them. They have grown, but it is a physical growth, not a growth in God.

Jeremiah 12:3 "But thou, O LORD, knowest me: thou hast seen me, and tried mine heart toward thee: pull them out like sheep for the slaughter, and prepare them for the day of slaughter."

Jeremiah is aware that God knows all about him. He had been obedient to the call God had made upon him. Jeremiah is very angry with the Babylonians, who come and do this terrible thing. Jeremiah is saying, Lord sacrifice these evil ones, and not your family. He does not understand that the problems that have come on Judah and Jerusalem are to make them return to God.

Jeremiah 12:4 "How long shall the land mourn, and the herbs of every field wither, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein? The beasts are consumed, and the birds; because they said, He shall not see our last end."

Jeremiah wants to see immediate restoration to the land of Judah and Benjamin. He is pointing out to God the great destruction that took place, as if God did not already know. This destruction of the crops, perhaps, had something to do with a drought, as well as the overrun by the army.

Jeremiah 12:5 "If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses? and [if] in the land of peace, [wherein] thou trustedst, [they wearied thee], then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?"

It appears that Jeremiah had gotten weary, before the race was over. I hear many people, today, complaining about their troubles. The little inconveniences and troubles we are having, now, will pale in comparison to the great tribulation. This is the very same thing as in the verse above. The swelling of Jordan is speaking of an even more difficult time. It was sometimes a dangerous thing to cross Jordan. The possibility of the lions attacking, coupled with the threat of flood waters caused the danger. If they or any other person cannot handle the little problems of life, how can they handle the big problems?

Jeremiah 12:6 "For even thy brethren, and the house of thy father, even they have dealt treacherously with thee; yea, they have called a multitude after thee: believe them not, though they speak fair words unto thee."

We see in this Scripture, that Jeremiah had members of his own family who did not believe he was a prophet. They said, they loved Jeremiah, but they did not support Jeremiah's choice to follow God. Jeremiah was in very good company in this. Jesus' half-brothers did not believe Jesus was the Messiah, until He arose from the tomb.

Jeremiah 12:7 "I have forsaken mine house, I have left mine heritage; I have given the dearly beloved of my soul into the hand of her enemies."

There is a definite break in this from the last few verses. This is the LORD saying, He has forsaken His house. His heritage is His people. He has given His people over into the hands of their enemies. Enemies is plural, so this indicates more than one country.

Jeremiah 12:8 "Mine heritage is unto me as a lion in the forest; it crieth out against me: therefore have I hated it."

The lion in the forest attacks. This is what God's people have done unto Him. They have sought other gods. They have been unfaithful to Him. They have not feared and revered God. They have attacked the very character of God. He suddenly is feeling wrath toward them. I believe the "it" is speaking of their slander of God. God never stopped loving His people. He removes His special care of them for a time, to cause them to seek Him again.

Jeremiah 12:9 "Mine heritage [is] unto me [as] a speckled bird, the birds round about [are] against her; come ye, assemble all the beasts of the field, come to devour."

A speckled bird would be like one of no special species. This would be the case, because they had given up exclusive worship of Jehovah for worship of many false gods. An oddly marked bird will cause the other birds to attack it. This is the case here. These nations {birds} do come against Jerusalem and Judah to destroy them. The beast of the field do come to devour, they are the heathen nations that come to destroy.

Jeremiah 12:10 "Many pastors have destroyed my vineyard, they have trodden my portion under foot, they have made my pleasant portion a desolate wilderness."

We discovered in a previous lesson, that pastor was a tender of the flock. It, also, means a keeper of the sheep. God's people are His vineyard. Those God had left in charge over His vineyard, have literally destroyed the vineyard. It is the very same thing as the shepherd God had left caring for the sheep not feeding them the right food. These pastors have not improved the spiritual side of these people for God. They have, in fact, destroyed the people's relationship with God. The 34th chapter of Ezekiel speaks of the same thing. I will give you just one verse, but be sure to read it all. Ezekiel 34:2 " Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe [be] to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks?" This speaks of the problems, when Jeremiah spoke, but it also deals with problems in our churches today. Pastors should feed spiritual food to God's congregation. They need a relationship with God, not religion.

Jeremiah 12:11 "They have made it desolate, [and being] desolate it mourneth unto me; the whole land is made desolate, because no man layeth [it] to heart."

The moral sickness in our land today, and in Israel then, is the same. Someone has to raise a standard of righteousness. There was no one who did that then. I pray there will be someone come forth, who will do something now. Our land is sick. The only cure is national revival. Someone has to lead the way. Are you that one?

Jeremiah 12:12 "The spoilers are come upon all high places through the wilderness: for the sword of the LORD shall devour from the [one] end of the land even to the [other] end of the land: no flesh shall have peace."

The "Sword of the LORD" is the Word of God. Vengeance of God was carried out by the Babylonians, but it was really God. All of the false worship in the high places was totally destroyed. Do you get the picture? The Word of God can clean out all corruption in our land, as well. The Word of God is the most powerful weapon there is against all enemies. Crucify the flesh, that the spirit might live.

Jeremiah 12:13 "They have sown wheat, but shall reap thorns: they have put themselves to pain, [but] shall not profit: and they shall be ashamed of your revenues because of the fierce anger of the LORD."

Nothing prospers without the blessings of God. You can plant a seed in the ground, but it is God that causes it to grow. When God is angry, there is nothing you can do to benefit yourself, or anyone else.

Jeremiah 12:14 "Thus saith the LORD against all mine evil neighbours, that touch the inheritance which I have caused my people Israel to inherit; Behold, I will pluck them out of their land, and pluck out the house of Judah from among them."

This looks ahead to the time that the LORD will come against the enemies of His people. God will destroy their captors, and restore Judah and

Jerusalem to His people. God will take vengeance on the heathens who took them captive. It is God who will take His people away from the heathen captors.

Jeremiah 12:15 "And it shall come to pass, after that I have plucked them out I will return, and have compassion on them, and will bring them again, every man to his heritage, and every man to his land."

God does not tell them when, but He does tell them He will forgive them, and bring them back into the promised land. All who have lived through the captivity, and all of their children, will be forgiven of God and restored to their land. God is a God of judgment, but He is, also, a God of forgiveness and salvation. This promises unmerited favor from God.

Jeremiah 12:16 "And it shall come to pass, if they will diligently learn the ways of my people, to swear by my name, The LORD liveth; as they taught my people to swear by Baal; then shall they be built in the midst of my people."

We see in this, that God offers forgiveness to the heathen, as well as His people, if they will turn from the worship of Baal to worshipping the One true God. This is an opening to God for the Gentiles.

Jeremiah 12:17 "But if they will not obey, I will utterly pluck up and destroy that nation, saith the LORD."

God is just to all mankind. He offered salvation to them. God will not impose His will on others. It is their own choice to follow God, or not. If they choose not to follow God, He will destroy them. The nation, who refuses to worship God, will be destroyed.

## Jeremiah 13 Questions

1. What is the first thing Jeremiah recognizes about God in verse 1?
2. God will allow us to ask questions, but He will not allow us to question His \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Quote Revelation chapter 16 verse 7.
4. It seems to Jeremiah that the \_\_\_\_\_ of this world are the ones who prosper.
5. Why do we feel this way sometimes, too?
6. Men cry out for \_\_\_\_\_, but what they truly want is \_\_\_\_\_.
7. What does "being far from their reigns" mean?
8. What does Jeremiah not understand about the Babylonian attack?
9. Jeremiah had gotten \_\_\_\_\_, before the race was over.
10. The little problems we face now will pale in comparison to the \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Who, in verse 6, are opposed to Jeremiah?
12. God's heritage is compared to what animal, in verse 8?
13. Why does God remove His special care from His people for awhile?
14. An oddly marked bird will cause the other birds to do what?
15. Who is God's vineyard?
16. What chapter in Ezekiel speaks of shepherds who have not cared for their sheep?
17. The moral sickness in our land today is the same as what?
18. Are you the one to do something about it?
19. What is the "Sword of the LORD"?
20. What causes a plant to grow?
21. What happens to the enemies of God's inheritance?
22. After God has allowed them to be punished, what wonderful thing does He do for them?
23. Who does God offer forgiveness to, besides His heritage?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 13:1 "Thus saith the LORD unto me, Go and get thee a linen girdle, and put it upon thy loins, and put it not in water."

Linen was the material the priest wore in the temple. Linen symbolized righteousness, when it was clean and white. It appears this garment was intended to be worn next to his body. It, perhaps, was showing his closeness with God. It appears to me, also, that a garment of this nature was not shared. It was private property. This is true with the garment of righteousness the Lord Jesus furnishes for each of us who are His. The fact that this garment might need washing indicates that it might be soiled.

Jeremiah 13:2 "So I got a girdle according to the word of the LORD, and put [it] on my loins."

This just shows his total obedience to God. Notice, he does not ask why he is to do this, he just does it.

Jeremiah 13:3 "And the word of the LORD came unto me the second time, saying,"

God speaks to obedient children. He comes to give Jeremiah further directions here.

Jeremiah 13:4 "Take the girdle that thou hast got, which [is] upon thy loins, and arise, go to Euphrates, and hide it there in a hole of the rock."

In some sense, this girdle symbolizes the people of God. God had been close to them, as an inner garment is on a person. He had clothed them with His blessings. He had been their righteousness. This soiled girdle, spoke of God's people who had soiled the righteousness God had given them. They had committed spiritual adultery. They had ruined their relationship with God. God now shows His putting them away, through Jeremiah taking the soiled girdle, and hiding it in a hole in a rock. The hole in the rock symbolizes their captivity.

Jeremiah 13:5 "So I went, and hid it by Euphrates, as the LORD commanded me."

Again, we see total obedience, on the part of Jeremiah. The Euphrates was speaking of a river in the east.

Jeremiah 13:6 "And it came to pass after many days, that the LORD said unto me, Arise, go to Euphrates, and take the girdle from thence, which I commanded thee to hide there."

The "many days" the girdle was in the hole of the rock, symbolized the lengthy years they would remain captive. Just as Jeremiah would go and get the girdle, God would go and free His people from captivity.

Jeremiah 13:7 "Then I went to Euphrates, and digged, and took the girdle from the place where I had hid it: and, behold, the girdle was marred, it was profitable for nothing."

This happens to show God's people just how marred they are. They are really not worth saving. They have sinned so greatly following after false gods, that it is hard to understand why God would even want them back. The condition of the girdle, and the condition of God's straying people, were the same.

Jeremiah 13:8 "Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,"

The Lord had not revealed to Jeremiah the whole plan all at once. It appears that God told him step by step, as he needed to know.

Jeremiah 13:9 "Thus saith the LORD, After this manner will I mar the pride of Judah, and the great pride of Jerusalem."

God is showing Jeremiah, with this girdle, what He plans to do with Judah and Benjamin. The Jews had been a very proud people. They had even shown their arrogance toward God, when they worshipped false gods. Now, God is going to humble them, as this girdle was marred. Being in captivity to another, has a way of humbling a person.

Jeremiah 13:10 "This evil people, which refuse to hear my words, which walk in the imagination of their heart, and walk after other gods, to serve them, and to worship them, shall even be as this girdle, which is good for nothing."

God's people, that He loved so much, and had done so many wonderful things for, have turned against Him. They are evil people, and worse than that, they will not take instruction from God. They are so proud of themselves, that they respect their own judgment over the judgment of God. This girdle Jeremiah went and got, is good for nothing. God's people are just as worthless, as this girdle.

Jeremiah 13:11 "For as the girdle cleaveth to the loins of a man, so have I caused to cleave unto me the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah, saith the LORD; that they might be unto me for a people, and for a name, and for a praise, and for a glory: but they would not hear."

The girdle had been worn close to the wearer, just as God had been close to His people. God is speaking of all the 12 tribes of Israel here. The ten tribes were known as Israel and the 2 tribes were known as Judah. God had separated them from all the people of the world to be His peculiar people. He loved them, as a father does a son. They were to represent Him to all the world. They were His glory and praise in the world. Now, they have betrayed His trust in them. The love God had for them, meant nothing to them. They would not listen. They had ears to hear, but they would not hear.

Jeremiah 13:12 "Therefore thou shalt speak unto them this word; Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Every bottle shall be filled with wine: and they shall say unto thee, Do we not certainly know that every bottle shall be filled with wine?" Jeremiah 13:13 "Then shalt thou say unto them, Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will fill all the inhabitants of this land, even the kings that sit upon David's throne, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, with drunkenness."

It appears that all the kings, that reigned during this terrible time, were heavy drinkers. Even worse than that, the priests and prophets were, too. This could, also, be speaking of the cup of the fury of God poured out upon them. Whatever is the case, they cannot help themselves, much less their people.

Jeremiah 13:14 "And I will dash them one against another, even the fathers and the sons together, saith the LORD: I will not pity, nor spare, nor have mercy, but destroy them."

God is saying He is bringing about their destruction. The cup of the LORD's fury is so great against them, they will be destroyed.

Jeremiah 13:15 "Hear ye, and give ear; be not proud: for the LORD hath spoken."

God is asking them, one more time, to listen and understand, before it is too late. It is, also, explained in this that this is not Jeremiah speaking to them, but the LORD through the mouth of Jeremiah. Some of them were far too proud to accept a message coming out of the mouth of a youth, as being from God. I can just hear them saying: Who does he think he is, telling us what to do?

Jeremiah 13:16 "Give glory to the LORD your God, before he cause darkness, and before your feet stumble upon the dark mountains, and, while ye look for light, he turn it into the shadow of death, [and] make [it] gross darkness."

This is no time to be proud. Humble yourself and give glory to God. We either walk in God's Light, or we walk in the darkness of the earth. Darkness is the absence of Light. When God removes the Light, the darkness comes. Physical darkness can cause you to stumble and fall, but the worst darkness of all is spiritual darkness. The darkness that God sent over Egypt, as one of the 10 plagues, was so great you could feel the darkness. The gross darkness is so depressing that it might even cause death. The only way to do away with this type darkness, is repent of your sins, and pray for the Light.

Jeremiah 13:17 "But if ye will not hear it, my soul shall weep in secret places for [your] pride; and mine eye shall weep sore, and run down with tears, because the LORD'S flock is carried away captive."

Jeremiah is brought to weeping for the fate of these prideful people. The sheep belong to the great Shepherd. God will allow His people to go into captivity, to make them realize how badly they need Him to save them.

Jeremiah 13:18 "Say unto the king and to the queen, Humble yourselves, sit down: for your principalities shall come down, [even] the crown of your glory."

In the following two Scriptures, we see that the king was very young, and his mother was the queen, instead of him having a wife who was queen. Jeremiah was the prophet in the land for both kings. II Kings 22:1 "Josiah [was] eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty and one years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name [was] Jedidah, the daughter of Adaiah of Boscath." II Kings 24:8 "Jehoiachin [was] eighteen years old when

he began to reign, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months. And his mother's name [was] Nehushta, the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem." Jehoiachin reigned just a short time. It was during this period that Babylon captured them. II Kings 24:11 "And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came against the city, and his servants did besiege it." II Kings 24:12 "And Jehoiachin the king of Judah went out to the king of Babylon, he, and his mother, and his servants, and his princes, and his officers: and the king of Babylon took him in the eighth year of his reign."

Jeremiah 13:19 "The cities of the south shall be shut up, and none shall open [them]: Judah shall be carried away captive all of it, it shall be wholly carried away captive."

We know from the Scripture in 2nd Kings above, that this prophecy was fulfilled. They were held captive in Babylon.

Jeremiah 13:20 "Lift up your eyes, and behold them that come from the north: where [is] the flock [that] was given thee, thy beautiful flock?"

This is speaking of the shepherd, who should have been watching the flock God had intrusted to him, or her. The beautiful flock is speaking of God's people.

Jeremiah 13:21 "What wilt thou say when he shall punish thee? For thou hast taught them [to be] captains, [and] as chief over thee: shall not sorrows take thee, as a woman in travail?"

The punishment on these people, who thought themselves above others, will come suddenly like a woman who is having a baby.

Jeremiah 13:22 "And if thou say in thine heart, Wherefore come these things upon me? For the greatness of thine iniquity are thy skirts discovered, [and] thy heels made bare."

It is as if they had not been warned over and over. They act as if they did not deserve such punishment from God. Their sins are now out in the open. They cannot hide them under their skirts. They are barefoot, because they have been exposed.

Jeremiah 13:23 "Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? [then] may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil."

The Ethiopian was born with black skin. The leopard is born with spots. Man is born with a sinful nature. The natural thing for a man to do is sin. God wants His people to be peculiar to the world. They are no longer to be controlled by their flesh, or their nature they are born with. Those who belong to God are of spirit, not flesh.

Jeremiah 13:24 "Therefore will I scatter them as the stubble that passeth away by the wind of the wilderness."

Since their nature is to sin, and they have not risen above that nature, God will scatter them until they call out to Him. If they are wild, let them live in the wilderness.

Jeremiah 13:25 "This [is] thy lot, the portion of thy measures from me, saith the LORD; because thou hast forgotten me, and trusted in falsehood."

They had followed the desires of their flesh, and worshipped false gods. God gives them exactly what they deserve. They will not be treated as God's spirit people. They will go the way of all flesh. They will not have God's protection any longer.

Jeremiah 13:26 "Therefore will I discover thy skirts upon thy face, that thy shame may appear."

They will be red-faced with embarrassment. Their sins are made public.

Jeremiah 13:27 "I have seen thine adulteries, and thy neighings, the lewdness of thy whoredom, [and] thine abominations on the hills in the fields. Woe unto thee, O Jerusalem! wilt thou not be made clean? when [shall it] once [be]?"

Jeremiah, and God through Jeremiah, are saying to this people; "I know all your sins, when will you repent and be saved?". It is as if God is pleading with them to repent from their sins, and let Him cleanse them. He offers them redemption. Why will they not accept it?

## Jeremiah 14 Questions

1. What did God tell Jeremiah to get and put on?
2. What does white clean linen symbolize?
3. What tells us it might be soiled?
4. What does verse 2 show about Jeremiah?
5. Where was Jeremiah to hide the girdle?
6. In a sense, this girdle symbolized the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
7. What did the fact that it was soiled show us?
8. The hole in the rock symbolized their \_\_\_\_\_.
9. What was the Euphrates?
10. The "many days" of verse 6, symbolize what?
11. What do we learn from Jeremiah going back to get the girdle?
12. What had happened to the girdle?
13. What was the same as the condition of the girdle?
14. What was God going to mar in verse 9?
15. The girdle was good for \_\_\_\_\_.
16. Who is God speaking to in verse 11?
17. Every bottle shall be filled with \_\_\_\_\_.
18. Who were filled with drunkenness?
19. Who was speaking to them, really?
20. Darkness is the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
21. What was unusual about the Egyptian plague of darkness?
22. Why does God allow them to go into captivity?
23. Why was the mother of Josiah queen?
24. In the reign of \_\_\_\_\_, Babylon took Jerusalem.
25. Who is the flock in verse 20?
26. Can an Ethiopian change his \_\_\_\_\_?
27. Quote Jeremiah chapter 13 verse 27.

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 14:1 "The word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah concerning the dearth."

"Dearth" means droughth. We see then, they will not only have problems with invaders, but with droughth, as well. We know the invasion came during the reign of Jehoiachin, and possibly, this droughth came during the reign of Jehoiachim.

Jeremiah 14:2 "Judah mourneth, and the gates thereof languish; they are black unto the ground; and the cry of Jerusalem is gone up."

This droughth is so bad, and for so long, everything looks like it has been in a fire. The plants have dried up and turned black. The cry of Jerusalem goes up, because famine goes right along with a droughth.

Jeremiah 14:3 "And their nobles have sent their little ones to the waters: they came to the pits, [and] found no water; they returned with their vessels empty; they were ashamed and confounded, and covered their heads."

This droughth has spread to the point that not even the nobles have water to drink. It appears they had sent to the pool, for water to be brought into the castle, but there was no water found for anyone. The covering of their heads indicates they were mourning about the droughth. They would be ashamed to admit that their God had withheld water from them, because of their wickedness.

Jeremiah 14:4 "Because the ground is chapt, for there was no rain in the earth, the plowmen were ashamed, they covered their heads."

It was of no use at all to plow the ground. The water needed for the crop to grow was withheld from them. It is time for them to mourn.

Jeremiah 14:5 "Yea, the hind also calved in the field, and forsook [it], because there was no grass."

This is an unnatural thing for a mother hind to do. She ordinarily would keep her calf, until the bitter end. She abandoned it because there was no grass or water to keep the animal alive.

Jeremiah 14:6 "And the wild asses did stand in the high places, they snuffed up the wind like dragons; their eyes did fail, because [there was] no grass."

This is just another example of how far the lack of grass had gone. The blindness was because they were looking so hard for grass, and there was no grass. They eventually would die from starvation.

Jeremiah 14:7 "O LORD, though our iniquities testify against us, do thou [it] for thy name's sake: for our backslidings are many; we have sinned against thee."

We see Jeremiah trying to repent for these people. We remember back to an earlier lesson, when God told Jeremiah not to pray for them. God will not answer this prayer, because the drought is like the captivity. It is to cause the people to return to the worship of the One true God. The only way to stop the drought, would be for all the people themselves to repent and return to God. Jeremiah even tries to get God to stop the drought by reminding Him this is His people.

Jeremiah 14:8 "O the hope of Israel, the saviour thereof in time of trouble, why shouldest thou be as a stranger in the land, and as a wayfaring man [that] turneth aside to tarry for a night?"

God is the only hope there is for them, or us. In time, God would send His Son as Saviour of all mankind. A stranger is just passing through. They are not permanent dwellers. This is what Israel is compared to. They were God's people, but they have wandered from God.

Jeremiah 14:9 "Why shouldest thou be as a man astonished, as a mighty man [that] cannot save? yet thou, O LORD, [art] in the midst of us, and we are called by thy name; leave us not."

Once more, we see an urgent plea from Jeremiah. Jeremiah reminds God that these are His people, called by His name. Then he begs God not to abandon them.

Jeremiah 14:10 "Thus saith the LORD unto this people, Thus have they loved to wander, they have not refrained their feet, therefore the LORD doth not accept them; he will now remember their iniquity, and visit their sins."

Now, we see God reply to Jeremiah's request. They have wandered away from Him to worship false gods. They do not like to stay with God. They are always looking for something and someone else. They are dissatisfied with what they have. They, of their own free will, have walked away from God. God cannot, and will not, look the other way. They must be punished for their unfaithfulness. God did not bring the problems on them, their own sins brought the problems.

Jeremiah 14:11 "Then said the LORD unto me, Pray not for this people for [their] good."

Again we see God telling Jeremiah not to pray for these people. God would not answer Jeremiah's prayer for them, because He is a just God and must meet out justice to all. God does not want Jeremiah praying for these people, so Jeremiah must stop.

Jeremiah 14:12 "When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and an oblation, I will not accept them: but I will consume them by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence."

God had given them a time to repent, and they did not. They have gone too far now. Even if they fast, God will not listen to their prayers. They have been judged of God, and found guilty. He will not accept any offering, or sacrifice, from them.

Jeremiah 14:13 "Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, the prophets say unto them, Ye shall not see the sword, neither shall ye have famine; but I will give you assured peace in this place."

Their leaders are telling them all is well. The prophets had promised peace, but there will be no peace. Jeremiah is telling God that their teachers and leaders had taught them a lie. Really, they are responsible for their own actions. We must look carefully at this ourselves. God will hold the leaders responsible for the lies they teach, but He, also, holds the individuals responsible for what they learn. I John 4:1 "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." It is our responsibility to decide who is telling the truth.

Jeremiah 14:14 "Then the LORD said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart."

The main thing this is saying, is that not all teachers tell the truth. Many say they are from God, when in fact, they are in the ministry for self-gain. It is our responsibility to make sure what we are being taught is the truth. If the Bible verifies what they teach, it is truth. If the Bible does not verify what they teach, do not believe it.

Jeremiah 14:15 "Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the prophets that prophesy in my name, and I sent them not, yet they say, Sword and famine shall not be in this land; By sword and famine shall those prophets be consumed."

We see the judgment God makes on these false prophets fits their false prophecies. Whatever they have said, will be their punishment. God fits the punishment to the crime.

Jeremiah 14:16 "And the people to whom they prophesy shall be cast out in the streets of Jerusalem because of the famine and the sword; and they shall have none to bury them, them, their wives, nor their sons, nor their daughters: for I will pour their wickedness upon them."

We see from this, that those who listen, and believe the lies, are responsible for their own sins, as well. They, also, will be punished according to the sin they have committed. We cannot blame our sin on anyone else.

Jeremiah 14:17 "Therefore thou shalt say this word unto them; Let mine eyes run down with tears night and day, and let them not cease: for the virgin daughter of my people is broken with a great breach, with a very grievous blow."

Jeremiah is terribly grieved. These are his people. This is a comparison of a virgin daughter being killed before her time. Jeremiah speaks of this Hebrew nation as the virgin daughter. They will be utterly destroyed, but they are not virgins. They have committed spiritual adultery with the worship of false gods.

Jeremiah 14:18 "If I go forth into the field, then behold the slain with the sword! and if I enter into the city, then behold them that are sick with famine! yea, both the prophet and the priest go about into a land that they know not."

This just speaks of the judgment being so great that there is death and suffering everywhere. Wherever they go, there is famine, and war, and the results of both. The priest can do nothing to stop it.

Jeremiah 14:19 "Hast thou utterly rejected Judah? hath thy soul loathed Zion? why hast thou smitten us, and [there is] no healing for us? we looked for peace, and [there is] no good; and for the time of healing, and behold trouble!"

The false prophets promised peace. They are asking if God has totally turned against His people. I might add, they had totally turned against Him to other gods. God does not hate them. He loves them, but they brought this on themselves. This is a time of great trouble.

Jeremiah 14:20 "We acknowledge, O LORD, our wickedness, [and] the iniquity of our fathers: for we have sinned against thee."

It is a little late to acknowledge their sins, and the sins they learned from their fathers. Jeremiah mourns and repents, as if these are his own personal sins. Jeremiah had warned them, but they had not received his warnings.

Jeremiah 14:21 "Do not abhor [us], for thy name's sake, do not disgrace the throne of thy glory: remember, break not thy covenant with us."

"Abhor" means to scorn. It, also, means to contemn. The presence of God was in the temple, in the holy of holies. His presence was over the mercy seat. This, perhaps, is saying do not let the temple be destroyed. They are remembering God's covenant with Abraham, but they forget they had to remain faithful to God to receive the blessings. There were curses, if they did not obey God. It is not God that had broken covenant with them, they have broken covenant with God.

Jeremiah 14:22 "Are there [any] among the vanities of the Gentiles that can cause rain? or can the heavens give showers? [art] not thou he, O LORD our God? therefore we will wait upon thee: for thou hast made all these [things]."

None of the false gods could bring rain. They could not do anything to benefit the people who worshipped them. They will wait for the return of God's blessings upon them. He is their only help.

## Jeremiah 15 Questions

1. What was the Word of the Lord that came to Jeremiah concerning?
2. What does "dearth" mean?
3. The invasion came during the reign of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The drought came during the reign of \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The drought has been so bad, it looks like there has been a \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Who did the nobles send for water?
7. What did they do, when they found no water?
8. What is that symbolic of?
9. What effect did this have on the plowmen?
10. What was an unnatural thing for the mother hind to do?
11. In verse 7, their \_\_\_\_\_ testified against them.
12. What was Jeremiah trying to do for these people?
13. Who is their only hope?
14. Why is God remembering their iniquity, and visiting their sins on them?
15. They, of their \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_, have walked away from God.
16. In verse 11, God told Jeremiah not to \_\_\_\_\_ for them.
17. Would God listen, if they fast and pray?
18. What lie had their leaders been telling them?
19. Was this a good excuse?
20. Quote 1 John chapter 4 verse 1.
21. How can you determine if a teacher is telling the truth?
22. How does God fit the punishment for their sin?
23. Those who listen and believe the lies are \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_.
24. In verse 17, we see Jeremiah is terribly \_\_\_\_\_.
25. Who is Jeremiah calling the virgin daughter?
26. What is verse 18 speaking of?
27. How does the author answer the question of verse 19?
28. Jeremiah repents and mourns, as if these were his \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_.
29. What does "abhor" mean?
30. None of the \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ could bring rain.

We will begin this lesson with Jeremiah 15:1 "Then said the LORD unto me, Though Moses and Samuel stood before me, [yet] my mind [could] not [be] toward this people: cast [them] out of my sight, and let them go forth."

Moses and Samuel were mighty men of God. God tells Jeremiah, that even if they prayed for this people, He would say no. God has made His decision about the outcome of these people, and all the prayers in the world will not change God's plans. It is wonderful to have someone to intercede in your behalf, but there are some things that are set, and God will not altar them for anyone. God is through with them, for the present. They have angered God beyond the point of His changing His mind. He had told Jeremiah, in the last chapter, not to pray for these people anymore. Jeremiah is treading on dangerous ground himself, disobeying God's command to him.

Jeremiah 15:2 "And it shall come to pass, if they say unto thee, Whither shall we go forth? then thou shalt tell them, Thus saith the LORD; Such as [are] for death, to death; and such as [are] for the sword, to the sword; and such as [are] for the famine, to the famine; and such as [are] for the captivity, to the captivity."

God is explaining to Jeremiah that the punishment for each of them is already set. Some of them will die, some will feel the sword, some will starve in the famine, the rest will go into captivity. It is set. There is no way to change it.

Jeremiah 15:3 "And I will appoint over them four kinds, saith the LORD: the sword to slay, and the dogs to tear, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the earth, to devour and destroy."

The sword will slay them, but they will not be buried. The dogs will get their bodies, and drag them down the street. vultures will eat the flesh off their bones. The beasts of the earth will get what the vultures do not.

Jeremiah 15:4 "And I will cause them to be removed into all kingdoms of the earth, because of Manasseh the son of Hezekiah king of Judah, for [that] which he did in Jerusalem."

We remember Manasseh was an evil king, who caused the worship of many false gods. He even put up statues of them. This same type of thing is found in the following Scriptures. Deuteronomy 28:24 "The LORD shall make the rain of thy land powder and dust: from heaven shall it come down upon thee, until thou be destroyed." Deuteronomy 28:25 "The LORD shall cause thee to be smitten before thine enemies: thou shalt go out one way against them, and flee seven ways before them: and shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth." Deuteronomy 28:26 "And thy carcass shall be meat unto all fowls of the air, and unto the beasts of the earth, and no man shall fray [them] away." Notice, this is not Satan. This is judgment from God for worshipping false gods.

Jeremiah 15:5 "For who shall have pity upon thee, O Jerusalem? Or who shall bemoan thee? or who shall go aside to ask how thou doest?"

When God turns against them, there is no one left to care what happens to them.

Jeremiah 15:6 "Thou hast forsaken me, saith the LORD, thou art gone backward: therefore will I stretch out my hand against thee, and destroy thee; I am weary with repenting."

God had heard their cry for help so many times, and every time they repented, He had taken them back, and blessed them, instead of punishing them. This time will be different. They have gone too far. God will allow the punishment to happen.

Jeremiah 15:7 "And I will fan them with a fan in the gates of the land; I will bereave [them] of children, I will destroy my people, [since] they return not from their ways."

Bereave, in the Scripture above, means miscarry or abortion. This just means that a woman with a child will miscarry that child because of the terrible hardships of war. When you fan a fire, you make it hotter. God causes this to become worse, because of their sin.

Jeremiah 15:8 "Their widows are increased to me above the sand of the seas: I have brought upon them against the mother of the young men a spoiler at noonday: I have caused [him] to fall upon it suddenly, and terrors upon the city."

This is just speaking of the vast numbers of young men who die in the war. The destruction from this war is sudden, and leaves very little behind.

Jeremiah 15:9 "She that hath borne seven languisheth: she hath given up the ghost; her sun is gone down while [it was] yet day: she hath been ashamed and confounded: and the residue of them will I deliver to the sword before their enemies, saith the LORD."

"Languisheth" means droop, or be sick. It appears this sickness is to the death. It appears she died while she was still in her child bearing years.

Jeremiah 15:10 "Woe is me, my mother, that thou hast borne me a man of strife and a man of contention to the whole earth! I have neither lent on usury, nor men have lent to me on usury; [yet] every one of them doth curse me."

This is Jeremiah speaking of himself. Jeremiah had to bring the bad news to the nation. All hated him. He is explaining that he never charged them extreme interest on loans, nor did he pay extreme interest. Their hate for him was without reason. They cursed him, because they did not want to hear of the impending doom.

Jeremiah 15:11 "The LORD said, Verily it shall be well with thy remnant; verily I will cause the enemy to entreat thee [well] in the time of evil and in the time of affliction."

Because Jeremiah had been obedient to God, God will spare him and his family. God will protect Jeremiah. Look, with me, at the following Scripture which explains it so well. Proverbs 16:7 "When a man's ways please the LORD,

he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him." Jeremiah will be treated well, even though the destruction is terrible. God will see to that.

Jeremiah 15:12 "Shall iron break the northern iron and the steel?"

The word translated steel, here, is generally translated bronze. "Iron" just means something of great strength. Iron against iron would be an equal. The bronze speaks of judgment. The strength of Babylon from the north, at this time, comes from God in judgment.

Jeremiah 15:13 "Thy substance and thy treasures will I give to the spoil without price, and [that] for all thy sins, even in all thy borders."

The spoil goes to the victor. In this case, it is Babylon. The substance and treasures would wind up in Babylon. God allows this, because of their sins of spiritual adultery.

Jeremiah 15:14 "And I will make [thee] to pass with thine enemies into a land [which] thou knowest not: for a fire is kindled in mine anger, [which] shall burn upon you."

It is not certain whether this is speaking of Jeremiah, or the Jews. We know that God's anger is not against Jeremiah, it is against the people.

Jeremiah 15:15 "O LORD, thou knowest: remember me, and visit me, and revenge me of my persecutors; take me not away in thy longsuffering: know that for thy sake I have suffered rebuke."

This is definitely Jeremiah, asking God to remember him and revenge him of his persecutors. Jeremiah is reminding God that he suffered rebuke to bring god's message to these people.

Jeremiah 15:16 "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts."

This is speaking of the Word of God which God placed in Jeremiah's mouth. Jeremiah accepted into his very being {ate them}, the Words of God. We know that Jeremiah was ordained of God from birth to bring this message to the house of Judah and Benjamin. He was God's agent on the earth to these people. He was called of God's name. This is the same thing today as being a Christian. We are called of the name of Christ. Jeremiah recognizes God for who He is, LORD God of hosts.

Jeremiah 15:17 "I sat not in the assembly of the mockers, nor rejoiced; I sat alone because of thy hand: for thou hast filled me with indignation."

Jeremiah did not fellowship with the people he was sent to warn. He was not happy with them at all. God had caused him to be full of Godly indignation at the things they were doing.

Jeremiah 15:18 "Why is my pain perpetual, and my wound incurable, [which] refuseth to be healed? wilt thou be altogether unto me as a liar, [and as] waters [that] fail?"

We see that Jeremiah believed God would protect him from all harm, and that included wounds and sickness. Jeremiah is extremely bold in his questioning of why God allowed this to happen to him. He is saying, "Can I believe you, or not"?

Jeremiah 15:19 "Therefore thus saith the LORD, If thou return, then will I bring thee again, [and] thou shalt stand before me: and if thou take forth the precious from the vile, thou shalt be as my mouth: let them return unto thee; but return not thou unto them."

Now, we see what the problem was. If you remember, Jeremiah tried to intercede for them, even after God told him not to do that. God is telling Jeremiah to separate himself from them. Do not chase after them. Let them come to you. God is telling Jeremiah, if he will do exactly as He says, He will allow him to be His mouth to these people. Jeremiah must not run after these people, but they must change and come to him. He is not to go to Babylon, but stay in Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 15:20 "And I will make thee unto this people a fenced brasen wall: and they shall fight against thee, but they shall not prevail against thee: for I [am] with thee to save thee and to deliver thee, saith the LORD."

The "brasen wall" is speaking of the strong judgment that Jeremiah will speak. They will not be able to harm him, because God has built a hedge of protection around Jeremiah. They may want to destroy Jeremiah, but they will not be able to do him harm. God is Jeremiah's protection. Jeremiah heard the LORD promise him this.

Jeremiah 15:21 "And I will deliver thee out of the hand of the wicked, and I will redeem thee out of the hand of the terrible."

These wicked are, possibly, Jews who are trying to kill Jeremiah. God is his protection. He will not be taken captive, for long. God is his salvation.

## Jeremiah 16 Questions

1. God said, in verse 1, He would not answer the prayer even if \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ asked.
2. Why will God not let Jeremiah intercede for them?
3. What 4 different things shall happen to these people?
4. What 4 things happened to them in death?
5. Why would God cause them to be removed to kingdoms other than their own?
6. Quote Deuteronomy chapter 28 verses 24 through 26.
7. Who is left to bemoan Jerusalem?
8. Verse 6 says, God was weary with \_\_\_\_\_.
9. What does "bereave", in verse 7, mean?
10. Their widows are increased to me above the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.
11. What does "languisheth" mean?
12. Who is speaking in verse 10?
13. What does Jeremiah say, he has never done {in verse 10}?
14. Why will God spare Jeremiah?
15. Quote Proverbs chapter 16 verse 7.
16. What is the word usually translated, that was translated steel here?
17. What does "iron" mean?
18. Bronze speaks of \_\_\_\_\_.
19. The spoil goes to the \_\_\_\_\_.
20. What is Jeremiah asking God to do for him in verse 15?
21. Why had Jeremiah suffered rebuke?
22. What is meant by Jeremiah eating the Word of God?
23. When was Jeremiah called to bring God's message to this people?
24. Did Jeremiah fellowship with those he brought warning to?
25. What was Jeremiah questioning in verse 18?
26. What shall Jeremiah be as, if he returns?
27. God will make Jeremiah a \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ to this people.
28. What is the "brazen wall" speaking of?
29. Who will deliver Jeremiah out of the hand of the wicked?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 16:1 "The word of the LORD came also unto me, saying,"

This is another separate time that God has spoken to Jeremiah. This is a totally different message, as we will soon see.

Jeremiah 16:2 "Thou shalt not take thee a wife, neither shalt thou have sons or daughters in this place."

God does not want Jeremiah to be yoked with these idol worshippers. It was a natural thing for all to seek a wife, and many of the prophets, like Isaiah, were married. This was not forbidding Jeremiah to marry, just requesting him not to marry these women, who were involved in worshipping false gods. God did not want Jeremiah to have unbelieving children.

Jeremiah 16:3 "For thus saith the LORD concerning the sons and concerning the daughters that are born in this place, and concerning their mothers that bare them, and concerning their fathers that begat them in this land;"

God's judgment had been spoken on these evil people. Not only would the men die, but the women and children, as well.

Jeremiah 16:4 "They shall die of grievous deaths; they shall not be lamented; neither shall they be buried; [but] they shall be as dung upon the face of the earth: and they shall be consumed by the sword, and by famine; and their carcasses shall be meat for the fowls of heaven, and for the beasts of the earth."

God is reminding Jeremiah of the punishment He has already spoken upon this nation. He is saying, Jeremiah you would not want your wife, or children, to be part of this severe punishment. It is better if you do not marry. God will, not only, cause them to die, but He will not allow anyone to bury them, or mourn for them. They have been so evil, God will allow their bodies to be eaten by vultures and wild beast.

Jeremiah 16:5 "For thus saith the LORD, Enter not into the house of mourning, neither go to lament nor bemoan them: for I have taken away my peace from this people, saith the LORD, [even] lovingkindness and mercies."

This is a warning from God to Jeremiah. He must not even mourn over those whom God destroys.

Jeremiah 16:6 "Both the great and the small shall die in this land: they shall not be buried, neither shall [men] lament for them, nor cut themselves, nor make themselves bald for them:"

It was the custom of the land to bury their dead. They, also, set aside a time of mourning for them. Sometimes, to show the severity of their grief, they would cut themselves in sorrow. God says here, It does not even matter how important they seemed to be, no one is to mourn them. In this, the ruler will be no better than the common people.

Jeremiah 16:7 "Neither shall [men] tear [themselves] for them in mourning, to comfort them for the dead; neither shall [men] give them the cup of consolation to drink for their father or for their mother."

The Jews had a practice of a funeral feast, when someone died. This was very similar to the wake some practice today. The cup of consolation was a cup of wine, probably, which helped them bear the pain of the loss of a child.

Jeremiah 16:8 "Thou shalt not also go into the house of feasting, to sit with them to eat and to drink."

This is another way of expressing the same thing as above. This is a judgment of God, and should not be handled as if these people were saved.

Jeremiah 16:9 "For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will cause to cease out of this place in your eyes, and in your days, the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride."

This is speaking of a time when all the normal joys of living will cease. God leaves no doubt that Jeremiah will see this time. It was for the immediate future. There will be no one left to marry.

Jeremiah 16:10 "And it shall come to pass, when thou shalt shew this people all these words, and they shall say unto thee, Wherefore hath the LORD pronounced all this great evil against us? or what [is] our iniquity? or what [is] our sin that we have committed against the LORD our God?"

Not only, is Jeremiah to know all of this, but he is to tell the others of the great judgment that is to befall them. The people will not believe Jeremiah. They will not even realize they have displeased God to this extent. They will ask Jeremiah, why is this happening to them? They have gotten so calloused by the sins they are committing, they do no longer recognize sin.

Jeremiah 16:11 "Then shalt thou say unto them, Because your fathers have forsaken me, saith the LORD, and have walked after other gods, and have served them, and have worshipped them, and have forsaken me, and have not kept my law;"

The worship of false gods had been going on since the time of their fathers. God had given them time to repent, and they have not. God answers their question. He is not angry with them without a cause. The judgment God has spoken on them is just.

Jeremiah 16:12 "And ye have done worse than your fathers; for, behold, ye walk every one after the imagination of his evil heart, that they may not hearken unto me:"

It appears the worship of false gods had become worse with this new generation. They were not following the laws of God anymore. Whatever they wanted to do, is what they did. They were pleasing their own flesh, instead of keeping God's commandments. Their deeds are evil, because they come from an evil heart.

Jeremiah 16:13 "Therefore will I cast you out of this land into a land that ye know not, [neither] ye nor your fathers; and there shall ye serve other gods day and night; where I will not shew you favour."

Since they desired to worship false gods, God will put them captive in a land, where they do not have an option. They will be subject to their captors, day and night. They will be able to do full time, what they chose to do here.

Jeremiah 16:14 "Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that it shall no more be said, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt;"

They will not speak of the living God, who brought the children of Israel out of Egypt. It appears they will cease to look to God for their very present help, as He had been for them in the past. They left God, and turned to these false gods.

Jeremiah 16:15 "But, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither he had driven them: and I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers."

Even though they walked away from God, He continues to live. It is the same God that brought their forefathers out of Egypt. God will restore them, again, to their land. He will not dwell in Babylon with them. They must come to Him.

Jeremiah 16:16 "Behold, I will send for many fishers, saith the LORD, and they shall fish them; and after will I send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks."

After God's wrath has cooled, God will send fishers for them and hunters to hunt them. Daniel was a prophet of the captivity. He never stopped proclaiming God to the captives. Surely there will be some who will believe. God tries to draw them back with men of God who proclaim Him to the people.

Jeremiah 16:17 "For mine eyes [are] upon all their ways: they are not hid from my face, neither is their iniquity hid from mine eyes."

Wherever they are, and whatever they are doing, they are not out of God's sight. God sees when even a sparrow falls. These are His family, even though they have sinned. God will not totally forget them. He sees every sin they have committed, but He, also, sees every good thing they have done.

Jeremiah 16:18 "And first I will recompense their iniquity and their sin double; because they have defiled my land, they have filled mine inheritance with the carcasses of their detestable and abominable things."

God judges according to their actions. He will bring punishment to match the sin. The detestable and abominable things are the false gods they had brought into God's land.

Jeremiah 16:19 "O LORD, my strength, and my fortress, and my refuge in the day of affliction, the Gentiles shall come unto thee from the ends of the earth, and shall say, Surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and [things] wherein [there is] no profit."

God is revealed to the Gentiles here. The harsh judgment that God has brought upon His own people, shows the world that God is just in all of His judgments. This, also, shows them the power of God. Suddenly the Gentiles see the error of worshipping inanimate objects that have no power at all. This is showing that God wants the Gentiles, as well as the Jews to be His people.

Jeremiah 16:20 "Shall a man make gods unto himself, and they [are] no gods?"

We have discussed this before. Anything, or anyone, that is part of creation should not be worshipped. The only One to worship is the Creator of it all. Something you could make with your hands, is not God.

Jeremiah 16:21 "Therefore, behold, I will this once cause them to know, I will cause them to know mine hand and my might; and they shall know that my name [is] The LORD."

God will reveal Himself once more to all the world, both Jew and Gentile. The LORD, He is God. This knowledge comes from God. He opens their understanding to who He Is.

## Jeremiah 17 Questions

1. What did God tell Jeremiah not to do?
2. Why did God not want him to do this?
3. Did any of the prophets marry?
4. Was God's judgment just against the men? Explain.
5. What were some of the conditions of their death?
6. What will God allow to happen to their dead bodies?
7. What did God forbid Jeremiah to do in verse 5?
8. Both the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ shall die in this land.
9. What was generally the custom to do when someone died?
10. The Jews had a practice of a funeral \_\_\_\_\_, when someone died.
11. What, in our society, is that similar to?
12. When will the judgment come?
13. Why do they ask, why this happens to them?
14. What answer does God give them?
15. How long had the worship of false gods been going on?
16. The judgment God had spoken on them was \_\_\_\_\_.
17. They were pleasing their own \_\_\_\_\_ instead of keeping God's commandments.
18. Why had God sent them to this foreign land where false gods were worshipped day and night?
19. Who brought the children of Israel out of Egypt?
20. God sent \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to seek them out.
21. Who was a prophet of the captivity?
22. When are they out of God's sight?
23. God judges according to their \_\_\_\_\_.
24. Quote Jeremiah chapter 16 verse 19.
25. Who is the only One permissible to worship?
26. Verse 21 says, they will know His name is the \_\_\_\_\_.

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 17:1 "The sin of Judah [is] written with a pen of iron, [and] with the point of a diamond: [it is] graven upon the table of their heart, and upon the horns of your altars;"

Iron denotes it is unbendable. Something engraved with a pin of iron with a point of diamond, would be deeply set. In this case, it is set into their hearts. Instead of God's laws engraved into their hearts, they have engraved their sins. The horns of the altar showed power through God. It appears these were not the same horns. They were connected to the sin. It could be saying, they were putting their faith in a false god. The heart is the center of man. To have your heart full of sin, would mean you were totally absorbed with sin. We are what our heart is.

Jeremiah 17:2 "Whilst their children remember their altars and their groves by the green trees upon the high hills."

The groves and the high places were both places to worship false gods. It was the obligation of the parents to tell their children of God. In this case, the parents have led them to the worship of false gods.

Jeremiah 17:3 "O my mountain in the field, I will give thy substance [and] all thy treasures to the spoil, [and] thy high places for sin, throughout all thy borders."

This is a further explanation of why God is willing to allow the enemy to take His hill, and the possessions of His people. It is as if this is a sacrifice for the sin committed.

Jeremiah 17:4 "And thou, even thyself, shalt discontinue from thine heritage that I gave thee; and I will cause thee to serve thine enemies in the land which thou knowest not: for ye have kindled a fire in mine anger, [which] shall burn for ever."

God will allow Babylon to take them back to their land to serve as slaves of war. The land of their heritage will be no more. They have treated their heritage from God as if it were nothing, so God takes it away from them. These people, whom God had called His own, have sinned so greatly, that God does not claim them. His anger is so hot against them, He allows them to be taken captive into a strange land.

Jeremiah 17:5 "Thus saith the LORD; Cursed [be] the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD."

The arm is connected with something happening. The arm of man is not strong enough to do the things that the arm of God can do. When we trust in man's power to save us, it is a denial of our need for the LORD. To trust in man in the place of God, would bring the curse. We would have broken the very first commandment. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. God must have our loyalty, if His Arm will protect us. To place our heart on any other than God, would be sin all the way to the center of our being. Psalms 18:2 "The LORD [is] my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, [and] my high tower."

Jeremiah 17:6 "For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, [in] a salt land and not inhabited."

This is speaking of the cursed, who put their trust in man, and not in God. "Heath", in the verse above, is speaking of a juniper. Cactus live in the desert. They are not compatible with other plants. Their place is in the hot parched desert. The cursed man is like this also, nothing grows for him. He lives in total desolation.

Jeremiah 17:7 "Blessed [is] the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is."

This reminds me so much of the following Scriptures. Psalms 1:1 "Blessed [is] the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful." Psalms 1:2 "But his delight [is] in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night." Psalms 1:3 "And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." We read in verses 5 and 6 in this lesson about the cursed. We know that there is a curse for those who are not obedient to God. The beautiful thing is, there is a blessing for those who do keep God's commandments. Trust is just faith to the utmost. Abraham believed, and it was counted unto him for Righteousness. Faith in God brings salvation, and hope of a better life.

Jeremiah 17:8 "For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and [that] spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit."

What a beautiful promise to those blessed of God! They do not have to fear the drought. The tree mentioned, here, shows the beautiful results of worshipping God. This tree will never die. The heat, or problems of this earth, do not harm it. This tree is grounded in the Lord. It is fed water that the world knows not of. This tree draws strength from God.

Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart [is] deceitful above all [things], and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

The heart of man, before he turns his heart over to God, is deceitful, and wicked. The heart, after God has written His laws on it, is a totally different thing. Only God knows the heart of man.

Jeremiah 17:10 "I the LORD search the heart, [I] try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, [and] according to the fruit of his doings."

I personally believe it is our heart that is judged on judgment day. We are what our heart is. The Lord knows the intentions of our hearts. Jesus said it so plainly, when He said that someone who looked on a woman to lust had committed adultery already in his heart. You see, the intentions of our hearts are the same as if we had committed the sin. A heart that has been washed in the blood of the Lamb {Jesus} is clean and pure. In this Scripture in Jeremiah, above, God is looking for a pure, clean heart. The following Scripture is a description of the pure, clean, heart. Psalms 24:4 "He that

hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully." This kind of heart produces good things.

Jeremiah 17:11 "[As] the partridge sitteth [on eggs], and hatcheth [them] not; [so] he that getteth riches, and not by right, shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool."

It would be a great disappointment to sit on eggs, and not have them hatch out. The riches a man accumulates from dishonesty, has a way of disappearing. Someone who gains great wealth on this earth from immoral practices, may get away with it for the time being, but we know God will repay. When he dies, he must stand before God, and give an account.

Jeremiah 17:12 "A glorious high throne from the beginning [is] the place of our sanctuary."

God's throne is in the highest place. The throne of God is in heaven. The eventual sanctuary for all who believe, is in that high place in heaven near the throne of God.

Jeremiah 17:13 "O LORD, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, [and] they that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living waters."

Jesus told the woman at the well, if she drank of the water He gave her, she would never thirst again. The fountain of living waters is the same thing. It is man's choice to choose the LORD and heaven or to choose Satan and the earth. The earthy will not receive heaven. In first Corinthians the 15th chapter, we read about the earthy must put off the things of the earth and become a celestial being, to go to heaven. Read the whole chapter, beginning with verse 35.

Jeremiah 17:14 "Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou [art] my praise."

Jeremiah has discovered something beautiful about God. God is all powerful. If we are to be healed, God will do it. If we are to be saved, God will have to do it. Man cannot heal himself, neither can he save himself. This points ahead to the coming of the Messiah {Jesus}.

Jeremiah 17:15 "Behold, they say unto me, Where [is] the word of the LORD? let it come now."

We know that the Word of God took on the form of flesh, and dwelt among us. To me, this is asking, when will the Saviour come?

Jeremiah 17:16 "As for me, I have not hastened from [being] a pastor to follow thee: neither have I desired the woeful day; thou knowest: that which came out of my lips was [right] before thee."

Jeremiah brings to God's attention, the fact that he was chosen of God to do this job. Jeremiah could have gone on as any other shepherd. Jeremiah did not wish for the woeful day, that God caused him to speak of. The words Jeremiah spoke were God's words in Jeremiah's mouth.

Jeremiah 17:17 "Be not a terror unto me: thou [art] my hope in the day of evil."

Jeremiah knows the only hope he has, is in God. He does not want to be terrified of God.

Jeremiah 17:18 "Let them be confounded that persecute me, but let not me be confounded: let them be dismayed, but let not me be dismayed: bring upon them the day of evil, and destroy them with double destruction."

Jeremiah had brought God's message to these people, and they had persecuted him for it. He asks God to see what they had done to him, and for God to take vengeance for him. Jeremiah is saying, As you have spoken let it be, but do not let it come on me.

Jeremiah 17:19 "Thus said the LORD unto me; Go and stand in the gate of the children of the people, whereby the kings of Judah come in, and by the which they go out, and in all the gates of Jerusalem;" Jeremiah 17:20 "And say unto them, Hear ye the word of the LORD, ye kings of Judah, and all Judah, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, that enter in by these gates:"

Not only did God give Jeremiah the message for the people, but he told Jeremiah where to stand and proclaim the message, so all would hear. God wanted everyone to hear, so they would be without excuse. They all came through these gates.

Jeremiah 17:21 "Thus saith the LORD; Take heed to yourselves, and bear no burden on the sabbath day, nor bring [it] in by the gates of Jerusalem;"

We see God had set the sabbath aside, and made it holy unto Himself. There was to be no labor on the sabbath.

Jeremiah 17:22 "Neither carry forth a burden out of your houses on the sabbath day, neither do ye any work, but hallow ye the Sabbath day, as I commanded your fathers."

When God gave Moses the 10 commandments, they were instructed to keep the sabbath day holy. God had set the pattern for man, when He made all of His creation in 6 days, and rested the seventh.

Jeremiah 17:23 "But they obeyed not, neither inclined their ear, but made their neck stiff, that they might not hear, nor receive instruction."

The children of Israel had been rebellious from the beginning. They did not honor God's commandments. They were too proud {stiffnecked} to receive instruction from God. They did not listen to the prophets God sent to instruct them.

Jeremiah 17:24 "And it shall come to pass, if ye diligently hearken unto me, saith the LORD, to bring in no burden through the gates of this city on the sabbath day, but hallow the sabbath day, to do no work therein;" Jeremiah 17:25 "Then shall there enter into the gates of this city kings and princes sitting upon the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, they, and their princes, the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: and this city shall remain for ever."

Obedience to God's commandments brought blessings. God promised, here, to always bless them in Jerusalem, and have kings descended from David on the throne continually. All they had to do, was obey God.

Jeremiah 17:26 "And they shall come from the cities of Judah, and from the places about Jerusalem, and from the land of Benjamin, and from the plain, and from the mountains, and from the south, bringing burnt offerings, and sacrifices, and meat offerings, and incense, and bringing sacrifices of praise, unto the house of the LORD."

God's temple was to be the central place of worship for the whole land. 3 times a year, they were to come for the special feast days unto the Lord. The sacrifices and offerings were to be made in the temple in Jerusalem. The house of the LORD was the temple in Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 17:27 "But if ye will not hearken unto me to hallow the sabbath day, and not to bear a burden, even entering in at the gates of Jerusalem on the sabbath day; then will I kindle a fire in the gates thereof, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it shall not be quenched."

If they fail to keep God's commandments, God will destroy Jerusalem and all of them with it.

## Jeremiah 18 Questions

1. The sin of Judah is written with a pen of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. It is graven upon the table of their \_\_\_\_\_.
3. What is verse 1 describing?
4. What were the groves and the high places?
5. In verse 3, it as if this is a \_\_\_\_\_ sacrifice.
6. How long will God's anger burn?
7. They have treated their heritage as if it were \_\_\_\_\_.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ be the man that trusteth in man.
9. When we trust in man's power to save us, it is a denial of our \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Quote Psalms chapter 18 verse 2.
11. What is heath in verse 6?
12. Quote Jeremiah chapter 17 verse 7.
13. What Scriptures does this remind the author of?
14. Trust is just faith to the \_\_\_\_\_.
15. Describe the tree in verse 8.
16. The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately \_\_\_\_\_.
17. Who knows the heart of man?
18. What does the author believe will be judged on judgment day?
19. Quote Psalms chapter 24 verse 4.
20. What is a man, who gets riches dishonestly, compared to in verse 11?
21. What throne is verse 12 speaking of?
22. Who is the fountain of living waters?
23. Where do we read about the final place of the earthy and the celestial?
24. What is Jeremiah trying to convey in verse 14?
25. What does the author believe verse 15 is asking?
26. The words Jeremiah spoke were \_\_\_\_\_ words in Jeremiah's mouth.
27. Jeremiah knows the only hope he has is \_\_\_\_\_.
28. Where was Jeremiah to speak to the people?
29. What was the main statement God wanted him to make?
30. What did God promise them, if they were obedient to His commandments?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 18:1 "The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying," Jeremiah 18:2 "Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words."

The reason the LORD sent Jeremiah to the potters house to give him the words for the people, was because the Lord would show Jeremiah that God has power over His creation. This lesson was to be heard in Jeremiah's ears, and seen in Jeremiah's eyes.

Jeremiah 18:3 "Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels."

Have you ever seen a potter put a clump of clay on the wheel and start making a vessel? As the wheel turns round and round, the hands of the potter form the clay. Jeremiah was to see that God is the Potter, and we are His clay. He molds us and makes us into whatever He wants.

Jeremiah 18:4 "And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make [it]."

God has control over His creation, as the potter has control over the clay. It appears that the vessel the potter had made for beauty became marred, and the potter started all over again, and made a new vessel. This is showing Jeremiah the disappointment God had in His people He had created, and how He may destroy them, and start all over again. It is the potter's {God's} choice to do with the clay as He will.

Jeremiah 18:5 "Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,"

This is just saying that while Jeremiah watched the potter making the vessel of clay, God began to speak to him.

Jeremiah 18:6 "O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD. Behold, as the clay [is] in the potter's hand, so [are] ye in mine hand, O house of Israel."

The LORD had created them to be a vessel of honor, but they had chosen to become ugly in the sight of their Creator. The Lord is telling Jeremiah, "Do they not know that I can destroy them, and start all over again"?

Jeremiah 18:7 "[At what] instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, and to pull down, and to destroy [it];"

The nation is in God's hands, as this vessel is in the potter's hands. At any moment, God can pick them up and destroy them. God can do with His creation whatever He chooses.

Jeremiah 18:8 "If that nation, against whom I have pronounced, turn from their evil, I will repent of the evil that I thought to do unto them."

In this particular instance, the creation of God had become ugly to Him, because of the use of the vessel He had made. He had made them to

worship and glorify Him, and they have chosen to follow other gods. They have stained their vessels He made. If they would repent right now and do the thing He created them for, He would not destroy them.

Jeremiah 18:9 "And [at what] instant I shall speak concerning a nation, and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant [it];"

It is God that makes a nation great, or destroys it. The time when God decides to do this is in His hands, as well. Once God has spoken, there is no turning back.

Jeremiah 18:10 "If it do evil in my sight, that it obey not my voice, then I will repent of the good, wherewith I said I would benefit them."

For the creation to rebel against its Creator, is a dangerous thing. God wants His creation to obey His wishes. When they obey God, great blessings follow. When they disobey God, a curse comes on them. It is in God's hands to destroy them and start all over again.

Jeremiah 18:11 "Now therefore go to, speak to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I frame evil against you, and devise a device against you: return ye now every one from his evil way, and make your ways and your doings good."

God does not want to destroy them, but they may drive Him to it. This is one more plea from God for them to repent of their spiritual adultery, and return to worship Him alone. The demonstration of the potter and His wheel is showing that God can do with them whatever He chooses.

Jeremiah 18:12 "And they said, There is no hope: but we will walk after our own devices, and we will every one do the imagination of his evil heart."

We can easily see these people did not want to be instructed of God. They wanted to do their own thing. They do not receive the message God sent to them through Jeremiah. They act almost arrogantly to Jeremiah. They just tell him they will do as their own heart desires, and not as he instructed.

Jeremiah 18:13 "Therefore thus saith the LORD; Ask ye now among the heathen, who hath heard such things: the virgin of Israel hath done a very horrible thing."

These are God's chosen people. They have the law of God to live by, that the rest of the world does not have. God had chosen them to be vessels of honor. God had put His trust in them. They have broken that trust. They have turned against the very God that made them so great.

Jeremiah 18:14 "Will [a man] leave the snow of Lebanon [which cometh] from the rock of the field? [or] shall the cold flowing waters that come from another place be forsaken?"

This is, possibly, showing that the water of God has never stopped flowing for them. God has cared for them as His beloved. They have had all of their needs met. God had supernaturally cared for their welfare. Why would they leave His protective care to go to another? Why would they leave

the flowing stream to go to the dry land? In other words, why would they leave the good they had for the uncertainty of false gods?

Jeremiah 18:15 "Because my people hath forgotten me, they have burned incense to vanity, and they have caused them to stumble in their ways [from] the ancient paths, to walk in paths, [in] a way not cast up;"

The burning of incense was a very important part of service to God. The smoke from the incense that went up into the heavens, symbolized the prayers of the saints. To burn incense to a false god, would be putting their trust in a false god. God had always made a path for His children to walk in, as He did in the middle of the Red Sea. The way to heaven, and to God, is to walk on the straight and narrow path that He has provided. To walk on any other path, brings sin and sorrow, which leads to destruction.

Jeremiah 18:16 "To make their land desolate, [and] a perpetual hissing; every one that passeth thereby shall be astonished, and wag his head."

This beautiful land of milk and honey will be turned into a waste land. The land would now be disgraced. It would be a horrible sight to see. The destruction will astonish those who pass by.

Jeremiah 18:17 "I will scatter them as with an east wind before the enemy; I will shew them the back, and not the face, in the day of their calamity."

They have turned their backs on God, now He will turn His back to them. The east wind brings stormy weather. This will be a day when no help will come to them from God.

Jeremiah 18:18 "Then said they, Come, and let us devise devices against Jeremiah; for the law shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet. Come, and let us smite him with the tongue, and let us not give heed to any of his words."

Instead of accepting the message God has sent them, they decide to do away with the messenger, Jeremiah. They do not believe Jeremiah. They believe God will help them, regardless of what they do to Him. They would rather take their direction from the priest, who is living as badly as they are, than to listen to Jeremiah. To "smite him with the tongue" would be to falsely witness against him. The prophets they were listening to were the false prophets.

Jeremiah 18:19 "Give heed to me, O LORD, and hearken to the voice of them that contend with me."

Now, Jeremiah is crying out to God for Him to help. Jeremiah says, "They will not listen".

Jeremiah 18:20 "Shall evil be recompensed for good? for they have digged a pit for my soul. Remember that I stood before thee to speak good for them, [and] to turn away thy wrath from them."

This is the very same message that David gave in the book of Psalms, chapter 35. They are trying to say that Jeremiah is not of God. They have dug a hole for his soul. Jeremiah had tried to intercede for them, but God

told him not to do it. Jeremiah had done the job God sent him to do, but they hated him for it. They believed Jeremiah was speaking for himself, instead of God. They had been so blinded by their sins, they did not realize what he was saying was true. Jeremiah is asking God to deal with them for this rejection.

Jeremiah 18:21 "Therefore deliver up their children to the famine, and pour out their [blood] by the force of the sword; and let their wives be bereaved of their children, and [be] widows; and let their men be put to death; [let] their young men [be] slain by the sword in battle."

Jeremiah has been so angered by what they have done and said to him, that he no longer asks God to save them. He wants the wrath of God to descend on them, and take vengeance for their actions toward him. God does not need Jeremiah to figure out what to do to them, no more than He needs our help to dole out punishment. God is just in His judgments, and sometimes we are not. Perhaps, Jeremiah is saying, "All of the things you said would happen to them, let it be so". Jeremiah had already prophesied these things would happen.

Jeremiah 18:22 "Let a cry be heard from their houses, when thou shalt bring a troop suddenly upon them: for they have digged a pit to take me, and hid snares for my feet." Jeremiah 18:23 "Yet, LORD, thou knowest all their counsel against me to slay [me]: forgive not their iniquity, neither blot out their sin from thy sight, but let them be overthrown before thee; deal [thus] with them in the time of thine anger."

Jeremiah wants to be compensated for what they had done to him. He has stopped weeping for them, and begun to feel the anger God had felt earlier. They had planned to kill Jeremiah, and he wants God to kill them. This is such a change from the pleading of Jeremiah to God to save them. He suddenly agrees with the judgment God has made against them. Now, he wants God to destroy them.

## Jeremiah 19 Questions

1. Where did God send Jeremiah?
2. Why did He send Jeremiah there?
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the potter form the clay.
4. Who is the great Potter?
5. Who has control over the creation?
6. What happens, when the vessel the potter makes is marred?
7. What is verse 5 saying?
8. What is Jeremiah to say to the house of Israel?
9. What will God do, if they repent and return to Him?
10. Who decides when God will destroy or build up a nation?
11. What happens, when the creation obeys God?
12. Verse 11 says speak to whom?
13. What is the demonstration of the potter and the clay showing?
14. What did they decide to do?
15. What does God call Israel in verse 13?
16. God had chosen for them to be a vessel of \_\_\_\_\_.
17. What is verse 14 showing us?
18. They had burned incense to \_\_\_\_\_.
19. What did the smoke of the incense that was burned to God symbolize?
20. Where is a good example of a path God had made for them?
21. This beautiful land of milk and honey will be turned into a \_\_\_\_\_.
22. They had turned their backs on God, now He will \_\_\_\_\_.
23. How did they receive the message Jeremiah brought them?
24. What was Jeremiah, really?
25. "Smite him with the tongue" means what?
26. What is Jeremiah saying to God in verse 19?
27. They digged a pit for Jeremiah's \_\_\_\_\_.
28. What did Jeremiah tell God to remember?
29. What were some of the terrible things Jeremiah suggested should happen to them?
30. Jeremiah finally agrees with the \_\_\_\_\_ God has made on them.

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 19:1 "Thus saith the LORD, Go and get a potter's earthen bottle, and [take] of the ancients of the people, and of the ancients of the priests;" Jeremiah 19:2 "And go forth unto the valley of the son of Hinnom, which [is] by the entry of the east gate, and proclaim there the words that I shall tell thee,"

In the last lesson, God sent Jeremiah to a potter's house, and showed him what the potter did with the clay in his hands. Now, Jeremiah is told to take the bottle made from clay to the east gate, and have the ancients and the priests to gather there with him for a message from God. The "east gate" is the same as the potsherd gate. It appears, the valley of Hinnom was mentioned, because it was the boundry between Benjamin and Judah. This message is for both of them.

Jeremiah 19:3 "And say, Hear ye the word of the LORD, O kings of Judah, and inhabitants of Jerusalem; Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will bring evil upon this place, the which whosoever heareth, his ears shall tingle."

The tingling of the ears, was a confirmation that the message was from God and not from Jeremiah, even though it came from Jeremiah's mouth. This is a proclamation from God, that judgment has been spoken on them for their evil false worship. God will bring great pain to them.

Jeremiah 19:4 "Because they have forsaken me, and have estranged this place, and have burned incense in it unto other gods, whom neither they nor their fathers have known, nor the kings of Judah, and have filled this place with the blood of innocents;"

The word "estranged" means disregarded, or rejected. These people of God have forsaken Him. They have not regarded the holy city of God as anything either. In the burning of incense to other gods, they have put their trust in them, instead of in the LORD. Their fathers and they had been taught to believe in the LORD. They had never been a people to worship false gods before. They had gone so far, that they had sacrificed their children to these false gods. This is the innocent blood mentioned.

Jeremiah 19:5 "They have built also the high places of Baal, to burn their sons with fire [for] burnt offerings unto Baal, which I commanded not, nor spake [it], neither came [it] into my mind:"

This is very similar to devil worship in our day. This worship of the false god Baal was popular, because it involved prostitution with both males and females. Many times the worship was carried on in the high places. This was a very evil false worship, which went directly against the teaching of holiness. God never mentioned this, because it was an abomination to Him.

Jeremiah 19:6 "Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that this place shall no more be called Tophet, nor The valley of the son of Hinnom, but The valley of slaughter."

"Tophet" means drum. It is believed the valley was named that to drown out the screams of children, when they were burned walking through the fire

in worship of false gods. God is so angry with them for their false worship, He will call this the valley of slaughter.

Jeremiah 19:7 "And I will make void the counsel of Judah and Jerusalem in this place; and I will cause them to fall by the sword before their enemies, and by the hands of them that seek their lives: and their carcasses will I give to be meat for the fowls of the heaven, and for the beasts of the earth."

The priesthood had spoken to the people for God in times past. Now, God will take this away from them. They have been totally unfaithful to Him. Their counsel had gone bad. He would no longer let them represent Him on the earth. The punishment, spoken of here, is repeated from a previous lesson. God will not only let the enemy kill them with the sword, but they will not be buried, and the vultures and the beasts will eat their carcasses. Carcasses means dead bodies.

Jeremiah 19:8 "And I will make this city desolate, and an hissing; every one that passeth thereby shall be astonished and hiss because of all the plagues thereof."

Not only, will the people be killed, God will destroy His city as well. When the passerby sees the destruction from the plagues God has sent, they will be astonished.

Jeremiah 19:9 "And I will cause them to eat the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their daughters, and they shall eat every one the flesh of his friend in the siege and straitness, wherewith their enemies, and they that seek their lives, shall straiten them."

Look at the following Scripture with me. Deuteronomy 28:53 "And thou shalt eat the fruit of thine own body, the flesh of thy sons and of thy daughters, which the LORD thy God hath given thee, in the siege, and in the straitness, wherewith thine enemies shall distress thee:" Both of these Scriptures are saying, that the famine will be so great, they will eat their own children.

Jeremiah 19:10 "Then shalt thou break the bottle in the sight of the men that go with thee."

Jeremiah has just spoken horrible doom on these people. Now, God says, break the bottle you brought with you. The "breaking of the bottle" symbolizes the fact that God has thrown them away.

Jeremiah 19:11 "And shalt say unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Even so will I break this people and this city, as [one] breaketh a potter's vessel, that cannot be made whole again: and they shall bury [them] in Tophet, till [there be] no place to bury."

God has given them a visual example of what will happen to them. This place, where they had caused their children to walk through the fire to a false god, now will be a place of death. There will be so many dead, they will run out of room to bury them. This is speaking of the wrath of God coming on His unrepentant people.

Jeremiah 19:12 "Thus will I do unto this place, saith the LORD, and to the inhabitants thereof, and [even] make this city as Tophet:"

Now, God says the whole city will be destroyed, just as this area is. Tophet, you remember was a place where the cults had carried on their false religious practices. Of course, this is just at the edge of Jerusalem and is speaking of Jerusalem, as well.

Jeremiah 19:13 "And the houses of Jerusalem, and the houses of the kings of Judah, shall be defiled as the place of Tophet, because of all the houses upon whose roofs they have burned incense unto all the host of heaven, and have poured out drink offerings unto other gods."

It mattered not whether you were a king, or just a citizen, the punishment was the same. They had all worshipped false gods, and they would all die together. The "host of heaven" means the sun, moon, and stars. Everything that is going to happen to them, is because of their worship of false gods.

Jeremiah 19:14 "Then came Jeremiah from Tophet, whither the LORD had sent him to prophesy; and he stood in the court of the LORD'S house; and said to all the people,"

It seems when Jeremiah had finished telling the priests and high officials of the coming doom, God sent him into the court of the LORD'S house to speak of the certainty of the prophecy. This just confirms what Jeremiah had said at Tophet. All of the early part of the book of Jeremiah has been warnings, over and over, to the people. God was allowing them plenty of time to repent, and turn from their worship of false gods, but they do not heed the warning.

Jeremiah 19:15 "Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will bring upon this city and upon all her towns all the evil that I have pronounced against it, because they have hardened their necks, that they might not hear my words."

They are too proud to repent and turn from the false gods, so God will surely do these terrible things mentioned in this chapter. He loves His people, but they have been unfaithful to Him. They do not want to hear God's Word.

## Jeremiah 20 Questions

1. What was Jeremiah to go and get?
2. Where was Jeremiah to take it?
3. Who was to go with Jeremiah?
4. What was Jeremiah to do there?
5. What is the same as the "east gate"?
6. How will the people listening know the message is from God?
7. What does the word "estranged" mean?
8. To burn incense to a false god means what?
9. How far had they gone with this worship of false gods?
10. What false god is mentioned by name in verse 5?
11. Why was this particular false worship popular?
12. What will Tophet be called after God's judgment on them?
13. What does "Tophet" mean?
14. What are some of the terrible things that will happen, that are mentioned in verse 7?
15. What will the passerby do, when they see the destruction?
16. Where do we find another Scripture that verifies Jeremiah chapter 19 verse 9?
17. After the terrible doom is spoken, what does God tell Jeremiah to do?
18. What does this symbolize?
19. How many will be buried in Tophet?
20. Why does God destroy the houses?
21. Who is affected by the destruction?
22. Where did God send Jeremiah next?
23. Why will God bring this terrible thing on His people?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 20:1 "Now Pashur the son of Immer the priest, who [was] also chief governor in the house of the LORD, heard that Jeremiah prophesied these things."

We know that God had not left the priest out in the accusations He had Jeremiah to bring. It appears, also, from the verse above, that Pashur held a political position of some importance. In the last lesson, Jeremiah had said, that it would not matter how important in the community a person was, the judgment from God would be the same. We know that Pashur either heard Jeremiah say this directly, or got word of it from the others who had met with him.

Jeremiah 20:2 "Then Pashur smote Jeremiah the prophet, and put him in the stocks that [were] in the high gate of Benjamin, which [was] by the house of the LORD."

"Smote", in the verse above, means strike or beat. He probably had him whipped. To strike a prophet, is a very serious thing. It appears, they actually locked Jeremiah up with leg chains. It appears, this Pashur was in charge of keeping order in the court of the LORD. This would have given him a great deal of lee-way to do as he wished. He, like the priests and others in authority, did not like the message Jeremiah brought. The others had never physically attacked Jeremiah, however.

Jeremiah 20:3 "And it came to pass on the morrow, that Pashur brought forth Jeremiah out of the stocks. Then said Jeremiah unto him, The LORD hath not called thy name Pashur, but Magor-missabib."

This was a bold thing to say to the person who had authority to put you in chains. The name Magor-missabib means fearing, or affright from around. We see, then, the thing that Pashur had done to Jeremiah, was from fear.

Jeremiah 20:4 "For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will make thee a terror to thyself, and to all thy friends: and they shall fall by the sword of their enemies, and thine eyes shall behold [it]: and I will give all Judah into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall carry them captive into Babylon, and shall slay them with the sword."

This fright of Pashur will turn to terror, when he sees all of his friends falling by the sword. Those that are not killed, will be taken into captivity in Babylon.

Jeremiah 20:5 "Moreover I will deliver all the strength of this city, and all the labours thereof, and all the precious things thereof, and all the treasures of the kings of Judah will I give into the hand of their enemies, which shall spoil them, and take them, and carry them to Babylon."

It appears from this, that Pashur had put a great deal of importance on material things. God will take all of them away from him. All of the things he had been so proud of, would be carried back to Babylon as spoil. I have to greatly admire Jeremiah for being able to stand before this man with much worldly power, and prophesy these things to him.

Jeremiah 20:6 "And thou, Pashur, and all that dwell in thine house shall go into captivity: and thou shalt come to Babylon, and there thou shalt die, and shalt be buried there, thou, and all thy friends, to whom thou hast prophesied lies."

It appears, that Pashur will live to be taken captive in Babylon and be killed there. He will not even be buried in his native land. He, and all of his friends, will die and be buried in Babylon. Jeremiah, not only prophesies his doom, but calls him a liar, as well. He had been prophesying that all was well. That was a lie, and Jeremiah tells him so.

Jeremiah 20:7 "O LORD, thou hast deceived me, and I was deceived: thou art stronger than I, and hast prevailed: I am in derision daily, every one mocketh me."

This is, possibly, speaking of Jeremiah not wanting to be a prophet in the first place, and the Lord made Jeremiah a prophet anyway. He is feeling sorry for himself, because no one likes him. Not only do they not like Jeremiah, but they laugh at him, and say he is not a true prophet.

Jeremiah 20:8 "For since I spake, I cried out, I cried violence and spoil; because the word of the LORD was made a reproach unto me, and a derision, daily."

This was not a message Jeremiah would have chosen to tell. There was great gloom and doom in the message he brought. God put the words in Jeremiah's mouth, and Jeremiah spoke them. Every day was difficult for him, because of the message he brought. They all hated Jeremiah, because of the message. We must remember he was just a youth.

Jeremiah 20:9 "Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But [his word] was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not [stay]."

It appears from this, that Jeremiah tried to stop bringing the prophecies, but God would not let him. They burned in his heart until he had to tell what God had told him. He was compelled to prophesy. He had to do what God called him to do.

Jeremiah 20:10 "For I heard the defaming of many, fear on every side. Report, [say they], and we will report it. All my familiars watched for my halting, [saying], Peradventure he will be enticed, and we shall prevail against him, and we shall take our revenge on him."

It seems everyone thought he was either insane, or power crazy. They chose not to believe him. They plotted to stop him, anyway they could. They all wanted to get even with him for his terrible prophecies.

Jeremiah 20:11 "But the LORD [is] with me as a mighty terrible one: therefore my persecutors shall stumble, and they shall not prevail: they shall be greatly ashamed; for they shall not prosper: [their] everlasting confusion shall never be forgotten."

At times, there were moments when Jeremiah thought of quitting. He was persecuted on every side. God had promised Jeremiah, from the beginning,

that He would protect him. God will fight for Jeremiah. Every word that Jeremiah brought to these people from God will happen. Jeremiah was being persecuted in the service of God. God is a very present help, especially to those who are in His service. God will punish those who persecute Jeremiah. Nothing good will come to them. It is a dangerous thing to persecute those in service for God.

Jeremiah 20:12 "But, O LORD of hosts, that triest the righteous, [and] seest the reins and the heart, let me see thy vengeance on them: for unto thee have I opened my cause."

Jeremiah has been persecuted so much and for so long, that now he asks God to let him see the punishment He has in store for those who persecuted him. He will see it, because he will remain in Jerusalem during the siege of the Babylonians.

Jeremiah 20:13 "Sing unto the LORD, praise ye the LORD: for he hath delivered the soul of the poor from the hand of evildoers."

Jeremiah is praising and thanking God ahead of time for the answer to his request. He is speaking as if it has already happened. He is the one delivered from the evildoers.

Jeremiah 20:14 "Cursed [be] the day wherein I was born: let not the day wherein my mother bare me be blessed."

This is Jeremiah regretting the day he was born.

Jeremiah 20:15 "Cursed [be] the man who brought tidings to my father, saying, A man child is born unto thee; making him very glad."

It is almost as if Jeremiah is thinking, that his life has been of no good to anyone. We remember that his father was a priest. It was a blessing in a Jewish family for a man child to be born.

Jeremiah 20:16 "And let that man be as the cities which the LORD overthrew, and repented not: and let him hear the cry in the morning, and the shouting at noontide;"

Jeremiah's family, and perhaps the man spoken of here, were not on Jeremiah's side. They did not think him to be a prophet. Perhaps, that is what this is all about.

Jeremiah 20:17 "Because he slew me not from the womb; or that my mother might have been my grave, and her womb [to be] always great [with me]."

We know from the very first lesson on Jeremiah, that he was anointed from his mother's womb. His entire life was dedicated to the work God had called him to do.

Jeremiah 20:18 "Wherefore came I forth out of the womb to see labour and sorrow, that my days should be consumed with shame?"

Jeremiah is lamenting, here, that there had not been joy in his life. His life had been spent in bringing a message of doom to the very people he grew up with. This was not a message that would bring joy, but sorrow. He

was shamed by everyone who knew him. No one believed him. They all hated him, and wanted to kill him. His life had been one of sorrows. This could be the message from many who serve the LORD. We, like Jeremiah, go on with the task God has set before us. Even though Jeremiah was so sorrowful, he continued serving God.

## Jeremiah 21 Questions

1. Who was the father of Pashur?
2. What was Pashur's position?
3. What had Pashur heard?
4. Then Pashur \_\_\_\_\_ Jeremiah the prophet.
5. Where did he imprison Jeremiah?
6. Why had Pashur done this to Jeremiah?
7. What name did Jeremiah tell Pashur God named him?
8. What did that name mean?
9. Who would Pashur be a terror to?
10. What will happen to his friends?
11. What would the fright of Pashur turn into?
12. What had Pashur put a great deal of importance on?
13. What would happen to all of them?
14. Where will Pashur die?
15. What did Jeremiah call Pashur?
16. What is Jeremiah saying in verse 7?
17. What type of message had been the only message Jeremiah brought?
18. Why could Jeremiah not stop prophesying?
19. What did everyone think about Jeremiah?
20. How is the LORD described in verse 11?
21. Who will punish those who persecute Jeremiah?
22. Will Jeremiah see them punished?
23. What is Jeremiah doing in verse 13?
24. What does Jeremiah say, that lets us know he regrets being born?
25. How did Jeremiah's family feel about him?
26. Who can, possibly, relate to Jeremiah's sorrow?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 21:1 "The word which came unto Jeremiah from the LORD, when king Zedekiah sent unto him Pashur the son of Melchiah, and Zephaniah the son of Maaseiah the priest, saying,"

This is a different Pashur from the one in the last lesson. Zephaniah was from the priestly family of Maaseiah, and was next in line to the high priest. Notice, again, these messages Jeremiah is speaking is actually God's messages in Jeremiah's mouth. Zedekiah was king before Jehoiachin.

Jeremiah 21:2 "Inquire, I pray thee, of the LORD for us; for Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon maketh war against us; if so be that the LORD will deal with us according to all his wondrous works, that he may go up from us."

In answer to the message from Jeremiah, they ask him to intercede for them before the LORD. They believe that God will fight for them, and turn Nebuchadnezzar back. They know God has helped them miraculously before, and they expect Him to do that now. God will not help them, because of their worship of false gods.

Jeremiah 21:3 "Then said Jeremiah unto them, Thus shall ye say to Zedekiah:"

It appears, that the priest had talked with Jeremiah, and now Jeremiah is giving them a message to take back to the king.

Jeremiah 21:4 "Thus saith the LORD God of Israel; Behold, I will turn back the weapons of war that [are] in your hands, wherewith ye fight against the king of Babylon, and [against] the Chaldeans, which besiege you without the walls, and I will assemble them into the midst of this city."

This is such a hard message for Jeremiah to give to the priest for the king. Not only will God not help them, but he will make the weapons in their hands useless. God will let the Chaldeans and the Babylonians overrun them, and gather in the midst of the city.

Jeremiah 21:5 "And I myself will fight against you with an outstretched hand and with a strong arm, even in anger, and in fury, and in great wrath."

The worst part of all is that God will fight against them Himself. His fury has come up in His face for their worship of false gods. The wrath of God is reserved for those who have been unfaithful to Him.

Jeremiah 21:6 "And I will smite the inhabitants of this city, both man and beast: they shall die of a great pestilence."

It is not just the war that kills them. God has brought this terrible siege on them, because of their unfaithfulness to Him. There was famine and pestilence, as well as the war.

Jeremiah 21:7 "And afterward, saith the LORD, I will deliver Zedekiah king of Judah, and his servants, and the people, and such as are left in this city from the pestilence, from the sword, and from the famine, into the

hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and into the hand of their enemies, and into the hand of those that seek their life: and he shall smite them with the edge of the sword; he shall not spare them, neither have pity, nor have mercy."

We found in the last lesson, that the famine was so great in the land, that people ate their own children. This pestilence is just as great as that, also. Then the king of Babylon came into the land and killed and pillaged. The few people that survived all of this went into captivity in Babylon. God's mercy is turned away from this stiff-necked people. He offered them every chance to repent, and they did not. Now His wrath is poured out on them.

Jeremiah 21:8 "And unto this people thou shalt say, Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I set before you the way of life, and the way of death."

They had been taught that to obey God, brought blessings abundant, but to disobey God, brought curses. It was their choice, and they made it. The way of God leads to life. Their way of false gods leads to death. They had made their choice.

Jeremiah 21:9 "He that abideth in this city shall die by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence: but he that goeth out, and falleth to the Chaldeans that besiege you, he shall live, and his life shall be unto him for a prey."

There is still time for them to flee, and live as fugitives. If they stay, it means certain death, or captivity.

Jeremiah 21:10 "For I have set my face against this city for evil, and not for good, saith the LORD: it shall be given into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall burn it with fire."

It is not enough that the city will be overthrown. It will be burned, as well. God wants to wipe out the memory of the evil that went on here. The king of Babylon was the destroyer, but the judgment came from God.

Jeremiah 21:11 "And touching the house of the king of Judah, [say], Hear ye the word of the LORD;"

The city of Jerusalem was of the house of Benjamin. Now, this message extends to the house of Judah.

Jeremiah 21:12 "O house of David, thus saith the LORD; Execute judgment in the morning, and deliver [him that is] spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor, lest my fury go out like fire, and burn that none can quench [it], because of the evil of your doings."

David was beloved of God. God had tolerated more from Judah than He would have others, because they were in the lineage of David. He loved them, but He would no longer look the other way. Judgment had come to the house of Judah, because of their worship of false gods.

Jeremiah 21:13 "Behold, I [am] against thee, O inhabitant of the valley, [and] rock of the plain, saith the LORD; which say, Who shall come down against us? or who shall enter into our habitations?"

They were self-satisfied. They felt no harm would come to them, because they were descendents of David. God sends this message by Jeremiah to let them know, that even His chosen family cannot sin and get away with it. They have been judged of God. They can hide, if they wish, but God will find them.

Jeremiah 21:14 "But I will punish you according to the fruit of your doings, saith the LORD: and I will kindle a fire in the forest thereof, and it shall devour all things round about it."

They will be punished for the things they have done, and nothing else. God will try each person's doings with fire. The earthly things will burn up in the fire, as wood does.

## Jeremiah 22 Questions

1. Who was king in verse 1?
2. Who was priest?
3. Is this the same Pashur as in the last lesson?
4. Who was next in line to the high priest?
5. Who was king of Babylon?
6. What did they ask Jeremiah to do for them?
7. Why will God not help them?
8. What will God do to their weapons?
9. Who were the others against them, besides Babylon?
10. How will God fight against them?
11. Why had God's fury come up in His face?
12. What other thing would they die from, besides the sword?
13. What happens to those of them who are not killed?
14. How bad was the famine?
15. In verse 8, God had set before them the way of \_\_\_\_\_, and the way of \_\_\_\_\_.
16. Who chose which road they took?
17. If they get away, how will they have to live?
18. After the battle, what will the king do with the city?
19. The city of Jerusalem was of the house of \_\_\_\_\_.
20. Who is verse 12 addressed to?
21. David was \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
22. They were \_\_\_\_\_.
23. Why did they believe no harm would come to them?
24. What will God punish them according to?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 22:1 "Thus saith the LORD; Go down to the house of the king of Judah, and speak there this word,"

Word had been sent to them before, but this was to be said to their faces. A great deal of the problems in the land could be traced to the leadership. Now, God tells Jeremiah, "Go to the king, and tell him to his face, the message I have for him".

Jeremiah 22:2 "And say, Hear the word of the LORD, O king of Judah, that sittest upon the throne of David, thou, and thy servants, and thy people that enter in by these gates:"

Even though the message is spoken directly to the king, it still pertains to all of the people.

Jeremiah 22:3 "Thus saith the LORD; Execute ye judgment and righteousness, and deliver the spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor: and do no wrong, do no violence to the stranger, the fatherless, nor the widow, neither shed innocent blood in this place."

To be earthly king over the family of God, took on grave responsibilities. The judgment of this king must be an example to all the heathen countries around them. The king, here, had to be aware that he was king, because God put him there. His judgment had to be righteous and just, because he represented God to the world. They had to live the golden rule. They were not to deal unfairly with anyone.

Jeremiah 22:4 "For if ye do this thing indeed, then shall there enter in by the gates of this house kings sitting upon the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, he, and his servants, and his people."

If they conduct themselves the way God would have them to, they could remain kings, and their descendents after them could be kings. God's blessings would be upon them as long as they were obedient to God.

Jeremiah 22:5 "But if ye will not hear these words, I swear by myself, saith the LORD, that this house shall become a desolation."

The LORD swore by Himself, because there was no greater. If they live like the world and disobey God, they will be destroyed.

Jeremiah 22:6 "For thus saith the LORD unto the king's house of Judah; Thou [art] Gilead unto me, [and] the head of Lebanon: [yet] surely I will make thee a wilderness, [and] cities [which] are not inhabited."

Gilead, in the verse above, is a place and not a man. It, along with Lebanon, was covered with beautiful cedar trees. On close inspection, you would find that Gilead had been a place of ruins at one time, however. In the sense it is used above, I believe it speaks of the beauty of the king's house made of cedar. Even though these places are so physically beautiful, God will destroy them, if they remain unfaithful to Him.

Jeremiah 22:7 "And I will prepare destroyers against thee, every one with his weapons: and they shall cut down thy choice cedars, and cast [them] into the fire."

Cedar is an almost indestructible wood, but it will burn, if placed in the fire. God says, even the beauty of the cedars will burn in the fire of His wrath.

Jeremiah 22:8 "And many nations shall pass by this city, and they shall say every man to his neighbour, Wherefore hath the LORD done thus unto this great city?"

Many people of other nations have come to see the beauty of the city, but after the destruction, they will realize God destroyed it. They will be questioning what great sin they committed, to bring such anger from God?

Jeremiah 22:9 "Then they shall answer, Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD their God, and worshipped other gods, and served them."

Even the outside world will know the reason for the great destruction, is because they have broken their covenant with God. The specific sin they committed, was the worship of false gods. The first commandment God had given them was to have no other gods.

Jeremiah 22:10 "Weep ye not for the dead, neither bemoan him: [but] weep sore for him that goeth away: for he shall return no more, nor see his native country."

This is saying that death was merciful, because it was over and done with. Those who were taken captive would look back with grief at the loss of the promised land.

Jeremiah 22:11 "For thus saith the LORD touching Shallum the son of Josiah king of Judah, which reigned instead of Josiah his father, which went forth out of this place; He shall not return thither any more:" Jeremiah 22:12 "But he shall die in the place whither they have led him captive, and shall see this land no more."

Shallum was the son of Josiah, who was taken into exile after reigning a very short time, and did not take Josiah's place as king. Shallum was spoken of in Chronicles as Jehohaz. Jehoiakim took over as king. The comparison is, he shall not return anymore.

Jeremiah 22:13 "Woe unto him that buildeth his house by unrighteousness, and his chambers by wrong; [that] useth his neighbour's service without wages, and giveth him not for his work;"

Shallum did not reign long enough to leave a legacy of good or evil. It appears, Jehoiachim was very evil for his 11 year reign. He did not follow in the footsteps of Josiah, who did right in the sight of God. He was greatly responsible for the introduction of false worship. Everything he did indicated his unrighteousness. Everything he built was deceitfully built. God will greatly punish him.

Jeremiah 22:14 "That saith, I will build me a wide house and large chambers, and cutteth him out windows; and [it is] ceiled with cedar, and painted with vermilion."

This tells of the magnificence. Nothing was spared in the building of it. It appears, it was quite large and had beams of cedarwood. This was the most expensive wood a person could use. Vermilion is red, so it was painted red.

Jeremiah 22:15 "Shalt thou reign, because thou closest [thyself] in cedar? did not thy father eat and drink, and do judgment and justice, [and] then [it was] well with him?"

Just the fact he had an expensive mansion, made with cedarwood, did not make him a king. Josiah, the father of Jehoiachim, was a good king. He ate and drank and had parties, but he was fair with all mankind. Jehoiachim would have done well to be like his father. He thought only of himself. He was an evil king. It does not mean that God would forbid him to eat and drink, it just means he needed to be more aware of the needs of his people. He, also, needed to worship God.

Jeremiah 22:16 "He judged the cause of the poor and needy; then [it was] well [with him: was] not this to know me? saith the LORD."

We see the fairness that his father judged with. The reason the father judged fairly, was because of his relationship with God. God blessed him mightily.

Jeremiah 22:17 "But thine eyes and thine heart [are] not but for thy covetousness, and for to shed innocent blood, and for oppression, and for violence, to do [it]."

Jehoiachim was a greedy man. He wanted other people's possessions. If anyone got in his way, he just killed them. He was not just in his judgments. He ruled the people with violence.

Jeremiah 22:18 "Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah; They shall not lament for him, [saying], Ah my brother! or, Ah sister! they shall not lament for him, [saying], Ah lord! or, Ah his glory!"

He was an evil king, and no one would grieve when he was gone. He had been trouble for all who knew him.

Jeremiah 22:19 "He shall be buried with the burial of an ass, drawn and cast forth beyond the gates of Jerusalem."

There will be no funeral for him. He will be treated no better than an animal that dies. He acted like an animal, so he would die like an animal.

Jeremiah 22:20 "Go up to Lebanon, and cry; and lift up thy voice in Bashan, and cry from the passages: for all thy lovers are destroyed."

"Lovers", here, probably are speaking of nations that they had made war agreements with. It appears, they will be of no help at all. They are defeated, too.

Jeremiah 22:21 "I spake unto thee in thy prosperity; [but] thou saidst, I will not hear. This [hath been] thy manner from thy youth, that thou obeyedst not my voice."

We see, from this, that these people had always been the same. Jacob's family, who became Israel, had never called on God in the good times. They strayed away from God when times were good. The only time they sought God, was when they were in terrible trouble. God tried to tell them of the terrible punishment that was coming, if they did not give up their false gods and return to Him, but they would not listen. When they disobeyed God, the curses came upon them.

Jeremiah 22:22 "The wind shall eat up all thy pastors, and thy lovers shall go into captivity: surely then shalt thou be ashamed and confounded for all thy wickedness."

It is almost as if God is saying, "What will it take to get you to repent?" The wind will destroy the pastors {shepherds}. Those who have been your partners will go into captivity. Surely they will be wise enough to see what is happening, and return to God. They have sinned so much, they know no shame.

Jeremiah 22:23 "O inhabitant of Lebanon, that makest thy nest in the cedars, how gracious shalt thou be when pangs come upon thee, the pain as of a woman in travail!"

Lebanon means the buildings made with cedarwood. This is really speaking of the inhabitants of Jerusalem. The destruction will come on them quickly, without warning as the pains of a woman about to give birth. How will they feel when the battle begins? Will they turn to God then, or die in their sin?

Jeremiah 22:24 "[As] I live, saith the LORD, though Coniah the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah were the signet upon my right hand, yet would I pluck thee thence;"

The signet ring was a sign of having the power of that person. The signet was used many times to seal a deal. Joseph was given the signet in Egypt, when he was given power and authority next to the king. This, perhaps, is saying the king would not be able to stop this even with all of his power and authority.

Jeremiah 22:25 "And I will give thee into the hand of them that seek thy life, and into the hand [of them] whose face thou fearest, even into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and into the hand of the Chaldeans."

This leaves no doubt at all of their outcome. God has given Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, and the Chaldeans, the power and authority to destroy them. This destruction will be from the king of the land down to the poorest person. It is God who has placed them in their hands to carry out His judgment.

Jeremiah 22:26 "And I will cast thee out, and thy mother that bare thee, into another country, where ye were not born; and there shall ye die."

This is all of Judah and Benjamin that will be given over to the Babylonians. Those who live will be captive slaves in Babylon. Many will die in the foreign land.

Jeremiah 22:27 "But to the land whereunto they desire to return, thither shall they not return."

When God slams the door shut, it is shut until He opens it. No one else can open it. Their heart's desire will be to come home, but they will not be allowed to.

Jeremiah 22:28 "[Is] this man Coniah a despised broken idol? [is he] a vessel wherein [is] no pleasure? wherefore are they cast out, he and his seed, and are cast into a land which they know not?"

Coniah was believed to be another name for Jehoiachin. It appears, from this that he thought of himself as a god. He spent 36 years in captivity in Babylon. He was very evil.

Jeremiah 22:29 "O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the LORD."

This is a sorrowful saying, showing the seriousness of their transgressions. God, perhaps, was sorrowful that He had made the earth.

Jeremiah 22:30 "Thus saith the LORD, Write ye this man childless, a man [that] shall not prosper in his days: for no man of his seed shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah."

The judgment against Jehoiachin was not just for him, but for his seed, as well. He would have no children, who would ever reign. God goes so far as to say, that no one even like him, will ever reign in Jerusalem again.

## Jeremiah 23 Questions

1. Where did God send Jeremiah in verse 1?
2. Whose throne did the king sit upon?
3. Who else was the message for?
4. What instructions did Jeremiah give him in verse 3?
5. Why was it so important for him to be just in his judgments?
6. If he does what God says, what will happen?
7. What will happen to this house, if they do not heed God's warnings disobey Him?
8. Why did the LORD swear by Himself?
9. What did the LORD call the king's house of Judah?
10. Gilead, in verse 6, is a \_\_\_\_\_ not a \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Cedar is an almost indestructible \_\_\_\_\_.
12. The people of other nations passing by will ask what question about the destruction?
13. Why had God done this?
14. Weep ye not for the \_\_\_\_\_.
15. Who should they weep for?
16. Who was Shallum?
17. What was another name for Shallum?
18. Who is verse 13 speaking woe to?
19. How long did Jehoiachim reign?
20. Who was his father?
21. What had he said he would build?
22. What were the beams of the house made of?
23. Just because he had a mansion, did not make him \_\_\_\_\_.
24. His father reigned \_\_\_\_\_.
25. Jehoiachim is so evil no one will \_\_\_\_\_ for him when he dies.
26. He shall be buried with the burial of an \_\_\_\_\_.
27. Who does verse 20 say to cry for?
28. God spoke to them in their prosperity, did they listen?
29. When was the only time they would seek God?
30. Who was Coniah?
31. Who had God given power to destroy them?
32. How long was Coniah in captivity?
33. The judgment against Jehoiachin extended to whom?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 23:1 "Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD."

We decided in a previous lesson, that pastor meant the same thing as shepherd. The false shepherd, whether then, or now, has no regard for the sheep. He is interested only in his own welfare. I believe this Scripture is speaking to the leaders of the people then, but also to the leaders in our churches today. Notice 2 things these false shepherds do; they scatter and destroy the sheep.

Jeremiah 23:2 "Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD."

The food, here, is the Word of God. It is extremely important to bring the Word of God in absolute truth. The majority of the people are greatly influenced by the message the shepherd brings. If the message is truth, it brings life, and health, and joy in the LORD. If the message they bring is not truth, then it brings death to the body and the soul. The statement "LORD God of Israel" lets us know that the crime against the evil shepherd is false religion. Israel did not, and does not, have many gods. The LORD God is their only God. This is true of the Jewish nation who is physical Israel, and it is true of all believers in Christ {spiritual Israel}. It was really the leaders who had scattered the people to the foreign lands with their false worship.

Jeremiah 23:3 "And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase."

God has always had a remnant of His people. This has more than one fulfillment. We know that the very thing, this is speaking of, happened at the end of the Babylonian captivity. The sheep came back to Israel. It, also, is in the process of coming about today in Israel. In 1948, Israel became a nation and ever since, Israelis from all over the world have been coming to the homeland. There seems to be a truth, also, to the fruitfulness of the Hebrews. They think children are a blessing from God. They, also, feel as if God has not looked kindly upon them, when they do not have children. The promised land {Israel} is growing in population every day.

Jeremiah 23:4 "And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the LORD."

God had miraculously provided for the Israelites over and over. The best example was the 40 years they wandered on their way to the promised land. God fed them with manna from heaven. God will choose men of good character to lead His sheep. The great Shepherd {Jesus Christ} is the real Shepherd. Others, who watch over smaller flocks are actually subordinate to Him.

Jeremiah 23:5 "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth."

This is a prophecy about the coming Messiah. Jesus Christ was their Messiah. He is the righteous Branch. He was the Lion of the tribe of Judah. He was of the house of David. His Father was God. When it speaks of His reign, it is speaking of Him coming back to the earth as King of kings and Lord of lords. He {Jesus Christ} is the righteous Judge.

Jeremiah 23:6 "In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this [is] his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS."

I personally believe this is looking ahead to the 1000 year reign, of Jesus Christ as King and Lord. We do know that many times there is more than one meaning for a prophetic Scripture. Judah, in the verse above, could be speaking of Judah and Benjamin coming back into their homeland, after their captivity. There has really never been a time in the past when Judah was saved and Israel dwelled safely. I believe this is speaking of that special time when Satan will be bound for a thousand years, and all who believe in Jesus will reign on this earth with Him. Notice, this special name, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. Jesus Christ is our righteousness. He will reign as Lord of lords and King of kings during this special time. There will be perfect peace, because the King of Peace will be here.

Jeremiah 23:7 "Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that they shall no more say, The LORD liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt;" Jeremiah 23:8 "But, The LORD liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land."

God is not the God of yesterday, He is the great I AM. He is God of the present. He is alive. He eternally exists. Again, we see two meanings here. God did bring them out of Babylon back to Jerusalem. He, also, is bringing them from the lands all over the world right now. They shall dwell in their own lands.

Jeremiah 23:9 "Mine heart within me is broken because of the prophets; all my bones shake; I am like a drunken man, and like a man whom wine hath overcome, because of the LORD, and because of the words of his holiness."

Jeremiah has jumped back to the way he was feeling in his own heart about the false prophets who had led the people astray. His bones shook from the weeping he was doing. Being like a drunken man, or like a man whom wine has overcome, just means he could not control his grief. Jeremiah is overwhelmed by the holiness of God, and cannot understand why the false prophets are not overcome by God's holiness, as well.

Jeremiah 23:10 "For the land is full of adulterers; for because of swearing the land mourneth; the pleasant places of the wilderness are dried up, and their course is evil, and their force [is] not right."

This adultery was both physical and spiritual. Swearing would be connected with spiritual adultery. God tells us not to swear at all.

Swearing, then, would be breaking the commandments of God. One of the false worship services, that had been going on, had to do with male and female prostitutes. We can easily see why the curse of God would be on the land.

Jeremiah 23:11 "For both prophet and priest are profane; yea, in my house have I found their wickedness, saith the LORD."

We studied in another lesson how the priest and the false prophets were involved in idol worship. It had gotten so bad, they were mixing it with worship in the temple.

Jeremiah 23:12 "Wherefore their way shall be unto them as slippery [ways] in the darkness: they shall be driven on, and fall therein: for I will bring evil upon them, [even] the year of their visitation, saith the LORD."

People, who are living for God, walk in the Light. We see their walk was in darkness. This means they were not worshipping God. A person will slip and fall in the darkness. God will bring the evil upon them to punish them for their unfaithfulness. If the blind lead the blind, they will both fall in the ditch. The priests were blind, so they were leading the people into blindness, too.

Jeremiah 23:13 "And I have seen folly in the prophets of Samaria; they prophesied in Baal, and caused my people Israel to err."

Not only were the family of Judah and Benjamin following false gods, but the false prophets of Samaria who believed in the worship of the false god Baal, had led Israel astray.

Jeremiah 23:14 "I have seen also in the prophets of Jerusalem an horrible thing: they commit adultery, and walk in lies: they strengthen also the hands of evildoers, that none doth return from his wickedness: they are all of them unto me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah."

The false prophets in Jerusalem were leading their people into a licentious religion of free sex. They were an adulterous group. In Sodom and Gomorrah, God could not find even 10 righteous. It appears, it was that bad in Jerusalem. Most everyone was involved in the worship of false gods.

Jeremiah 23:15 "Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts concerning the prophets; Behold, I will feed them with wormwood, and make them drink the water of gall: for from the prophets of Jerusalem is profaneness gone forth into all the land."

The false prophets were even more responsible for their sins, than the people they prophesied to. Their punishment is more severe, as well. "Wormwood" means bad water. Their punishment would be bitter as gall. They really encouraged the sin of the people. They had influenced the people to sin.

Jeremiah 23:16 "Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Hearken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, [and] not out of the mouth of the LORD."

The words Jeremiah prophesied had been put in his mouth by God. They were actually God's Words in Jeremiah's mouth. These false prophets were prophesying from their own evil thoughts. God says, "Do not listen to the false prophets". Even today, we must be careful who and what we listen to. The best rule is, if they recognize Jesus as God manifest in the flesh, they are of God, if they do not, don't listen to them. Check everything out with the Bible. Do not be deceived.

Jeremiah 23:17 "They say still unto them that despise me, The LORD hath said, Ye shall have peace; and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you."

It is dangerous to follow your own desires. The flesh will lead you astray. It reminds me so much of our day. So many teach, if it feels good, do it. That is a religion of the flesh, and not of the spirit. We must not fulfill the lust of the flesh. We must conform to the commandments of God.

Jeremiah 23:18 "For who hath stood in the counsel of the LORD, and hath perceived and heard his word? who hath marked his word, and heard [it]?"

I really do not believe anyone can stand in the presence of God. To be in the presence of God, would put you on your face before Him in humble adoration. The false prophets had not been in the presence of God. We know that some few, like Paul, had been in the presence of God, but certainly none of these who brought the false religion, had seen Him. Had they perceived {understood} His Word, they would not have brought a false teaching. The answer to the question then, was none of them.

Jeremiah 23:19 Behold, a whirlwind of the LORD is gone forth in fury, even a grievous whirlwind: it shall fall grievously upon the head of the wicked.

The fury of the LORD descended upon the wicked, will appear to be a terrible storm. There will be no way to stop it.

## Jeremiah 24 Questions

1. In verse 1, who is the woe spoken about?
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ shepherd has no regard for the sheep.
3. What are 2 things these shepherds do?
4. What was the food in verse 2?
5. A true message brings \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
6. What does "LORD God of Israel" reveal to us about verse 2?
7. Verse 3 says, He will gather the remnant from where?
8. When are two different times this could be speaking of?
9. How do Hebrews feel about having children?
10. Where will the shepherds come from, that will feed them properly?
11. Who is the great Shepherd?
12. What is verse 5 a prophecy of?
13. Who is the righteous Branch?
14. When it speaks of His reign, what time is it speaking of?
15. In verse 6, His name shall be called \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_.
16. What special time does the author believe verse 6 is speaking of?
17. What will they say, instead of saying the LORD that brought them out of Egypt?
18. God is not the God of \_\_\_\_\_.
19. He is the great \_\_\_\_\_.
20. How badly did Jeremiah feel about the false prophets?
21. The land is full of \_\_\_\_\_.
22. Swearing was associated with \_\_\_\_\_.
23. What was one of the false worship services involved with?
24. Who does verse 11 say is profane?
25. People, who are living for God, walk in the \_\_\_\_\_.
26. Verse 13 says, I have seen folly in the prophets of \_\_\_\_\_.
27. The evil, in verse 14, is compared to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
28. What would God give these false prophets to drink?
29. The false prophets' vision was from their own \_\_\_\_\_.
30. What would you be doing in the presence of God, rather than stand?
31. What appears to be a storm from the Lord in verse 19?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 23:20 "The anger of the LORD shall not return, until he have executed, and till he have performed the thoughts of his heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it perfectly."

God will not recall His anger, until He has carried out all of His wishes toward those who led His children astray. He executes judgment on those who have committed such grievous sins. It is not for us to question the judgments of God. At the end of time on this earth, the great judgment comes on all of mankind. That is the day of the separation of the sheep and the goats. God will gather His sheep to everlasting life with Him: the goats will be doomed to the lake of fire.

Jeremiah 23:21 "I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran: I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied."

These prophets, that have deceived the people, are not God's prophets. They were sent by the enemy to deceive the people. They prophesy lies to the people. The words that come from their mouths did not originate with God like a true prophet's words do.

Jeremiah 23:22 "But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings."

One very good way to tell they were not of God, is because they did not tell the people to repent of their sins and return to God. They were saying, all is well, when really nothing was well. The purpose of a prophet of God is to bring the message God puts in his mouth. His message should be so powerful, that it would cause the people to repent of sin.

Jeremiah 23:23 "[Am] I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a God afar off?"

God is omnipresent. He is everywhere all the time. He knows everything about everything you have ever done. God is not like these false gods, that they could hold in their hands. His presence is everywhere.

Jeremiah 23:24 "Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD."

God answers His own question here. There is no place to hide from God. He knows all of your deeds, and He even knows your thoughts and the desires of your heart. I Kings 8:27 "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?" He may be all over the earth, but He is seated in heavenly places, as well. Be sure, He knows all about you, good and bad.

Jeremiah 23:25 "I have heard what the prophets said, that prophesy lies in my name, saying, I have dreamed, I have dreamed."

God is aware of every statement we have ever made. It is especially bad for those who pretend God has sent them, when He has not. Matthew 12:36 "But

I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment."

Jeremiah 23:26 "How long shall [this] be in the heart of the prophets that prophesy lies? yea, [they are] prophets of the deceit of their own heart;"

To prophesy or preach, without being called of God, is a disastrous thing. First of all, the message is not from God, but from within himself. The message is not of benefit to the hearers, but to the one speaking. The mouth speaks from the issue of the heart. If the heart is wicked and deceitful, the mouth speaks deceit. Many, today have taken on the ministry as a vocation. This is very dangerous. To minister, one must be called of God.

Jeremiah 23:27 "Which think to cause my people to forget my name by their dreams which they tell every man to his neighbour, as their fathers have forgotten my name for Baal."

These false prophets are promoting worship of false gods. In this particular instance, the false god was Baal. The people had taken their minds off of God and on to these prophets. These false prophets were leading them astray.

Jeremiah 23:28 "The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully. What [is] the chaff to the wheat? saith the LORD."

The statement, above, is not to discourage the true prophet who really does hear from God. If you do have a dream from God, go ahead and tell it. If God places, the Words in your mouth, speak them. Just make sure the dreams and the Words are from God. The chaff and the wheat are in the world together. The wheat is speaking of those who are really of God. The chaff is sown by Satan. They both grow together till the harvest. Christians are in the world with those who are not saved. We just keep our life straightened out in the midst of the world. Do not look at circumstances around you. Keep your eyes on Jesus.

Jeremiah 23:29 "[Is] not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer [that] breaketh the rock in pieces?"

The Words of God, as a fire, burn the evil out. Those who come to God have a broken and a contrite heart. God applies the heat and the hammer to produce a stone fit for the builders. Jesus is the cornerstone, and we are the lively stones held together by the cornerstone.

Jeremiah 23:30 "Therefore, behold, I [am] against the prophets, saith the LORD, that steal my words every one from his neighbour."

God is not against all prophets, just the ones who prophesy falsely. It is as if the false prophet is listened to more attentively than the true prophet. The people are beginning to disregard the message of the true prophet, thus the words are stolen from him. God is against the prophet who is prophesying for his own self.

Jeremiah 23:31 "Behold, I [am] against the prophets, saith the LORD, that use their tongues, and say, He saith."

Not everyone who says, "Thus saith the Lord" is really speaking for God. They are using God to get what they want. This is a very evil thing to do. This is a lying tongue.

Jeremiah 23:32 "Behold, I [am] against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the LORD, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their lightness; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the LORD."

A false prophet has no intention of helping anyone, but himself. We are cautioned to try the spirits, and see whether they be of God, or not. It appears, these false prophets are so convincing with their made up dreams that many believe them. It will profit no one at all. To believe a lie, is a destruction, not a help.

Jeremiah 23:33 "And when this people, or the prophet, or a priest, shall ask thee, saying, What [is] the burden of the LORD? Thou shalt then say unto them, What burden? I will even forsake you, saith the LORD." Jeremiah 23:34 "And [as for] the prophet, and the priest, and the people, that shall say, The burden of the LORD, I will even punish that man and his house."

It appears, these false prophets had been preaching good times. They had convinced the people of peace and prosperity. They tried to say that Jeremiah's prophecy was not of God, because of the requirements attached to it. They are teaching that God does not burden the people with regulations. They are free to do as they will. God will greatly punish the false prophets, and the people who accept this teaching.

Jeremiah 23:35 "Thus shall ye say every one to his neighbour, and every one to his brother, What hath the LORD answered? and, What hath the LORD spoken?"

We see that doubt has arisen, and they are all asking each other, instead of finding their own truth from God. It is as if they are saying, "Who do we believe?".

Jeremiah 23:36 "And the burden of the LORD shall ye mention no more: for every man's word shall be his burden; for ye have perverted the words of the living God, of the LORD of hosts our God."

It appears, they had forgotten the commandments of God. They had begun to think of them as a burden. They were listening to the desires of their own selves instead. They are not doing what the Word of God taught them to do. They are doing what was right in their own sight. The answers to all of the world's problems are in the Bible {God's Holy Word}. Decisions made with any other rules will not work. To follow your own desires, leads to destruction.

Jeremiah 23:37 "Thus shalt thou say to the prophet, What hath the LORD answered thee? and, What hath the LORD spoken?"

We see these people were listening to the advice of the false prophet. They were asking the false prophet what the will of God was for their lives. They were being led away from God.

Jeremiah 23:38 "But since ye say, The burden of the LORD; therefore thus saith the LORD; Because ye say this word, The burden of the LORD, and I have sent unto you, saying, Ye shall not say, The burden of the LORD;"

The false prophets had been answering them, as if it were directly from God. They were saying their answers were from God, when in fact, they were their own words. God warns these false prophets not to use His name when proclaiming these falsehoods.

Jeremiah 23:39 "Therefore, behold, I, even I, will utterly forget you, and I will forsake you, and the city that I gave you and your fathers, [and cast you] out of my presence:"

God is speaking to all of the people, as well as to the false prophets here. The city, spoken of, is Jerusalem. God had given the promised land to the children of Israel. Now, He is saying, His protection and blessing on them will be no more.

Jeremiah 23:40 "And I will bring an everlasting reproach upon you, and a perpetual shame, which shall not be forgotten."

They have rejected God and His Truth. Now, God has rejected them. The everlasting reproach is certainly true even today. In many lands today, it is difficult to be a Jew. It is even thought of as being a shame. A good example of this was the trouble the Jews had under Adolph Hitler in World War 2. God will always leave a crack in the door for them to enter into. Through faith in Jesus Christ, they can be saved.

## Jeremiah 25 Questions

1. The anger of the LORD will not return, until when?
2. When does the great judgment come on all mankind?
3. Where will the sheep spend all of eternity?
4. These false prophets are not \_\_\_\_\_ prophets.
5. Where do the words of a true prophet originate?
6. What would they have done, if they had been true prophets?
7. God is \_\_\_\_\_. He is everywhere all the time.
8. Can anyone hide from God?
9. Quote 1 Kings chapter 8 verse 27.
10. What way did they say they received their prophecy?
11. Quote Matthew chapter 12 verse 36.
12. They are prophets of the deceit of their own \_\_\_\_\_.
13. The mouth speaks from the issue of the \_\_\_\_\_.
14. To minister, one must be \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
15. What false god is mentioned in verse 27?
16. Verse 28 explains what about prophets?
17. Who is the wheat speaking of?
18. Who is the chaff speaking of?
19. Christians should not look at the \_\_\_\_\_ around them.
20. What is God's Word compared to in verse 29?
21. Those who come to God must have a \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_ heart.
22. Jesus is the Cornerstone, and we are the \_\_\_\_\_ stones.
23. What prophets is God against?
24. What were the false tongues saying?
25. What profit do the people get from a false prophet?
26. What message had these false prophets been teaching?
27. When doubt arose, where were they seeking an answer from?
28. Every man's \_\_\_\_\_ shall be his burden.
29. They have \_\_\_\_\_ the Word of the living God.
30. The false prophets had been answering them as if it were the \_\_\_\_\_.
31. God warns the false prophets not to use His \_\_\_\_\_.
32. What do verses 39 and 40 say will happen to them?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 24:1 "The LORD shewed me, and, behold, two baskets of figs [were] set before the temple of the LORD, after that Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon had carried away captive Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah, and the princes of Judah, with the carpenters and smiths, from Jerusalem, and had brought them to Babylon."

Figs, throughout the Bible, have symbolized the physical house of Israel. In this particular lesson, it is a little more selective. This is really speaking of the houses of Judah and Benjamin. The Babylonian captivity came about, because of the worship of false gods. We will see the two types of figs representing two attitudes toward the punishment God has sent upon them. Notice, that a certain group of these people of the physical house of Israel were carried away into Babylon. Jeconiah is the same person as Jehoiachin. Jehoiakim was his father. In every generation, there seems to be great trials that come. It is not the trials that make or break a man, but the way that man handles his problems. These figs, are in two separate baskets, which symbolize the fact they were separated in two different places. Perhaps, one basket is for those in Babylon, and one basket is for those who escaped.

Jeremiah 24:2 "One basket [had] very good figs, [even] like the figs [that are] first ripe: and the other basket [had] very naughty figs, which could not be eaten, they were so bad."

One basket of figs is not edible, because they are so bad. It reminds me of Jesus cursing the fig tree that did not produce good fruit. We know that all fruit trees, to be very good, must be pruned back from time to time. It appears, that the figs in the one basket is from a good growth. They have, probably, been pruned to make them better. We know that the punishment that had come on Judah and Benjamin was to cause them to return to God. I believe the basket of good figs learned their lesson well, and repented, and came back to God. The basket of figs that were bad did not learn from their experience. They just went further away from God than they had been in the beginning. They are not changed.

Jeremiah 24:3 "Then said the LORD unto me, What seest thou, Jeremiah? And I said, Figs; the good figs, very good; and the evil, very evil, that cannot be eaten, they are so evil."

It is well-known that people who are living for God are in a growing process. They become better everyday. My own statement is that Christianity is a daily walk through life with Jesus as our Leader. The longer we walk, the more like Him we become. Sin is the same way. Once a person commits a sin, it is much easier to commit the sin again, or one much worse. The slide into a lifestyle of sin is easy, you just commit the first sin. The rest is easy.

Jeremiah 24:4 "Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,"

Very often, in these lessons, Jeremiah reminds us that the words are coming directly from God.

Jeremiah 24:5 "Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel; Like these good figs, so will I acknowledge them that are carried away captive of Judah, whom I have sent out of this place into the land of the Chaldeans for [their] good."

This punishment of captivity by the Chaldeans is for the good of the people captured. They surrendered to them, knowing this punishment was from God. Had they remained in the worship of false gods, they would have soon gone to the point of no return. God got them out of there, to cause them to seek His face again.

Jeremiah 24:6 "For I will set mine eyes upon them for good, and I will bring them again to this land: and I will build them, and not pull [them] down; and I will plant them, and not pluck [them] up."

Since they willingly submitted to the chastisement God had put on them, God is pleased with them. He will restore them their land again. Their repentance and acceptance of the punishment they deserved, brought them back into the blessings of God. The greatest blessing was the fact that God forgave them. He restored the blessings on them, when He removed the curse.

Jeremiah 24:7 "And I will give them an heart to know me, that I [am] the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart."

They are brand new creatures. God has created a new heart within them. This is a total spiritual renewal within them. It is like the Christians experiencing the new spiritual birth. God wants to fellowship with mankind. He wants to be their God. His holiness will not allow Him to fellowship with them, unless they turn to Him with their whole heart. The curse is gone, and the blessings of God are upon them.

Jeremiah 24:8 "And as the evil figs, which cannot be eaten, they are so evil; surely thus saith the LORD, So will I give Zedekiah the king of Judah, and his princes, and the residue of Jerusalem, that remain in this land, and them that dwell in the land of Egypt:"

It appears, that Zedekiah was the uncle of Nebuchadnezzar. He was very evil. He was the leader of those that the basket of bad figs represent. We see a rebellious group who would not tolerate the chastisement of the LORD. They had not repented of their evil. Some had fled to Egypt to keep from being captured, and they were included in this evil group.

Jeremiah 24:9 "And I will deliver them to be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth for [their] hurt, [to be] a reproach and a proverb, a taunt and a curse, in all places whither I shall drive them."

They did not repent, and the curse was not removed from them. They would be scattered to many different countries. The lands where they lived would look down on them as second-class citizens. The punishment of banishing them to many lands is punishment from God. They would be thought of as outcasts, wherever they went.

Jeremiah 24:10 "And I will send the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, among them, till they be consumed from off the land that I gave unto them and to their fathers."

They will not live in the promised land any longer. God will drive them out. The sword would cause them to run for safety somewhere else. The famine would send them away in search of food to eat. The pestilence was like locusts that devoured everything in its way. Remember, all of this was sent on them by God to drive them out of the land.

## Jeremiah 26 Questions

1. What did God show Jeremiah in verse 1?
2. Who is Jeconiah?
3. What do figs symbolize?
4. In this particular Scripture, they symbolize whom?
5. What do the two types of figs represent?
6. What is another name for Jeconiah?
7. It is not the trials that come that make or break a man, but his \_\_\_\_\_ toward the problem.
8. How did the two baskets of figs differ?
9. What makes a fruit tree good?
10. Why did the punishment come to Judah and Benjamin?
11. What did Jeremiah notice about the figs?
12. How is this like people?
13. What does the author say Christianity is?
14. Why is it so important not to commit the first sin?
15. Quote Jeremiah chapter 24 verse 5.
16. What promise does God make them in verse 6?
17. Why will God bless them, and be their God?
18. Who was the leader of the evil ones?
19. Who was his nephew?
20. What will happen to those evil ones?
21. What would they be thought of wherever they went?
22. What did God send against them to remove them from the land?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 25:1 "The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, that [was] the first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon;"

We see a final warning to God's people, Judah, here. Jehoiakim was a very evil king. The date set for this is pretty certain since it was the first year of Nebuchadnezzar. This is the date Jeremiah spoke to them, and not the day of the overthrow of Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 25:2 "The which Jeremiah the prophet spake unto all the people of Judah, and to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying,"

Jeremiah was still obedient to God in proclaiming the coming judgment. This prophecy is not just for Judah, but for Jerusalem, as well.

Jeremiah 25:3 "From the thirteenth year of Josiah the son of Amon king of Judah, even unto this day, that [is] the three and twentieth year, the word of the LORD hath come unto me, and I have spoken unto you, rising early and speaking; but ye have not hearkened."

We remember that Jeremiah was just a youth, when he began to prophesy the Words of the LORD to these people. He has been faithfully doing exactly what God has told him to do for 23 years. It seems all the warning he has given them, has not been heeded.

Jeremiah 25:4 "And the LORD hath sent unto you all his servants the prophets, rising early and sending [them]; but ye have not hearkened, nor inclined your ear to hear."

Jeremiah is reminding them, here, that God had given them ample warning by His prophets. They did not even listen to the prophets, much less take a warning from them.

Jeremiah 25:5 "They said, Turn ye again now every one from his evil way, and from the evil of your doings, and dwell in the land that the LORD hath given unto you and to your fathers for ever and ever:"

The message had not changed. God told them over and over to turn from the worship of false gods, and He would bless them in the land He had promised them. The land of promise was to be theirs and their childrens unto all generations. The only catch was, that they must stay loyal to God to receive the blessings.

Jeremiah 25:6 "And go not after other gods to serve them, and to worship them, and provoke me not to anger with the works of your hands; and I will do you no hurt."

The first commandment God had given them, warned them not to worship other gods. God would not permit the worship of any other god. They had even made idols of wood and metal with their own hands, and worshipped them. This was strictly forbidden. God is a Jealous God and would not share His people.

The thing that separated them from the heathen people around them, was their worship of the One True God.

Jeremiah 25:7 "Yet ye have not hearkened unto me, saith the LORD; that ye might provoke me to anger with the works of your hands to your own hurt."

All of the warnings, Jeremiah had brought from God, had not been received. They even tried to kill Jeremiah for bringing them such a message. God's wrath has come up in His face. Now, is the time for judgment.

Jeremiah 25:8 "Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Because ye have not heard my words," Jeremiah 25:9 "Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the LORD, and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations."

In the verses above, God has told them why they will suffer punishment. In this verse, He describes what some of that punishment will be. The only reason God calls Nebuchadnezzar His servant, is because he is obeying God's command to take the land. Babylon is an evil land, but God is using them to punish His people.

Jeremiah 25:10 "Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones, and the light of the candle."

The normal happenings in a town will not be anymore. Even the light of the candle will go out. Total darkness will prevail. They will have nothing to be happy about, when the wrath of God falls upon them.

Jeremiah 25:11 "And this whole land shall be a desolation, [and] an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years."

I believe this 70 years of captivity in Babylon to be literal, years. It appears that Daniel believed the 70 years to be literal as well. Daniel 9:1 "In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes, which was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans;" Daniel 9:2 "In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem." It appears, from this, that Daniel knew Jeremiah and had great respect toward his prophecies.

Jeremiah 25:12 "And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, [that] I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the LORD, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations."

This is speaking of a time, after the 70 years, that God will destroy Babylon. It will never be rebuilt. The perpetual desolations speak of an eternity of rubble. This could be speaking of the rule of Nebuchadnezzar, or of the city of Babylon in its entirety.

Jeremiah 25:13 "And I will bring upon that land all my words which I have pronounced against it, [even] all that is written in this book, which Jeremiah hath prophesied against all the nations."

We have discussed before, that a statement made by God is going to happen. It may not happen as quickly as we expect, but it will happen. Jeremiah was not speaking his own words. He was speaking the Words of God.

Jeremiah 25:14 "For many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of them also: and I will recompense them according to their deeds, and according to the works of their own hands."

God does not overlook the actions of countries against His chosen people. We discussed in an earlier lesson, where the Babylonians had gone too far with their cruelty during the overthrow of Jerusalem. God takes vengeance on those who are against His people.

Jeremiah 25:15 "For thus saith the LORD God of Israel unto me; Take the wine cup of this fury at my hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send thee, to drink it."

This is a symbolic thing that Jeremiah is to do. Jeremiah did warn each of them of the justice of the LORD God of Israel. The fury of God has always been against those who are against the Israelites.

Jeremiah 25:16 "And they shall drink, and be moved, and be mad, because of the sword that I will send among them."

The sword that God sends among them is in judgment. This sword of the Lord could be the natural elements like lightning, but it probably is speaking of war. They drink, in the verse above, just means they received the punishment God spoke upon them.

Jeremiah 25:17 "Then took I the cup at the LORD'S hand, and made all the nations to drink, unto whom the LORD had sent me:"

This is not speaking of a literal cup, but is speaking of the message Jeremiah brought to them and repeated over and over, until they received it unto themselves. The nations, plural, is speaking of all the lands around who had come against God's people.

Jeremiah 25:18 "[To wit], Jerusalem, and the cities of Judah, and the kings thereof, and the princes thereof, to make them a desolation, an astonishment, an hissing, and a curse; as [it is] this day;" Jeremiah 25:19 "Pharaoh king of Egypt, and his servants, and his princes, and all his people;" Jeremiah 25:20 "And all the mingled people, and all the kings of the land of Uz, and all the kings of the land of the Philistines, and Ashkelon, and Azzah, and Ekron, and the remnant of Ashdod," Jeremiah 25:21 "Edom, and Moab, and the children of Ammon," Jeremiah 25:22 "And all the kings of Tyrus, and all the kings of Zidon, and the kings of the isles which [are] beyond the sea," Jeremiah 25:23 "Dedan, and Tema, and Buz, and all [that are] in the utmost corners," Jeremiah 25:24 "And all the kings of Arabia, and all the kings of the mingled people that dwell in the desert," Jeremiah 25:25 "And all the kings of Zimri, and all the kings of Elam, and all the kings of the Medes," Jeremiah 25:26 "And all the kings of the north, far and near, one with another, and all the kingdoms of the world,

which [are] upon the face of the earth: and the king of Sheshach shall drink after them."

We see the far reaching effect of the prophecy of Jeremiah in this. All of those listed above, and in fact, the entire unsaved world have been warned of Jeremiah of the judgment of God.

Jeremiah 25:27 "Therefore thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Drink ye, and be drunken, and spue, and fall, and rise no more, because of the sword which I will send among you." Jeremiah 25:28 "And it shall be, if they refuse to take the cup at thine hand to drink, then shalt thou say unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Ye shall certainly drink."

The warning brought to all of them, is spoken of as the cup. God has given Jeremiah the commission to tell them all, and if they do not take heed, to tell them again, until they do believe.

Jeremiah 25:29 "For, lo, I begin to bring evil on the city which is called by my name, and should ye be utterly unpunished? Ye shall not be unpunished: for I will call for a sword upon all the inhabitants of the earth, saith the LORD of hosts."

This reaches to the time of the end, when the wrath of God will be poured out on all the world who have not taken heed to His warning. God destroyed His beloved Jerusalem, because of their evil. He will do no less to all the world who follow after false gods. Those who are faithful to God and Him alone, will be spared the wrath of God. All who reject Him as their Saviour and Lord, will suffer the wrath of God. Judgment begins at the house of God. Then God punishes the others.

Jeremiah 25:30 "Therefore prophesy thou against them all these words, and say unto them, The LORD shall roar from on high, and utter his voice from his holy habitation; he shall mightily roar upon his habitation; he shall give a shout, as they that tread [the grapes], against all the inhabitants of the earth."

Look, with me, at the following Scripture which is about the same thing. Revelation 14:19 "And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast [it] into the great winepress of the wrath of God." Revelation 14:20 "And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand [and] six hundred furlongs."

Jeremiah 25:31 "A noise shall come [even] to the ends of the earth; for the LORD hath a controversy with the nations, he will plead with all flesh; he will give them [that are] wicked to the sword, saith the LORD." Jeremiah 25:32 "Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth."

This is not just speaking of a local happening but is speaking of worldwide judgment that comes on all the earth. Mankind has a choice to repent and turn to God, or face the horrible happenings we are reading about here.

Jeremiah 25:33 "And the slain of the LORD shall be at that day from [one] end of the earth even unto the [other] end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground."

Just as we have been reading of how Jerusalem was attacked and many died, so is this speaking of massive death. When Babylon took Jerusalem, there was no time to bury the dead, they were left for the vultures and the wild animals. This is speaking of the same thing on a more massive scale. It is even on a global scale.

Jeremiah 25:34 "Howl, ye shepherds, and cry; and wallow yourselves [in the ashes], ye principal of the flock: for the days of your slaughter and of your dispersions are accomplished; and ye shall fall like a pleasant vessel."

This is just speaking of all of those who have represented God upon this earth. "Wallowing in the ashes" just shows extreme mourning for the things happening. The shepherd is speaking of the preacher or prophet, who has led a group of people. This howling is the same as that in Revelation chapter 18, when Babylon the great falls. Babylon is symbolic of all of the evil in the land. Babylon is not only a city, but is symbolic of all evil. The terribleness on the unrepentant people has come.

Jeremiah 25:35 "And the shepherds shall have no way to flee, nor the principal of the flock to escape."

Just as Jeremiah was there in Jerusalem to see the destruction, these shepherds will see the destruction, also.

Jeremiah 25:36 "A voice of the cry of the shepherds, and an howling of the principal of the flock, [shall be heard]: for the LORD hath spoiled their pasture."

The ministers will not cease praying, even though the flock is scattered with no pasture to feed in.

Jeremiah 25:37 "And the peaceable habitations are cut down because of the fierce anger of the LORD."

The peaceable habitations would be the pastures they fed in. It could, also, mean the church. The fierce anger of the LORD against those who worshipped false gods is destroying everything. This heaven and this earth will pass away.

Jeremiah 25:38 "He hath forsaken his covert, as the lion: for their land is desolate because of the fierceness of the oppressor, and because of his fierce anger."

"Covert", in the verse above, means lair, den, pavilion, or tabernacle. A lion who leaves his lair is looking for something to kill and eat. This explains the fierceness of the anger of God upon the church, and its people who have committed spiritual adultery.

## Jeremiah 27 Questions

1. What happened the first year Nebuchadnezzar was king of Babylon?
2. Who did Jeremiah speak to?
3. How many years had Jeremiah been prophesying?
4. Had they listened and heeded Jeremiah's prophecy?
5. What was the message God sent them, mentioned in verse 5?
6. What was the sin God was angry about?
7. What had they provoked God to anger with?
8. What does verse 9 say will happen to them?
9. What things would cease in their cities?
10. How long shall they serve Babylon?
11. Where, in Daniel, do we read the same thing?
12. What will happen to Babylon after the 70 years?
13. God recompenses nations according to what?
14. What did Jeremiah do with the cup in the LORD's hand?
15. Is this a literal cup?
16. Who are some of the nations to drink of the cup?
17. If they do not drink of the cup, what is Jeremiah to do?
18. What is another Scripture that speaks of the same thing as verse 30?
19. Who is verse 31 and 32 speaking to?
20. Why will the dead not be lamented?
21. What are the shepherds to do?
22. Who are the shepherds?
23. Why are the shepherds howling?
24. What does the word "covert" mean?
25. Who is God's fierce anger against?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 26:1 "In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah came this word from the LORD, saying,"

Jehoiakim reigned many years, and all through his reign Jeremiah brought warning from God of impending danger, if they did not repent. We have already noticed that the chapters in Jeremiah are not in chronological order. Some of the chapters we have already studied came at the end of the reign of Jehoiakim's reign. For our study here, it is not important when something happened, just to know that it did. We are not doing a chronological study, we are doing a spiritual study. The Word from the LORD, came through the mouth of Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 26:2 "Thus saith the LORD; Stand in the court of the LORD'S house, and speak unto all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the LORD'S house, all the words that I command thee to speak unto them; diminish not a word:"

The court of the LORD's house is the same as the outer court of the temple. Three times a year, all the Hebrews from around Jerusalem came to the temple to worship. This would have included all of Judah, as well as Benjamin. When they came to worship, Jeremiah was to stand and give the exact words the LORD had put into his mouth to say. He was not to alter the Word in any way. "Diminish" means shave off, or remove. We must not water down God's Word.

Jeremiah 26:3 "If so be they will hearken, and turn every man from his evil way, that I may repent me of the evil, which I purpose to do unto them because of the evil of their doings."

This seems as if it is very repetitious, and it is. We must remember, however, that God is patient, and kind. He wants to make sure all of them have been warned, and have had plenty of time to repent, and turn from their wicked ways. II Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." The desire of God's heart, is that they will repent. They deserve to die for the evil they have done, but God wants them to repent and be saved. I love the following promise God made His people. II Chronicles 7:14 "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

Jeremiah 26:4 "And thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the LORD; If ye will not hearken to me, to walk in my law, which I have set before you," Jeremiah 26:5 "To hearken to the words of my servants the prophets, whom I sent unto you, both rising up early, and sending [them], but ye have not hearkened;" Jeremiah 26:6 "Then will I make this house like Shiloh, and will make this city a curse to all the nations of the earth."

This was a stiffnecked people who would not hear the Word God had sent them by His prophet Jeremiah. Much of this was said to the priests in the temple area, and they did not accept it at all. They wanted everyone to

believe they were the voice speaking for God. They not only did not hear themselves, but caused others not to hear, also. Shiloh had been the earliest location of the sanctuary and had been destroyed, because of unrepented sin of the people. It appears, the Philistines had destroyed it. God is trying to make it clear that the sanctuary was to remain only as long as true worship was going on.

Jeremiah 26:7 "So the priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the LORD."

We see that Jeremiah boldly brought the Truth, God had revealed to him. He did not make it lighter, just because the priests were listening. They all heard the prophecy.

Jeremiah 26:8 "Now it came to pass, when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking all that the LORD had commanded [him] to speak unto all the people, that the priests and the prophets and all the people took him, saying, Thou shalt surely die."

They waited until Jeremiah stopped speaking, and then, they grabbed him. They wanted to kill him, because they did not like the message he brought. Priests, and those in authority, did not like the message Jesus brought either, and they did kill His body. Death was the penalty for blasphemy, or for pretending to be a prophet, when you weren't.

Jeremiah 26:9 "Why hast thou prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate without an inhabitant? And all the people were gathered against Jeremiah in the house of the LORD."

The reason he had prophesied is, because God told him to. He had no choice in the matter. The priest had a great deal of authority over the people at this time. They usually went along with his decision. He wanted Jeremiah killed, because Jeremiah made him look bad before the people. These people, including the priest, were so full of sin, they did not recognize the sin.

Jeremiah 26:10 "When the princes of Judah heard these things, then they came up from the king's house unto the house of the LORD, and sat down in the entry of the new gate of the LORD'S [house]."

They were just about to try to convict Jeremiah, when the princes came up. The princes were the ones who usually tried the people on charges. They have come to the rescue of Jeremiah. The entry of the new gate was where trials were conducted.

Jeremiah 26:11 "Then spake the priests and the prophets unto the princes and to all the people, saying, This man [is] worthy to die; for he hath prophesied against this city, as ye have heard with your ears."

This was not a good reason for killing Jeremiah. The duty of a prophet was to speak whatever God had put in his mouth. Had he been a false prophet, then they could have accused him. They had no proof he was a false prophet, only that he prophesied against the city.

Jeremiah 26:12 "Then spake Jeremiah unto all the princes and to all the people, saying, The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and against this city all the words that ye have heard."

Jeremiah speaks in his own behalf here. He is saying, if you kill me, you are coming against God who sent me.

Jeremiah 26:13 "Therefore now amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the LORD your God; and the LORD will repent him of the evil that he hath pronounced against you."

Jeremiah had the boldness of the LORD. He tells them, again, to repent. We see that Jeremiah does not alter his message at all, even in the face of death. He still warns them to repent.

Jeremiah 26:14 "As for me, behold, I [am] in your hand: do with me as seemeth good and meet unto you."

In this, Jeremiah is saying, you may kill my body, but I will not alter the message God sent to you. Look, with me, at what Jesus said about fear of man. Matthew 10:28 "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." Telling God's Truth is more important to him than physical life.

Jeremiah 26:15 "But know ye for certain, that if ye put me to death, ye shall surely bring innocent blood upon yourselves, and upon this city, and upon the inhabitants thereof: for of a truth the LORD hath sent me unto you to speak all these words in your ears."

Jeremiah is innocent of any wrong doing, and he tells them so. He boldly says again, God sent him to bring this message to them. Their sins are already bad enough, without killing an innocent prophet of God.

Jeremiah 26:16 "Then said the princes and all the people unto the priests and to the prophets; This man [is] not worthy to die: for he hath spoken to us in the name of the LORD our God."

The princes and the people believed what Jeremiah had to say. The priests and the false prophets had been bringing an entirely different message, and this made them look bad. The people believe Jeremiah is a prophet of God speaking the Words of their God to them.

Jeremiah 26:17 "Then rose up certain of the elders of the land, and spake to all the assembly of the people, saying,"

The elders speak for the people. They are their spokesmen.

Jeremiah 26:18 "Micah the Morasthite prophesied in the days of Hezekiah king of Judah, and spake to all the people of Judah, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Zion shall be plowed [like] a field, and Jerusalem shall become heaps, and the mountain of the house as the high places of a forest."

In Micah chapter 3, beginning with verse 9, we see the prophecy that is spoken of here. Read all of it, from verse 9 to the end of the chapter. Hezekiah let him speak, because he tried to do right in God's sight.

Jeremiah 26:19 "Did Hezekiah king of Judah and all Judah put him at all to death? did he not fear the LORD, and besought the LORD, and the LORD repented him of the evil which he had pronounced against them? Thus might we procure great evil against our souls."

Most of them should have been very familiar with this, since it happened just a few years earlier in their own land. This example should surely make them think twice before killing Jeremiah. They knew if he were of God, they would be damning themselves. The elders have made a good point.

Jeremiah 26:20 "And there was also a man that prophesied in the name of the LORD, Urijah the son of Shemaiah of Kirjath-jearim, who prophesied against this city and against this land according to all the words of Jeremiah:" Jeremiah 26:21 "And when Jehoiakim the king, with all his mighty men, and all the princes, heard his words, the king sought to put him to death: but when Urijah heard it, he was afraid, and fled, and went into Egypt;" Jeremiah 26:22 "And Jehoiakim the king sent men into Egypt, [namely], Elnathan the son of Achbor, and [certain] men with him into Egypt." Jeremiah 26:23 "And they fetched forth Urijah out of Egypt, and brought him unto Jehoiakim the king; who slew him with the sword, and cast his dead body into the graves of the common people."

Urijah had been put to death by Jehoiakim for prophesying. It appeared, he had brought a message similar to Jeremiah's. Possibly, the reason that Jeremiah was treated more fairly, was because his father was a priest. They would think twice before declaring that the son of a priest was a false prophet.

Jeremiah 26:24 "Nevertheless the hand of Ahikam the son of Shaphan was with Jeremiah, that they should not give him into the hand of the people to put him to death."

Even though they had killed Urijah for almost the same message that Jeremiah brought, they decided Jeremiah was a true prophet of God, and did not kill him. It seemed that Ahikam was the one who swayed the group into believing in Jeremiah. Both of Ahikam's sons seemed to believe in Jeremiah, as well.

## Jeremiah 28 Questions

1. What type of study is "Love The Lord"?
2. Who was Jehoiakim's father?
3. Where was Jeremiah to stand and bring the prophecy?
4. Who was it spoken to?
5. Jeremiah was told, \_\_\_\_\_ not a word.
6. What is the same as the court of the LORD's house?
7. What does "diminish" mean?
8. What would cause God to repent of the evil He had planned for them?
9. Why had God planned this evil?
10. Why is this prophecy repeated many times?
11. Quote 2 Peter chapter 3 verse 9.
12. Quote 2 Chronicles chapter 7 verse 14.
13. If they do not repent, God will make this house like \_\_\_\_\_.
14. Why did the priests not accept Jeremiah's message?
15. What was Shiloh?
16. Who heard the prophecy of Jeremiah?
17. The people, priests, and false prophets took Jeremiah, saying to him, Thou \_\_\_\_\_.
18. What questions did they ask Jeremiah in verse 9?
19. What kept them from quickly convicting Jeremiah?
20. What complaint did they make against Jeremiah?
21. What was the duty of a prophet?
22. What answer did Jeremiah give to the charges {in verse 12}?
23. In verse 13, what does Jeremiah tell them to do?
24. What is Jeremiah really saying in verse 14?
25. Quote Matthew chapter 10 verse 28.
26. What did Jeremiah say would happen to them, if they put him to death?
27. Why did the princes say, he was not worthy to die?
28. Who prophesied like Jeremiah in the days of Hezekiah, and was not killed?
29. What was the name of the prophet that Jehoiakim had killed?
30. Who was with Jeremiah, and spoke out for him?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 27:1 "In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah came this word unto Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,"

This was, probably, in the first year or two of the reign of Jehoiakim.

Jeremiah 27:2 "Thus saith the LORD to me; Make thee bonds and yokes, and put them upon thy neck,"

Many times, the LORD would have the prophet do something in the physical that would show the condition of the people in the land. The yoke that was put on Jeremiah's neck, was to signify the people being under the yoke to Babylon. When Jeremiah had this yoke upon his neck, it showed them exactly their own condition.

Jeremiah 27:3 "And send them to the king of Edom, and to the king of Moab, and to the king of the Ammonites, and to the king of Tyrus, and to the king of Zidon, by the hand of the messengers which come to Jerusalem unto Zedekiah king of Judah;"

It appears from this, that Jeremiah made a yoke for each leader to demonstrate their being in bonds to Babylon. All of the countries listed here, were under bondage to Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. Zedekiah was made king of Judah by Nebuchadnezzar. Zedekiah's name had been Mattaniah. He was very evil.

Jeremiah 27:4 And command them to say unto their masters, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Thus shall ye say unto your masters;

The yokes had been carried from Jeremiah to the king by messengers. They are not only to take them a yoke, but to carry a message to them, as well. The message is spoken to the messengers by Jeremiah, but actually it was the Word of the LORD of hosts.

Jeremiah 27:5 "I have made the earth, the man and the beast that [are] upon the ground, by my great power and by my outstretched arm, and have given it unto whom it seemed meet unto me."

God is explaining, that since He is Creator of all the earth and all that is in it, He can give any part of it to whomever He desires. The creation must obey its Creator. God, not only created the earth, but mankind, as well. He can do with His creation as He wishes.

Jeremiah 27:6 "And now have I given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant; and the beasts of the field have I given him also to serve him."

The lands wherein they dwelled had been given to Nebuchadnezzar, by God. He has even been given the beasts of the field, as well. At this point, Nebuchadnezzar is spoken of as the "servant of God", because he is carrying out the wishes of God.

Jeremiah 27:7 "And all nations shall serve him, and his son, and his son's son, until the very time of his land come: and then many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of him."

The time mentioned in another lesson, was 70 years of service to Babylon. We see, here, the captivity lengthened to the third generation. At the end of this time, Babylon will be overthrown. It eventually will be destroyed, never to be built again. Cyrus is the attacker of Babylon, but many nations will serve themselves of him.

Jeremiah 27:8 "And it shall come to pass, [that] the nation and kingdom which will not serve the same Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, and that will not put their neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, that nation will I punish, saith the LORD, with the sword, and with the famine, and with the pestilence, until I have consumed them by his hand."

This captivity of God's people to Nebuchadnezzar is a punishment from God. They have rebelled against God, and this is in judgment against them. For them to refuse to go into captivity, would be to refuse the chastisement of God. Their captivity is for them to realize their need for God. They must repent of their worship of false gods, and again recognize the One True God. Those who refuse their captivity, will be destroyed.

Jeremiah 27:9 "Therefore hearken not ye to your prophets, nor to your diviners, nor to your dreamers, nor to your enchanters, nor to your sorcerers, which speak unto you, saying, Ye shall not serve the king of Babylon:"

Their false prophets, diviners, dreamers, enchanters, and sorcerers had been telling them that all was well. They had said, peace, peace, peace, when there would be no peace. They were telling the people not to go into captivity to Babylon. A diviner is someone who determines by casting lots, or by a magical scroll. An enchanter is one who practices magic. A "sorcerer" is one who is a magician. These would be similar to fortune tellers, magicians, and readers of horoscopes today. All of these things draw their power from the devil, instead of God.

Jeremiah 27:10 "For they prophesy a lie unto you, to remove you far from your land; and that I should drive you out, and ye should perish."

This is strange, but the only way to stay in their land and not perish, is to go into captivity to Nebuchadnezzar.

Jeremiah 27:11 "But the nations that bring their neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, and serve him, those will I let remain still in their own land, saith the LORD; and they shall till it, and dwell therein."

Jeremiah stayed in Jerusalem by permission himself. He is trying to express to them, that it would be better to surrender to these people and work for them, than to run to a foreign land for safety. In their own land, they will be allowed to raise crops. They will have enough to eat here.

Jeremiah 27:12 "I spake also to Zedekiah king of Judah according to all these words, saying, Bring your necks under the yoke of the king of Babylon, and serve him and his people, and live."

We remember that Zedekiah was the uncle of Nebuchadnezzar. He was over Judah. This message was not just for Jerusalem, but for all who had been invaded by Babylon. "Bring your necks under the yoke" just means to voluntarily surrender to their control.

Jeremiah 27:13 "Why will ye die, thou and thy people, by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence, as the LORD hath spoken against the nation that will not serve the king of Babylon?"

Jeremiah tries again to make them realize that the Babylonian invasion is a judgment of God against them. They must surrender to God's chastisement, or they will die.

Jeremiah 27:14 "Therefore hearken not unto the words of the prophets that speak unto you, saying, Ye shall not serve the king of Babylon: for they prophesy a lie unto you."

This is just telling them that they are listening to false prophets. Any prophet that goes against the will of God is a false prophet.

Jeremiah 27:15 "For I have not sent them, saith the LORD, yet they prophesy a lie in my name; that I might drive you out, and that ye might perish, ye, and the prophets that prophesy unto you."

It is a dangerous thing for people to take it upon themselves to represent God to the people, when they are not chosen of God. In the Scripture above, they are using the name of God to convince the people they are speaking for God. Jeremiah says, do not believe a lie.

Jeremiah 27:16 "Also I spake to the priests and to all this people, saying, Thus saith the LORD; Hearken not to the words of your prophets that prophesy unto you, saying, Behold, the vessels of the LORD'S house shall now shortly be brought again from Babylon: for they prophesy a lie unto you."

Jeremiah had warned the people and the priests of what God intends to do. The Babylonian captivity will not be over in a few days, but will last 70 years. These false prophets are giving them false hope.

Jeremiah 27:17 "Hearken not unto them; serve the king of Babylon, and live: wherefore should this city be laid waste?"

To save the city, they must go into Babylonian captivity. All of this is saying, "Realize you have sinned, and accept your punishment for it". Then, God will not totally destroy this place.

Jeremiah 27:18 "But if they [be] prophets, and if the word of the LORD be with them, let them now make intercession to the LORD of hosts, that the vessels which are left in the house of the LORD, and [in] the house of the king of Judah, and at Jerusalem, go not to Babylon."

Jeremiah is saying, if these false prophets were truly prophets of God, they should pray for the city, people, and the things of the sanctuary, so they would not be taken away.

Jeremiah 27:19 "For thus saith the LORD of hosts concerning the pillars, and concerning the sea, and concerning the bases, and concerning the residue of the vessels that remain in this city,"

The pillars, spoken of here, are two bronze pillars, called Jachin and Boaz. I Kings 7:21 "And he set up the pillars in the porch of the temple: and he set up the right pillar, and called the name thereof Jachin: and he set up the left pillar, and called the name thereof Boaz." "Bronze" symbolizes judgment, and "pillars" are spoken of as a support. This, then, means that the support of the temple is the judgment of God. If God did not, from time to time, judge the temple, or the church, they would crumble and fall. The "sea" is speaking of a large basin that held water for ceremonial washing. This is symbolic of water baptism. The "bases" are twelve oxen that hold the sea up. The name "Jachin" meant establishes. Many believe that pillar said, "Yahweh will establish thy throne forever". Boaz's pillar possibly said, "In Yahweh is the king's strength". All of these articles were heavy and, probably, difficult to travel with, so they had not been taken away.

Jeremiah 27:20 "Which Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon took not, when he carried away captive Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah from Jerusalem to Babylon, and all the nobles of Judah and Jerusalem;"

We have mentioned before that Jeconiah is the same as Jehoiachin. He was held captive in Babylon 36 years. They took them, probably, so they would not be able to influence the people against Babylon.

Jeremiah 27:21 "Yea, thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, concerning the vessels that remain [in] the house of the LORD, and [in] the house of the king of Judah and of Jerusalem;" Jeremiah 27:22 "They shall be carried to Babylon, and there shall they be until the day that I visit them, saith the LORD; then will I bring them up, and restore them to this place."

It appears, the things of the temple will be carried to Babylon to be in safe keeping, until the captivity is over. The Babylonian captivity was of God, for their sins. The restoration will be of God, as well, after they repent.

## Jeremiah 29 Questions

1. Who was the father of Jehoiakim?
2. What did the LORD tell Jeremiah to make?
3. Why did Jeremiah put a yoke on his neck?
4. Who did he send yokes to?
5. How did Zedekiah become king?
6. What had Zedekiah's name been changed from?
7. How had Jeremiah sent the yokes to the various leaders?
8. Quote Jeremiah chapter 27 verse 5.
9. What privilege does God have, since He is Creator God?
10. Whose hands had God given these lands into?
11. Why was Nebuchadnezzar called "servant of God"?
12. What will happen to the nations, who will not surrender to Nebuchadnezzar?
13. Verse 9 says, hearken not to your \_\_\_\_\_, nor to your \_\_\_\_\_, nor to your \_\_\_\_\_, nor to your \_\_\_\_\_, nor to your \_\_\_\_\_.
14. What is a "diviner"?
15. What is an "enchanter"?
16. Who would they be similar to in our society today?
17. What does verse 10 say, their prophecies are?
18. Who will be able to stay in their own land and till it?
19. Who was Zedekiah?
20. What does "Bring your neck under the yoke", mean?
21. God had not sent them, yet they prophecy a lie in His \_\_\_\_\_.
22. What lie had they been telling?
23. What are the pillars mentioned in verse 19?
24. What were the names of the 2 pillars?
25. "Bronze" symbolizes \_\_\_\_\_.
26. "Pillars" are spoken of as a \_\_\_\_\_.
27. What was the "sea", here?
28. What were the "bases"?
29. What two messages were believed to be on the 2 pillars?
30. Where will the things of the temple be in safe keeping, until the end of the captivity?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 28:1 "And it came to pass the same year, in the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the fourth year, [and] in the fifth month, [that] Hananiah the son of Azur the prophet, which [was] of Gibeon, spake unto me in the house of the LORD, in the presence of the priests and of all the people, saying,"

Zedekiah reigned 11 years, so it could have been thought that anything under 5 years would have been considered the beginning of his reign. This was a gathering of priests, perhaps to discredit Jeremiah. Notice the specific date they met. The 4th year, in the fifth month. That time will be very important in the next few verses. Gibeon was a city of priests. We remember that Jeremiah was the son of a priest, as well. Since the priests and all the people were there, it was probably a special feast day.

Jeremiah 28:2 "Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, saying, I have broken the yoke of the king of Babylon."

We learned in a previous lesson, that the prophets who were prophesying good times were actually false prophets. They had not been sent of God, but had done this on their own. Hananiah proclaimed his message to be from God. He is bringing an exactly opposite message than the message God gave Jeremiah. Jeremiah's message was placed in his mouth by God. Hananiah's message came from his own will.

Jeremiah 28:3 "Within two full years will I bring again into this place all the vessels of the LORD'S house, that Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon took away from this place, and carried them to Babylon:"

This prophecy appeals to the flesh of man. These people want to accept this message, because it is good news. This message is that there is no need for repentance. Jeremiah said the captivity would be for 70 years.

Jeremiah 28:4 "And I will bring again to this place Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah, with all the captives of Judah, that went into Babylon, saith the LORD: for I will break the yoke of the king of Babylon."

Jeconiah was the same as Jehoiakin, and he was in captivity 36 years in Babylon. This prophecy is a lie.

Jeremiah 28:5 "Then the prophet Jeremiah said unto the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests, and in the presence of all the people that stood in the house of the LORD," Jeremiah 28:6 "Even the prophet Jeremiah said, Amen: the LORD do so: the LORD perform thy words which thou hast prophesied, to bring again the vessels of the LORD'S house, and all that is carried away captive, from Babylon into this place."

"Amen" means, so be it. Jeremiah is saying, that it would be wonderful, if this happened.

Jeremiah 28:7 "Nevertheless hear thou now this word that I speak in thine ears, and in the ears of all the people;"

Nevertheless is the key word in this verse. Jeremiah says, I hope what you are saying is true, but God has given me a different message. Jeremiah did not hide somewhere to give his message just to Hananiah. He spoke his prophecy, so all could hear.

Jeremiah 28:8 "The prophets that have been before me and before thee of old prophesied both against many countries, and against great kingdoms, of war, and of evil, and of pestilence."

Generally speaking, the true prophets brought warnings from God to the people. They stood before kings with messages from God. They spoke of the need of repentance. They spoke to priests to keep the worship of God holy. They were messengers with warnings from God. Jeremiah reminds all of them, that the prophets who speak of good times are generally the false prophets. Hananiah's prophecy is not a warning from God. He speaks of peace at a time, when the people have been worshipping false gods. This means he is a false prophet.

Jeremiah 28:9 "The prophet which prophesieth of peace, when the word of the prophet shall come to pass, [then] shall the prophet be known, that the LORD hath truly sent him."

The final proof of whether a prophet is a true prophet, or not, is whether the prophecy comes true, or not. If the LORD truly sent the prophet, his words will come to pass.

Jeremiah 28:10 "Then Hananiah the prophet took the yoke from off the prophet Jeremiah's neck, and brake it."

Jeremiah had been wearing the yoke on his neck to give the people a visible sign of their captivity. Only God should have removed the yoke from Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 28:11 "And Hananiah spake in the presence of all the people, saying, Thus saith the LORD; Even so will I break the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon from the neck of all nations within the space of two full years. And the prophet Jeremiah went his way."

The time table that Hananiah gave would make him a true prophet, or a false prophet, within the two years spoken. Jeremiah left, because he knew this was not true.

Jeremiah 28:12 "Then the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah [the prophet], after that Hananiah the prophet had broken the yoke from off the neck of the prophet Jeremiah, saying,"

God has something to say about all of this.

Jeremiah 28:13 "Go and tell Hananiah, saying, Thus saith the LORD; Thou hast broken the yokes of wood; but thou shalt make for them yokes of iron."

The yoke of wood could be broken easily, but a yoke of iron is not breakable. God is saying to him, you are right; the wood could not hold him long, but the iron yoke will be hard and lasting.

Jeremiah 28:14 "For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; I have put a yoke of iron upon the neck of all these nations, that they may serve Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; and they shall serve him: and I have given him the beasts of the field also."

The power of Nebuchadnezzar is from God. He will rule with iron, or hardness. Creator God can do whatever He chooses with His creation. In this case, He has given these nations over to Nebuchadnezzar.

Jeremiah 28:15 "Then said the prophet Jeremiah unto Hananiah the prophet, Hear now, Hananiah; The LORD hath not sent thee; but thou makest this people to trust in a lie."

To speak against a prophet of God, is a dangerous thing, but remember, this is God speaking through Jeremiah. Hananiah was recognized as a prophet, but God says He did not send him. The people have believed the lie he had told, because it was good news. It is so strange why the public seem to believe a lie, before they will believe the truth.

Jeremiah 28:16 "Therefore thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will cast thee from off the face of the earth: this year thou shalt die, because thou hast taught rebellion against the LORD."

Jeremiah has given him a shorter time to prove whether he is of God, or not. Hananiah had said, within two years; now Jeremiah says within one year. Remember, if the prophecy comes true, the prophet is of God. God will kill Hananiah to stop him from telling lies to the people. He made a bad mistake, when he told the people to rebel; against the wishes of God.

Jeremiah 28:17 "So Hananiah the prophet died the same year in the seventh month."

Remember earlier in this lesson, I told you to remember the prophecy was given in the fifth month, now you know why. Hananiah dies in the 7th month. Two months after Jeremiah prophesies of his death, he dies. The two months are because his prophecy was about two years. Now the people know that Jeremiah is the true prophet of God.

## Jeremiah 30 Questions

1. When did Hananiah speak to Jeremiah in the house of the LORD?
2. How many years did Zedekiah reign?
3. What did Hananiah and Jeremiah have in common?
4. What was Hananiah prophesying?
5. Jeremiah's message was placed in his mouth by \_\_\_\_\_.
6. What time did Hananiah set for the return of the temple vessels?
7. Hananiah's prophecy appeals to the \_\_\_\_\_ of man.
8. Why do the people want to believe the message of Hananiah?
9. Jeconiah was the same as \_\_\_\_\_.
10. How long was he in captivity?
11. Why did Jeremiah say "Amen" to Hananiah's message?
12. What does "Amen" mean?
13. What is the key word of verse 7?
14. Who did Jeremiah speak to?
15. The prophets of old, who were true prophets, brought what kind of message?
16. What is the final proof of whether someone is a prophet, or not?
17. What happened to the yoke on Jeremiah's neck?
18. What did Hananiah say, the breaking of the yoke symbolized?
19. What would God replace the yoke of wood with?
20. Where had the power of Nebuchadnezzar come from?
21. What does Jeremiah accuse Hananiah of in verse 15?
22. What bad news did Jeremiah tell Hananiah?
23. When was Jeremiah's prophecy against Hananiah proven?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 29:1 "Now these [are] the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem unto the residue of the elders which were carried away captives, and to the priests, and to the prophets, and to all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had carried away captive from Jerusalem to Babylon;"

Many had been carried into captivity into Babylon. This letter is sent to them. The word "residue" lets us know there had been more elders than were living now. Jeremiah could have dictated this letter to someone to write to the people. Jeremiah was well known to them, because he had prophesied to them, while they were still in Jerusalem. We discussed before, that Jeremiah had remained in Jerusalem. The priests and prophets were treated no differently than the average person. They were taken captive, too.

Jeremiah 29:2 "(After that Jeconiah the king, and the queen, and the eunuchs, the princes of Judah and Jerusalem, and the carpenters, and the smiths, were departed from Jerusalem;)"

Jeconiah spent his days of captivity in Babylon. They were departed, because they were captured. The queen, here, is possibly speaking of the queen mother. The eunuchs were used as servants in the king's house. They were, probably, chambermen.

Jeremiah 29:3 "By the hand of Elasah the son of Shaphan, and Gemariah the son of Hilkiah, (whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent unto Babylon to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon) saying,"

This is just explaining who took them to Babylon. It appears that Elsah and Gemariah took Jeremiah's letter to Babylon, when they took these captives there. They were sent by Zedekiah.

Jeremiah 29:4 "Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, unto all that are carried away captives, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem unto Babylon;"

The main difference in this prophecy, and the ones we have been reading that Jeremiah gave, is this one was written. Jeremiah sent the message by letter, because he could not be there in person. The LORD wants all the captives to understand that they are there, because He wanted it that way. They are there, because God had judged them, and now is chastening them, so they will repent and return to worship of God. God has not forgotten them. He still loves them. The captivity is for their own good.

Jeremiah 29:5 "Build ye houses, and dwell [in them]; and plant gardens, and eat the fruit of them;"

It appears from this, that they had hesitated to do anything permanent, because they thought they would not be captive for long. Now, God is telling them, it will be for a long time. They must not be idle. They must be working while they are captives. Instead of complaining about the captivity, they should be making the best of it. They should build houses, and plant gardens to supply their own needs. They must be a good example to these

heathen people. In an unusual way, they will represent God to these heathens. The way they live in adverse circumstances, will tell their heathen captives about their faith in God.

Jeremiah 29:6 "Take ye wives, and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons, and give your daughters to husbands, that they may bear sons and daughters; that ye may be increased there, and not diminished."

We must remember, that they had been reduced to a remnant. Many had died from famine, others died by the sword. The few left must now multiply, and not die out. They are to go ahead and marry, just as they would if they were at home. Babylon will be their home for a long time.

Jeremiah 29:7 "And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the LORD for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace."

They should act with respect to their captors. They should pray for the peace of Babylon, because it will bring peace to them, as well, since they are living there now.

Jeremiah 29:8 "For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets and your diviners, that [be] in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams which ye cause to be dreamed."

Jeremiah had prophesied against these false prophets, before they went into captivity. He now warns them again, not to listen to the false prophets, diviners, and dreamers. Their own dreams are the ones they have imagined. Sometimes they dream of things they were thinking about before they went to bed. It is important to be able to determine whether a dream is of God, or not.

Jeremiah 29:9 "For they prophesy falsely unto you in my name: I have not sent them, saith the LORD."

They pretend they are of God by saying, "Thus saith the LORD", but their prophecies are false. They are not of God. One false prophecy was that they would only be in captivity just two or three years.

Jeremiah 29:10 "For thus saith the LORD, That after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place."

God does not leave them in the dark. He tells them they will be captives for 70 years. They must keep the faith and remain loyal to God in this heathen land. If they are faithful, God will bring them home after the 70 years.

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."

God's thoughts are not evil toward them. He loves them. He promises them their freedom, after the 70 years. He has given them something to look forward to. This captivity is to make them repent and return to God. It is for their good, not God's. God's thoughts are upon them constantly. He loves them, and wants to fellowship with them. The inanimate objects, they had

been worshipping, had no power of thought. To mention the thoughts of God, shows Him to be a living Spirit.

Jeremiah 29:12 "Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you."

God has not stopped listening to their prayers, neither has He stopped listening for their prayers. Praying to God is a way of fellowshiping with Him. It is, also, a way of expressing belief in Him. "Hearken" is to listen intently.

Jeremiah 29:13 "And ye shall seek me, and find [me], when ye shall search for me with all your heart."

God is interested in the heart of man. They had to believe in their hearts that God existed, before they would seek Him. He is never far away. When they seek God, it is inevitable that they will find Him. He wants to be found. He was there all the time waiting for them to seek Him. The heart is what man is. If the heart is right with God, the person is saved. Read Romans chapter 10 verses 9 and 10 to see it is the same for the Christian. Salvation is of the heart. Look, with me, at what Jesus said about this very thing. Matthew 7:7 "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:" Matthew 7:8 "For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." The following Scripture speaks of the importance of the heart. Hebrews 10:22 "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water."

Jeremiah 29:14 "And I will be found of you, saith the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the LORD; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive."

This is not only speaking of bringing them back from captivity to their promised land, but it, also, speaks of them being restored to fellowship with their God. The covenant made to Abraham is still theirs, if they obey God. The return to their homeland is a prophecy fulfilled just after the 70 years, but is, also, speaking of the return of the natural Jew to the Holy Land now.

Jeremiah 29:15 "Because ye have said, The LORD hath raised us up prophets in Babylon;"

This is speaking more of the present, than of the future. God is explaining, again, why He is punishing them. They do not want to keep Jeremiah as their prophet. They would rather listen to the false prophets.

Jeremiah 29:16 "[Know] that thus saith the LORD of the king that sitteth upon the throne of David, and of all the people that dwelleth in this city, [and] of your brethren that are not gone forth with you into captivity;" Jeremiah 29:17 "Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, I will send upon them the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, and will make them like vile figs, that cannot be eaten, they are so evil."

The throne of David had now been taken over by an evil king. Those, who were not willing to be chastened of God by captivity, will be thought of as God's rebellious children. They will be severly punished. They are so evil, they will not even allow God to teach them His ways. They refuse to receive their rightful punishment from God. They are rebellious, and God will bring famine and the sword to destroy them. "Vile figs" are good for nothing, but to destroy. Figs symbolize the house of Israel.

Jeremiah 29:18 "And I will persecute them with the sword, with the famine, and with the pestilence, and will deliver them to be removed to all the kingdoms of the earth, to be a curse, and an astonishment, and an hissing, and a reproach, among all the nations whither I have driven them:"

We discussed that this is like rebellious children. Rebellion was thought of as witchcraft. They had been unfaithful to God. They had an opportunity to be chastised for their unfaithfulness, but refused even that. Now, God has given up on changing them, and will deal harshly with them. Everywhere they go, they will be thought of as outcasts. They will have no respect shown them at all.

Jeremiah 29:19 "Because they have not hearkened to my words, saith the LORD, which I sent unto them by my servants the prophets, rising up early and sending [them]; but ye would not hear, saith the LORD."

They had ears to hear, but they did not hear. They did not listen to the warnings God sent them by the prophets.

Jeremiah 29:20 "Hear ye therefore the word of the LORD, all ye of the captivity, whom I have sent from Jerusalem to Babylon:"

This just repeats, again, that the captivity in Babylon was brought on by God.

Jeremiah 29:21 "Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, of Ahab the son of Kolaiah, and of Zedekiah the son of Maaseiah, which prophesy a lie unto you in my name; Behold, I will deliver them into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon; and he shall slay them before your eyes;"

It appears from this, that Ahab and Zedekiah were false prophets. They had become prophets of their own volition, and not because God had called them. They spoke as if God had sent them. Their message was a lie. Strangely enough Nebuchadnezzar will slay them.

Jeremiah 29:22 "And of them shall be taken up a curse by all the captivity of Judah which [are] in Babylon, saying, The LORD make thee like Zedekiah and like Ahab, whom the king of Babylon roasted in the fire;"

These false prophets were put into a fiery furnace and burned to death. The people started calling this a curse. The punishment for extremely sinful acts during this time was death by fire. We will read, in the book of Daniel, how the Babylonians put Shadrach, Meshack, and Abednego in a fiery furnace. The difference is, they belonged to God, and God did not let the fire burn them. The false prophets did not have God's help, and they burned.

Jeremiah 29:23 "Because they have committed villany in Israel, and have committed adultery with their neighbours' wives, and have spoken lying words

in my name, which I have not commanded them; even I know, and [am] a witness, saith the LORD."

They called themselves prophets, but they did not live the holy set-aside life required of a prophet. In fact, they committed physical and spiritual adultery. They were not only full of lies, but they lied and said God speaking through them. God is the witness against them. The villany they committed in Israel, was, probably, sexual in nature.

Jeremiah 29:24 "[Thus] shalt thou also speak to Shemaiah the Nehelamite, saying," Jeremiah 29:25 "Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, saying, Because thou hast sent letters in thy name unto all the people that [are] at Jerusalem, and to Zephaniah the son of Maaseiah the priest, and to all the priests, saying,"

Jeremiah had sent a letter to those in Babylon, speaking directly of terrible things about to occur. It appears, that Shemaiah, a false prophet, reacted by sending letters to Jerusalem and to the priests. The worst part of the letters, was that he used the LORD's name in them, as if the LORD had him send them.

Jeremiah 29:26 "The LORD hath made thee priest in the stead of Jehoiada the priest, that ye should be officers in the house of the LORD, for every man [that is] mad, and maketh himself a prophet, that thou shouldst put him in prison, and in the stocks."

This was an attempt to have Jeremiah locked up as a mad man. Shemaiah thought, if he flattered the priest, he would do as he asked. He says, "You have the authority, just lock Jeremiah up".

Jeremiah 29:27 "Now therefore why hast thou not reprov'd Jeremiah of Anathoth, which maketh himself a prophet to you?"

This is spoken to the priest that took the place of Jehoiada. He is accusing Jeremiah of being a self-appointed prophet.

Jeremiah 29:28 "For therefore he sent unto us [in] Babylon, saying, This [captivity is] long: build ye houses, and dwell [in them]; and plant gardens, and eat the fruit of them."

He accused Jeremiah of something God had put in Jeremiah's mouth. The accusation was truth, Jeremiah did say these things, or God did.

Jeremiah 29:29 "And Zephaniah the priest read this letter in the ears of Jeremiah the prophet."

Instead of Zephaniah locking Jeremiah up as a mad man, he read him the letter.

Jeremiah 29:30 "Then came the word of the LORD unto Jeremiah, saying,"

God quickly replies to these false accusations against Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 29:31 "Send to all them of the captivity, saying, Thus saith the LORD concerning Shemaiah the Nehelamite; Because that Shemaiah hath prophesied unto you, and I sent him not, and he caused you to trust in a

lie:" Jeremiah 29:32 "Therefore thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will punish Shemaiah the Nehelamite, and his seed: he shall not have a man to dwell among this people; neither shall he behold the good that I will do for my people, saith the LORD; because he hath taught rebellion against the LORD."

Just about the worst thing that could happen to a Hebrew, was not to have sons to carry on the family name. Of course, this was not the only punishment spoken against Shemaiah. He would not live to see the return to Jerusalem after the Babylonian captivity. Shemaiah was disclosed as a false prophet {God did not send him}. The reason for the punishment, was that he taught rebellion.

## Jeremiah 31 Questions

1. How did Jeremiah get his prophecy to Babylon?
2. Who did he send it to?
3. What does the word "residue" tell us?
4. Name some that were carried into captivity {in verse 2}.
5. Who were the two men who actually carried them captive to Babylon?
6. Who really caused them to be taken captive?
7. What did Jeremiah tell them to do {in verse 5}?
8. Why was it so important for them to marry and have a family?
9. Why should they pray for the peace of Babylon?
10. They were continued not to let your \_\_\_\_\_ and your \_\_\_\_\_ deceive you.
11. The false prophets pretended they were of God by saying what?
12. After \_\_\_ years, God will visit them and cause them to return?
13. What thoughts did God have toward them?
14. What does the mention of God having thoughts show us about Him?
15. What wonderful promise does God give them in verse 12?
16. Quote Jeremiah chapter 29 verse 13.
17. Quote Matthew chapter 7 verse 7.
18. Quote Hebrews chapter 10 verse 22.
19. What is verse 14 speaking of?
20. The covenant of Abraham is still theirs, if they \_\_\_\_\_ God.
21. Because they listened to false prophets, what will happen to them?
22. They had ears to hear, but did not \_\_\_\_\_.
23. Name two of the false prophets.
24. What happened to both of them?
25. What were some of their sins, besides prophesying falsely?
26. Who sent letters that were against Jeremiah?
27. What did he want them to do to Jeremiah?
28. What was he accusing Jeremiah of?
29. What reaction did Zephaniah have to the letter?
30. What happens to Shemaiah?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 30:1 "The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying," Jeremiah 30:2 "Thus speaketh the LORD God of Israel, saying, Write thee all the words that I have spoken unto thee in a book."

Each time there is a new word from the LORD to Jeremiah, it is for a specific purpose, and is not covering something he has already done. It seems that God wants Jeremiah to write down what He is about to give him. He wants a record kept of each word. This could cover all the prophecies that God has already given him, as well as the new things, because it says all the words I have spoken. Have spoken is past tense. They are to be gathered in a book for future reference. Most of this chapter, I believe, is speaking of things that have not even occurred yet. The need for a book was, because the generation these prophecies were for, had not even been born yet. He was not writing a historical book. It would be possible to put it in chronological, order only after all prophecies were fulfilled.

Jeremiah 30:3 "For, lo, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the LORD: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it."

This is speaking of a time when the 12 tribes of Israel will return to the promised land. The people will return in 70 years and rebuild. This is looking to a time far beyond this time, when God will bring His people back to His land. This is in the process of happening now in Israel. In 1948, Israel became a nation, and there has been a steady flow of the Israelites back to their promised land.

Jeremiah 30:4 "And these [are] the words that the LORD spake concerning Israel and concerning Judah."

We must remember that Judah represents the two tribes of Judah and Benjamin. Israel represents the rest of God's people.

Jeremiah 30:5 "For thus saith the LORD; We have heard a voice of trembling, of fear, and not of peace."

Truly, even unto this day, there has never been peace in Israel. The voice of trembling has to do with a great war.

Jeremiah 30:6 "Ask ye now, and see whether a man doth travail with child? wherefore do I see every man with his hands on his loins, as a woman in travail, and all faces are turned into paleness?"

The pain is so great to the men, that they are like women with labor pains. Fear is the cause, many times, of paleness. There is a great time of fear coming upon the earth, that we read about in the next Scripture. Luke 21:26 "Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken."

Jeremiah 30:7 "Alas! for that day [is] great, so that none [is] like it: it [is] even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it."

The "time of Jacob's trouble" is speaking of the great tribulation that comes upon the earth. Joel 2:11 "And the LORD shall utter his voice before his army: for his camp [is] very great: for [he is] strong that executeth his word: for the day of the LORD [is] great and very terrible; and who can abide it?" Jacob is mentioned, here, because he was the father of all 12 tribes of Israel. That great day is the day of God's judgment on all the earth. The troubles, we have been reading about in Babylon, were but a type and a shadow of this great trouble mentioned here. The believers are saved in the middle of the great tribulation. They are saved from God's wrath, not saved from tribulation. The following Scripture is vivid about God's family being saved out of tribulation. Revelation 7:14 "And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

Jeremiah 30:8 "For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, [that] I will break his yoke from off thy neck, and will burst thy bonds, and strangers shall no more serve themselves of him:"

The yoke, that has been on all mankind, was put there by Satan. Jesus broke that yoke for all believers, when He gave His body on the cross for the sins of the world. This is speaking of a time, when the yoke is broken for everyone, not just the believers, because it includes the word "strangers". This could be the 1000 years that Jesus has Satan bound, so that he cannot deceive the nations. Notice, the yoke is broken by God, not by man.

Jeremiah 30:9 "But they shall serve the LORD their God, and David their king, whom I will raise up unto them."

David, in this Scripture, is referring to the Lord Jesus Christ who will reign as King of kings and Lord of lords.

Jeremiah 30:10 "Therefore fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, saith the LORD; neither be dismayed, O Israel: for, lo, I will save thee from afar, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make [him] afraid."

Who is not to fear? God's servants. This speaks of a time of perfect peace for Israel. I believe this is speaking to both physical Israel and spiritual Israel {Christians}. Fear should not be in the vocabulary of believers, except to fear God. Fear is the opposite of faith. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. Moses had been spoken of as the deliverer of the physical house of Jacob, when he led them out of Egypt to the promised land. He was a type and a shadow of the great Deliverer, the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the King of Peace. When He comes, He brings perfect peace.

Jeremiah 30:11 "For I [am] with thee, saith the LORD, to save thee: though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee: but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished."

Every man must give an account to God. God has always kept a remnant of physical Israel. He has never made a full end of them. God realizes the weakness of man, and that is why He gave them a better covenant of grace through Jesus Christ our Lord. The Saviour of all mankind is Jesus. I Timothy 4:10 "For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe."

Jeremiah 30:12 "For thus saith the LORD, Thy bruise [is] incurable, [and] thy wound [is] grievous." Jeremiah 30:13 "[There is] none to plead thy cause, that thou mayest be bound up: thou hast no healing medicines."

Mankind can not save itself. Their sickness, and ours, is sin. The end result of sin is death. The only cure is Jesus, if we will accept Him. He abolished our sin. He took our sin upon His body on the cross, and sin for the believer in Jesus, died on the cross.

Jeremiah 30:14 "All thy lovers have forgotten thee; they seek thee not; for I have wounded thee with the wound of an enemy, with the chastisement of a cruel one, for the multitude of thine iniquity; [because] thy sins were increased."

Sin is like a cancer that spreads. The lover, here, is speaking of all those who sinned with them. God sends chastisement on His children to cause them to repent. Every time God pours out His wrath, the next statement is, "And they repented not". You see, God wants everyone to be saved. He seems cruel sometimes, to cause us to be saved. He showed the greatest love that ever was, when He gave His Son on the cross to pay for our sins.

Jeremiah 30:15 "Why criest thou for thine affliction? thy sorrow [is] incurable for the multitude of thine iniquity: [because] thy sins were increased, I have done these things unto thee."

This appears that they wanted the affliction to go away, without repenting of their sins. The purpose of the afflictions, was to bring them to repentance.

Jeremiah 30:16 "Therefore all they that devour thee shall be devoured; and all thine adversaries, every one of them, shall go into captivity; and they that spoil thee shall be a spoil, and all that prey upon thee will I give for a prey."

Romans 12:19 "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but [rather] give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance [is] mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."

Jeremiah 30:17 "For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the LORD; because they called thee an Outcast, [saying], This [is] Zion, whom no man seeketh after."

Not only does God heal His people, but He keeps them in divine health. Israel has always been thought of as an Outcast. The church of the Lord Jesus Christ {Zion} is thought of as an Outcast, as well. The world does not understand salvation. Anything they do not understand, they declare an Outcast. I Corinthians 2:14 "But the natural man receiveth not the things of

the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know [them], because they are spiritually discerned."

Jeremiah 30:18 "Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will bring again the captivity of Jacob's tents, and have mercy on his dwelling places; and the city shall be builded upon her own heap, and the palace shall remain after the manner thereof."

God is restoring. This is speaking of the rebuilding of Jerusalem, and the rebuilding of the temple. It is, also, speaking of a people being rebuilt. Redemption from sin clears the conscience and brings real inner peace to the forgiven one. Only Jesus Christ brings this.

Jeremiah 30:19 "And out of them shall proceed thanksgiving and the voice of them that make merry: and I will multiply them, and they shall not be few; I will also glorify them, and they shall not be small."

Jesus began with Himself and a handful of apostles. Today, the church has grown to a multitude beyond numbering. We, also, know that those in captivity in Babylon were told to multiply, so this, possibly, has two meanings. Mankind cannot glorify itself. God must glorify it.

Jeremiah 30:20 "Their children also shall be as aforetime, and their congregation shall be established before me, and I will punish all that oppress them."

The children of Israel shall be restored to their greatness. We remember the children of Israel are two-fold. This is speaking of the physical and the spiritual house of Israel. The congregation is like the church. Both are speaking of God's people on the earth. God is their very present help in trouble. He builds a hedge of protection around them. The oppressor is Satan and all who follow him. God will take care of their punishment.

Jeremiah 30:21 "And their nobles shall be of themselves, and their governor shall proceed from the midst of them; and I will cause him to draw near, and he shall approach unto me: for who [is] this that engaged his heart to approach unto me? saith the LORD."

Again, we see two messages, here. One is the ruler who comes from their people, and rules them after their bondage in Babylon. The other is speaking of the Lord Jesus Christ, who was born of a woman of the stock of Judah. He came from the people to reign. He was King of the Jews. He was God in the flesh of man. Jesus opened the way to the Father for all of mankind. At the crucifixion of Jesus, the temple veil was torn from the top to the bottom, making the way open into the holy of holies for all who believe.

Jeremiah 30:22 And ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

We must choose to be His people, and He will be our God.

Jeremiah 30:23 "Behold, the whirlwind of the LORD goeth forth with fury, a continuing whirlwind: it shall fall with pain upon the head of the wicked."

This is speaking of the wrath of God on all the unbelievers.

Jeremiah 30:24 "The fierce anger of the LORD shall not return, until he have done [it], and until he have performed the intents of his heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it."

Now, we see the time this whole thing was to be set. It was in the latter days. The latter days, in my opinion, is speaking of the time of the end. This is speaking of the time that we read of in Revelation, when God pours out His wrath on those unbelievers, and removes His children from the earth for safety.

## Jeremiah 32 Questions

1. What was different about what God told Jeremiah to do with this prophecy He had given him?
2. Why did God tell Jeremiah to do this?
3. Jeremiah was not writing a \_\_\_\_\_ book.
4. When would it be possible to put it in chronological order?
5. Verse 3 is speaking of what day?
6. When did Israel become a nation?
7. Who does Judah represent?
8. Who does Israel represent?
9. What does the "voice of trembling" have to do with?
10. Quote Luke chapter 21 verse 26.
11. What time is spoken of as "time of Jacob's trouble"?
12. Quote Joel chapter 2 verse 11.
13. What were the troubles we have been reading about of Babylon?
14. Quote Revelation chapter 7 verse 14.
15. Who put the yoke on all mankind?
16. When was the yoke broken for believers?
17. When will it be broken for everyone?
18. Who is being referred to as David in verse 9?
19. Who is not to fear?
20. Fear is the opposite of \_\_\_\_\_.
21. Who is the great Deliverer?
22. Quote 1 Timothy chapter 4 verse 10.
23. What is the sickness verse 12 is speaking of?
24. Who is the only cure for this sickness?
25. What is the greatest act of love ever shown?
26. Quote Romans chapter 12 verse 19.
27. Who has always been thought of as an Outcast?
28. Quote 1 Corinthians chapter 2 verse 14.
29. Who is verse 21 speaking of?
30. Quote Jeremiah chapter 30 verse 22.
31. What time is verse 34 speaking of?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 31:1 "At the same time, saith the LORD, will I be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people."

We know that this is speaking of all the 12 tribes of Israel, but as I have said before, Israel includes all the believers in Christ, as well. Look, with me, in the following Scripture who becomes sons of God. John 1:12 "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, [even] to them that believe on his name:" This is a fact that all who will be His people, are His family. He will be their God. Another way of saying this is, whosoever will. There are a number of things that are required for Him to be our God. The first thing is to believe. The next thing we must do, is turn our will over to His will. We must be obedient to our God.

Jeremiah 31:2 "Thus saith the LORD, The people [which were] left of the sword found grace in the wilderness; [even] Israel, when I went to cause him to rest."

During the Babylonian attack, many were left that were not killed by the sword. They were able to live in the wilderness, because of the grace of God. It really does not matter whether the wilderness, here, is speaking of the wilderness wanderings of Exodus from Egypt, or whether this is speaking of the exiles who escaped capture by Babylon. In both cases, God took care of His people in the wilderness. This is, probably, speaking of the 10 tribes of Israel, as well as the two tribes of Judah. We, Christians, are in our own wilderness, headed for our own promised land. God's grace is sufficient to see us through. God has prepared a place of rest for us. The hardships now are nothing compared to the wonderful rest we will have with Him.

Jeremiah 31:3 "The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, [saying], Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee."

God's love is the agape type of love. You and I love, because of something. God loves in spite of the fact we do not deserve to be loved. While we were yet in sin, God sent the Saviour. God's love is unconditional love. God's love for mankind is a mystery. His love is just as strong for us today, as it was the day He created us. God draws us to Him. The Holy Spirit woos us, or draws us, because God wants to save us. This is what Jesus says about that drawing. John 6:44 "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day."

Jeremiah 31:4 "Again I will build thee, and thou shalt be built, O virgin of Israel: thou shalt again be adorned with thy tabrets, and shalt go forth in the dances of them that make merry."

The physical house of Israel had been the wife of God. The virgin is speaking of the chaste virgin that Jesus is coming back for. The virgin is spiritual Israel, who worships God and does not worship false gods. II Corinthians 11:2 "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present [you as] a chaste virgin to

Christ." We become new creatures in Christ. It would be possible to be a spiritual virgin then. In other words, God starts all over with them and us again. He has forgiven them, and started all over with them. They will be happy and dance in victory, because they are forgiven and given new lives.

Jeremiah 31:5 "Thou shalt yet plant vines upon the mountains of Samaria: the planters shall plant, and shall eat [them] as common things."

Samaria was the northern kingdom. God is just saying, He will make this a fruitful area, where they will be able to plant, and God will grow for them to eat.

Jeremiah 31:6 "For there shall be a day, [that] the watchmen upon the mount Ephraim shall cry, Arise ye, and let us go up to Zion unto the LORD our God."

The 10 tribes had broken away from the two tribes, and they had not worshipped together after that. This is speaking of a time when Ephraim will come back to God. Whether this is speaking of the temple, and they are to go up at festival times; or whether they come to Christ and His church {ZION} is uncertain. Whichever this is, they recognize the LORD as their God. Sometimes "Ephraim" symbolizes the Gentile believers. John 11:54 "Jesus therefore walked no more openly among the Jews; but went thence unto a country near to the wilderness, into a city called Ephraim, and there continued with his disciples."

Jeremiah 31:7 "For thus saith the LORD; Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations: publish ye, praise ye, and say, O LORD, save thy people, the remnant of Israel."

This remnant of Israel is spoken of many times in the Bible. These are those who have not bowed their knee to Baal. These are those who have not committed spiritual adultery. Those who sing with gladness are all who love Him, both Jew and Gentile. This is like saying, hurry and send our Saviour {Jesus}. Matthew 1:21 "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." Matthew 18:11 "For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost." Israel was chosen of God as His favorite nation.

Jeremiah 31:8 "Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth, [and] with them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her that travaileth with child together: a great company shall return thither."

The north country, here, is probably speaking of Babylon, but the coasts of the earth speaks of many nations around the world. This just explains that all of God's people shall return, from the weakest to the strongest.

Jeremiah 31:9 "They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them: I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble: for I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim [is] my firstborn."

"Weeping" speaks of repentance. "Supplications" in this particular place, means prayers or petitions. The "straight way" is the straight and

narrow path of righteousness. The "rivers of water" speak of the Spirit of God. They will walk in the Spirit. The Light of the Lord Jesus Christ will light their way, so they will not stumble. When Ephraim and Manasseh were brought before their grandfather for their patriarchal blessing, Ephraim received the spiritual blessing of the right hand. The right hand blessing was generally given to the first born. This was not a mistake, but a deliberate act. Jacob was spoken of as Israel, when he blessed the boys. I believe this was speaking of the spiritual blessing of all the believers in Christ who receive the right hand blessing. Jacob made the sign of the cross, when he crossed his hands to bless the boys. "Ephraim" means double fruit. I believe, some how, Ephraim symbolized all believers, Jew and Gentile. Israel speaks of the natural Jew as physical Israel, and spiritual Israel as all believers in Christ.

Jeremiah 31:10 "Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare [it] in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd [doth] his flock."

God scattered them, because of their unfaithfulness to Him. He will bring them back, because they have repented of their sins, and called out to Him again. This has to be speaking of the gathering that is going on now, because the Jews were not scattered too far off on islands in the time of Jeremiah. God's grace and mercy causes Him to seek the sheep of His flock.

Jeremiah 31:11 "For the LORD hath redeemed Jacob, and ransomed him from the hand of [him that was] stronger than he."

Jesus is the Redeemer of all mankind. He ransomed {purchased} us with His shed blood. Jesus defeated Satan on the cross. Satan may have been stronger than we are, but he was not nearly as powerful as God. He is a defeated foe.

Jeremiah 31:12 "Therefore they shall come and sing in the height of Zion, and shall flow together to the goodness of the LORD, for wheat, and for wine, and for oil, and for the young of the flock and of the herd: and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all."

This sounds so much like the following Scripture. Revelation 21:4 "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Home is very much like heaven. These exiles have made it home. Not only home physically, but they are back in their holy place, as well. Wheat symbolizes the believers. The "oil" symbolizes the Holy Spirit. There is a river that flows from deep within man. This is the water of the Spirit, which washes the soul.

Jeremiah 31:13 "Then shall the virgin rejoice in the dance, both young men and old together: for I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow."

This speaks of a time of great joy, because they have been redeemed. This is old and young, male, and female all rejoicing together. They are dancing in joy of their homecoming.

Jeremiah 31:14 "And I will satiate the soul of the priests with fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, saith the LORD."

The word "satisfy" means bathe, make drunk, fill, satisfy, water, or soak. This just means that the priest's soul will be filled. The people will not go looking for other gods, they will be satisfied with the LORD.

Jeremiah 31:15 "Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, [and] bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they [were] not."

This is speaking of the time when Herod would kill all of the children under two years old, trying to kill Jesus. Matthew 2:16 "Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Beth-lehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men." Matthew 2:17 "Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying," Matthew 2:18 "In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping [for] her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not." Verse 17 of Matthew chapter 2 leaves no doubt at all that this is the same thing.

Jeremiah 31:16 "Thus saith the LORD; Refrain thy voice from weeping, and thine eyes from tears: for thy work shall be rewarded, saith the LORD; and they shall come again from the land of the enemy."

This is another Scripture that declares the fact that babies that die, live again in the resurrection. The land of the enemy would be death, in this instance. These babies live eternally in heaven with God. Rachel's reward is the assurance of her children's eternal life.

Jeremiah 31:17 "And there is hope in thine end, saith the LORD, that thy children shall come again to their own border."

The hope of all who believe is of the resurrection.

Jeremiah 31:18 "I have surely heard Ephraim bemoaning himself [thus]; Thou hast chastised me, and I was chastised, as a bullock unaccustomed [to the yoke]: turn thou me, and I shall be turned; for thou [art] the LORD my God."

The beautiful message in this, is the helplessness of man to change himself. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. God provides a way in Jesus Christ for all to be saved. Since we cannot save ourselves, God did it for us in the person of Jesus.

Jeremiah 31:19 "Surely after that I was turned, I repented; and after that I was instructed, I smote upon [my] thigh: I was ashamed, yea, even confounded, because I did bear the reproach of my youth."

After God stopped him and turned him around, he repented. His sins were a bad memory to him. The beautiful part of salvation is that God puts our sins in the sea of forgetfulness. Our sins are abolished, when washed in the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ.

Jeremiah 31:20 "[Is] Ephraim my dear son? [is he] a pleasant child? for since I spake against him, I do earnestly remember him still: therefore my bowels are troubled for him; I will surely have mercy upon him, saith the LORD."

Ephraim, in this, represents all who have been shown the mercy of God and saved. The very reason that Jesus gave His body on the cross for the sins of the world, was because He loved us. He loved us so much, that He provided a way for all to be saved, and forgiven.

## Jeremiah 33 Questions

1. Quote verse 1.
2. Who is Israel speaking of in verse 1?
3. Quote John chapter 1 verse 12.
4. What are some of the things required for Him to be our God?
5. The people who were left found grace in the \_\_\_\_\_.
6. We Christians are in our own wilderness, headed \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
7. What type of love is God's love?
8. What is meant by that?
9. Quote John chapter 6 verse 44.
10. Who is the virgin in verse 4?
11. Quote 2 Corinthians chapter 11 verse 2.
12. Samaria was the \_\_\_\_\_ kingdom.
13. What will the watchman upon mount Ephraim cry?
14. Who does "Ephraim" sometimes symbolize?
15. Quote John chapter 11 verse 54.
16. What is special about the remnant of Israel?
17. Quote Matthew chapter 1 verse 21.
18. The Son of man is come to save that which was \_\_\_\_\_.
19. What is verse 8 showing us?
20. What does "weeping" speak of?
21. "Supplication", in verse 9, means what?
22. What are the "rivers of water" speaking of?
23. What keeps Christians from stumbling?
24. What type of blessing is the right hand blessing?
25. What does "Ephraim" mean?
26. What will the gathering of God's people be like?
27. Who is the Redeemer of all mankind?
28. He ransomed us with His \_\_\_\_\_.
29. Quote Revelation chapter 21 verse 4.
30. What does the "oil" symbolize?
31. What kind of time is verse 13 speaking of?
32. What does the word "satisfy" mean?
33. What time is verse 15 speaking of?
34. How do we know for sure that the Scriptures in Matthew and verse  
15 are speaking of the same thing?
35. What is the hope of all believers?
36. What is the beautiful message in verse 18?
37. What is so beautiful about salvation?
38. Who does Ephraim represent in verse 20?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 31:21 Set thee up waymarks, make thee high heaps: set thine heart toward the highway, [even] the way [which] thou wentest: turn again, O virgin of Israel, turn again to these thy cities.

The "waymarks" are markers to show the way. They are to be set up on high heaps, so that they will not be missed. The "highway" is speaking of that narrow way that we must walk. The wife of God is physical Israel, as we learned in a previous lesson. The virgin is speaking of all believers in Christ {Jew and Gentile} who make up the church. The fact that they are virgins means they have not worshipped other gods. This is saying, return home to the true church.

Jeremiah 31:22 "How long wilt thou go about, O thou backsliding daughter? for the LORD hath created a new thing in the earth, A woman shall compass a man."

Going about is straying from that path of verse 21. To be backslidden, one must have been saved. This just means those who are weakening in their faith. The natural thing in the earth, is for the woman to be weaker than the man. The man is protective of the woman. It seems this new thing God created is a power of the woman over the man. This power is in the spiritual realm. We see in this, that the man in verse 22 is symbolic of Babylon {the world}. The woman is symbolic of the church. This is saying, the church of the Lord Jesus Christ will overcome the world. Even though the church seems weaker {woman}, the church will overcome the man {world}. Remember, God created this situation.

Jeremiah 31:23 "Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; As yet they shall use this speech in the land of Judah and in the cities thereof, when I shall bring again their captivity; The LORD bless thee, O habitation of justice, [and] mountain of holiness."

"Speech" in the Scripture above, is speaking of the spoken Word of God. Jerusalem has been the habitation of justice in the literal sense. In the spiritual sense, the believers are the habitation of justice. Jesus is Justice. Christ in us the hope of glory, means that the justice of Christ dwells within every Christian. The mountain of His holiness, in the physical, is speaking of mount Zion in Jerusalem. The mountain of His holiness, in the spiritual, is wherever His followers are. The tabernacle of God is with men. It is not only with men, but in men, as well. Possibly, the mountain of holiness for the believers, is the house of worship where we go to fellowship with God.

Jeremiah 31:24 "And there shall dwell in Judah itself, and in all the cities thereof together, husbandmen, and they [that] go forth with flocks."

In the physical realm, this is speaking of the shepherds {nomads} moving around tending their herds of sheep. Husbandmen were those who cared for the vineyard. In both instances, the spiritual meaning of the vineyard and the sheep shows the Christians, and their great relationship with God.

Jeremiah 31:25 "For I have satiated the weary soul, and I have replenished every sorrowful soul."

"Satiated", in this verse, means watered abundantly. The water is the Spirit of God. They have the Spirit abundantly watering the weary soul. Sorrow will be no more. God will wipe away all tears and sorrow.

Jeremiah 31:26 "Upon this I awaked, and beheld; and my sleep was sweet unto me."

God had been speaking to Jeremiah in a dream. This was not a nightmare, but a pleasant dream. This kind of dream from the Lord leaves us refreshed.

Jeremiah 31:27 "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of man, and with the seed of beast."

This is an entirely new message from God, here. It is not the same as the dream that ended in verse 26. Sowing indicates broadcasting of seed for a big crop. This just means they will be multiplied greatly, and their animals will be very productive, as well.

Jeremiah 31:28 "And it shall come to pass, [that] like as I have watched over them, to pluck up, and to break down, and to throw down, and to destroy, and to afflict; so will I watch over them, to build, and to plant, saith the LORD."

The LORD is the Watchman who sees all that goes on. He deals with each thing in its proper time. It was God who sent the destruction as a chastisement on His people for their unfaithfulness. In fact, He saw that each detail of the punishment was carried out properly. Now that He has forgiven them and brought them back into the land, He will be just as careful to see that each of the blessings are proper, also. God is like a father who is interested in the welfare of his children.

Jeremiah 31:29 "In those days they shall say no more, The fathers have eaten a sour grape, and the children's teeth are set on edge."

In the past, sins had been carried down from generation to generation. Sometimes a child suffered for the wrong a parent had done. Read Exodus chapter 20 verse 5. This will not be true from now on. Each person will be responsible for his own sin.

Jeremiah 31:30 "But every one shall die for his own iniquity: every man that eateth the sour grape, his teeth shall be set on edge."

One of the best examples of this in the Bible is in Ananias and Sapphira. He lied to the Holy Ghost, and was killed for it. Later His wife comes in, not knowing of her husband's death. She lies to the Holy Ghost, and is killed for her lie, not because of his lie. Jesus set us free. Each will stand before the Judge of all the world. We will stand there, one at a time, and give an account. We will be judged by our own actions, not by our parent's actions.

Jeremiah 31:31 "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:"

This is the covenant of grace. Salvation will come through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, not by works. Galatians 2:16 "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified." The old covenant made with Abraham was an everlasting covenant based on faith in God. The law was given to Moses for the people, because of their sins.

Jeremiah 31:32 "Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day [that] I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:"

Verse 32 is speaking of the law that was given to Moses, for the people, at Mount Sinai. One big difference is the law of the old covenant was written on tables of stone. The new covenant is written on the hearts of the believers. The first covenant was based on man's obligation to God. The second covenant was based on the unmerited favor God showed to man. God did it for us. We just accept His great gift to us. God was a husband to them, in the sense of His protection. He fed them miraculously. He guarded them. He opened the way for them at the Red Sea. He was everything a good husband should be. Mankind failed God, in that he did not obey God. Man broke the covenant, not God.

Jeremiah 31:33 "But this [shall be] the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people." Jeremiah 31:34 "And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

The new covenant is one of the heart. God's love poured out into man. Christianity is of the heart. Christianity is not a keeping of the law, but of loving the Lawgiver. Hebrews says it best. Hebrews 8:10 "For this [is] the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:" Hebrews 8:11 "And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest." Hebrews 8:12 "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more." None of us want the justice of the law, when we can have the mercy of the covenant of grace.

Jeremiah 31:35 "Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, [and] the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts [is] his name:"

God spoke the Word, and they were created. Each thing God created was for a purpose. The sun shone light on the earth in the day. The moon was signs to Israel. Each full moon was a new month. The moon controls the tides

of the sea. The LORD of hosts and the Word of God are the same. They are both Creator God.

Jeremiah 31:36 "If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, [then] the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever."

As long as the sun and the moon exists, Israel will be a nation in the sight of God. We will get into the two sticks which make up Israel in our study on Ezekiel. For now I will just say, that physical and spiritual Israel make up this nation {family} of God.

Jeremiah 31:37 "Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD."

This is speaking of the absurdity of thinking that God would do away with Israel. The important word in this is "all". He does destroy many of them, because of their sins, but always keeps a remnant.

Jeremiah 31:38 "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the city shall be built to the LORD from the tower of Hananeel unto the gate of the corner." Jeremiah 31:39 "And the measuring line shall yet go forth over against it upon the hill Gareb, and shall compass about to Goath." Jeremiah 31:40 "And the whole valley of the dead bodies, and of the ashes, and all the fields unto the brook of Kidron, unto the corner of the horse gate toward the east, [shall be] holy unto the LORD; it shall not be plucked up, nor thrown down any more for ever."

This just has to be the New Jerusalem. This will be a city of truth and righteousness. Jesus will be the Supreme Ruler, or King. There will be no more ruin, or death, or sorrow. Jerusalem had been destroyed many times, but this says it will never be destroyed again. This is that permanent holy city. The area marked off is for the temple of God. Look, with me, at that true temple. Revelation 21:22 "And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it."

## Jeremiah 34 Questions

1. What are the "waymarks" in verse 21?
2. Why were they placed on high heaps?
3. Who is the virgin speaking of?
4. What is meant by them being virgins?
5. Quote Jeremiah chapter 31 verse 22.
6. To be backslidden, one must have been \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The power of the woman over the man, in verse 22, is in the \_\_\_\_\_ realm.
8. Who is the man symbolic of?
9. Who is the woman symbolic of?
10. What is this saying, then?
11. "Speech", in verse 23, is speaking of what?
12. The justice of Christ dwells within every \_\_\_\_\_.
13. Where is the mountain of His holiness, in a spiritual sense?
14. Who do the husbandmen symbolize?
15. "Satiated", in verse 25, means what?
16. Verse 26 tells us God had been speaking to Jeremiah in a \_\_\_\_\_.
17. What is verse 27 saying about the house of Israel?
18. What does Exodus chapter 20 verse 5 say about sin?
19. What does the author think to be one of the best examples of each being responsible for his own sin?
20. What is the new covenant?
21. Quote Galatians chapter 2 verse 16.
22. What was the covenant made with Abraham based upon?
23. What covenant is verse 32 speaking of?
24. What was the first covenant based upon?
25. How does the new covenant differ from that?
26. \_\_\_\_\_ broke the first covenant, not \_\_\_\_\_.
27. Quote Jeremiah chapter 31 verses 33 and 34.
28. Christianity is not a keeping of the law, but what?
29. Where does the author believe the best Scripture is about the new covenant?
30. Who is the same as the LORD of hosts?
31. How long will there be an Israel?
32. What is the important word in verse 37?
33. What are verse 38, 39, and 40 describing?

We will begin this in Jeremiah 32:1 "The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the tenth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, which [was] the eighteenth year of Nebuchadrezzar."

Zedekiah would rule 11 years, so this is very near the end of his reign. It appears, this was shortly after Jerusalem was attacked.

Jeremiah 32:2 "For then the king of Babylon's army besieged Jerusalem: and Jeremiah the prophet was shut up in the court of the prison, which [was] in the king of Judah's house."

Jeremiah had received permission from God to stay in Judah and see its destruction. He was protected by God, and no harm came to him. The court of the prison was probably the safest place to be. It was next to the king's palace.

Jeremiah 32:3 "For Zedekiah king of Judah had shut him up, saying, Wherefore dost thou prophesy, and say, Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall take it;"

We see from this, that Zedekiah did not appreciate the prophecies of Jeremiah. Jeremiah had spoken of the destruction of Judah and Jerusalem, and Zedekiah did not like it. He would rather believe the false prophecy of immediate restoration. You remember, in a previous lesson, that Zedekiah {the false prophet} was roasted in the fire by Nebuchadnezzar. The Zedekiah mentioned here, is king of Judah.

Jeremiah 32:4 "And Zedekiah king of Judah shall not escape out of the hand of the Chaldeans, but shall surely be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon, and shall speak with him mouth to mouth, and his eyes shall behold his eyes;"

This was the part of Jeremiah's prophecy that Zedekiah liked the least. He felt he was too great to fall into the hands of the Babylonians. The king of Babylon, of course, is Nebuchadnezzar. It is not a subordinate that speaks judgment on Zedekiah. It is Nebuchadnezzar, himself.

Jeremiah 32:5 "And he shall lead Zedekiah to Babylon, and there shall he be until I visit him, saith the LORD: though ye fight with the Chaldeans, ye shall not prosper."

Zedekiah will not even die in his own land. II Kings 25:7 "And they slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him with fetters of brass, and carried him to Babylon." We can see from this, that it was a mistake to fight against the judgment of God. It is of no benefit to fight against God's judgment. "Until I visit him" means the time of his death.

Jeremiah 32:6 "And Jeremiah said, The word of the LORD came unto me, saying,"

This is a break from the message before.

Jeremiah 32:7 "Behold, Hanameel the son of Shallum thine uncle shall come unto thee, saying, Buy thee my field that [is] in Anathoth: for the right of redemption [is] thine to buy [it]."

This is the LORD Speaking to Jeremiah. It is Jeremiah's uncle's son who will come to him. Jeremiah's dad was priest in Anathoth. The right of redemption was Jeremiah's, because this land had belonged to his family. We could look at this as being very foolish in the natural thoughts of man, but this is God telling Jeremiah to redeem the land. Faith is believing in things that are not necessarily the practical thing to do at the time. It is putting trust in God, and doing exactly what God wants.

Jeremiah 32:8 "So Hanameel mine uncle's son came to me in the court of the prison according to the word of the LORD, and said unto me, Buy my field, I pray thee, that [is] in Anathoth, which [is] in the country of Benjamin: for the right of inheritance [is] thine, and the redemption [is] thine; buy [it] for thyself. Then I knew that this [was] the word of the LORD."

In verse 7, God told Jeremiah that Hanameel would come. In verse 8, we see that what God says is true. Jeremiah was probably like some of us. He heard the voice of God, and then questioned whether it was God. Now, he knows the voice was from God, because the very thing he heard, has now happened.

Jeremiah 32:9 "And I bought the field of Hanameel my uncle's son, that [was] in Anathoth, and weighed him the money, [even] seventeen shekels of silver."

To those Jeremiah had been prophesying to, it probably seemed that Jeremiah was going against his prediction of the long captivity by Babylon. The truth of the matter is, that Jeremiah, also, believed his prophecy that God would restore this land to His people. "Silver" symbolically means redemption. It is always silver that is used to redeem. It is very interesting to me, that a man in prison would have the money to buy the land. Many people claim to have faith, but this is sincerity of faith. Jeremiah has put his faith into action.

Jeremiah 32:10 "And I subscribed the evidence, and sealed [it], and took witnesses, and weighed [him] the money in the balances."

There seemed to be some type of legal document that was signed before witnesses to seal the contract. This was, perhaps, similar to a deed in our day.

Jeremiah 32:11 "So I took the evidence of the purchase, [both] that which was sealed [according] to the law and custom, and that which was open:"

The Jewish law was very strict about the transfer of land. God had allotted each family a portion of land, and they must keep it in the family. The custom of the Jews was to sell to a near kinsman. It was lawful, as well, because they had signed the papers for the transfer.

Jeremiah 32:12 "And I gave the evidence of the purchase unto Baruch the son of Neriah, the son of Maaseiah, in the sight of Hanameel mine uncle's

[son], and in the presence of the witnesses that subscribed the book of the purchase, before all the Jews that sat in the court of the prison."

The Jews were very good record keepers. This was recorded in front of all these witnesses. The deed was given to Baruch for safe keeping. The book of the purchase was very similar to a record we would have at the court house.

Jeremiah 32:13 "And I charged Baruch before them, saying," Jeremiah 32:14 "Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Take these evidences, this evidence of the purchase, both which is sealed, and this evidence which is open; and put them in an earthen vessel, that they may continue many days."

In all of the problems from the siege, it would have been easy for the record to have been destroyed. Jeremiah had Baruch to put them in an earthen vessel to be kept from harm. The earthen vessel would protect them from the elements for a very long time.

Jeremiah 32:15 "For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Houses and fields and vineyards shall be possessed again in this land."

This purchase of the land on faith put strength into the prophecy that houses, fields, and vineyards will be possessed in this land. Notice, Jeremiah does not say when this will happen, just that it will happen. He explains that God told him this, and he knows all that God says is true. He not only says he believes, but proves his belief with this purchase.

Jeremiah 32:16 "Now when I had delivered the evidence of the purchase unto Baruch the son of Neriah, I prayed unto the LORD, saying,"

Many times, after we have acted on God's Word, we pray for reassurance from God that we have acted properly. This prayer is just that, asking for reassurance from God.

Jeremiah 32:17 "Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, [and] there is nothing too hard for thee:"

Every believer should take this very thing into consideration. If God can make the world and everything in it, why should we doubt for miracles? This prayer of Jeremiah's is for God to help his unbelief. The man that brought his son to Jesus said, "I believe, help thou mine unbelief". This is what Jeremiah is saying here. He believes, but he is human. He needs encouragement. He is stopping and reviewing the fact that God is capable of doing all things. The stretched out arm is spoken of when God is dealing with mankind.

Jeremiah 32:18 "Thou shewest lovingkindness unto thousands, and recompensest the iniquity of the fathers into the bosom of their children after them: the Great, the Mighty God, the LORD of hosts, [is] his name,"

In a sense, this prayer of Jeremiah's, is a praise of God. Actually, Jeremiah is not asking God for anything, he is communing with God on a level above the understanding of common man. Jeremiah realizes that, even though God is a God of great love, He is, also, a God of perfect justice. Jeremiah

was expressing the absolute greatness of God above any common man, when He says, "Great, Mighty God, LORD of hosts."

Jeremiah 32:19 "Great in counsel, and mighty in work: for thine eyes [are] open upon all the ways of the sons of men: to give every one according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings:"

The answer to every problem of life is in the counsel of God. The Bible is like a road map that leads us through the path of life. There is nothing hidden from God. He not only sees our actions, but looks into the heart of man, to see the intentions of the heart. Mankind may look upon us and get an outside view of what we are, but God knows the heart of man. There is nothing hidden from God. God's judgment is made on man's heart condition. He will reward, or punish, not according to appearance, but according to what really is.

Jeremiah 32:20 "Which hast set signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, [even] unto this day, and in Israel, and among [other] men; and hast made thee a name, as at this day;"

We know that the 10 plagues that came on Egypt discredited the Egyptian false gods, and left even the evil men surrounding Pharaoh saying, that Moses' God was God. We know from the 18th chapter of first Kings, that Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal to prove who God really is. After God showed without a doubt that He was God, and no other god lives, the people cried out to God, as in the next Scripture. I Kings 18:39 "And when all the people saw [it], they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he [is] the God; the LORD, he [is] the God." These are just a few, but God showed over and over that He was the only God. He parted the Red Sea for them to cross. He fed them 40 years in the wilderness with Mannah from heaven. There were so many signs and wonders, the people came to expect signs.

Jeremiah 32:21 "And hast brought forth thy people Israel out of the land of Egypt with signs, and with wonders, and with a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with great terror;"

The one last sign from God that got them released from Egypt, was the death of the firstborn of all of Egypt, when the firstborn of the Hebrews were not killed. Pharaoh, not only released them, but drove them out. Moses struck the Rock in the wilderness, and water flowed to give approximately 3 million people water to drink. Even the countries, they passed near on their way to their promised land were very frightened of the God of the Israelites. Joshua 5:1 "And it came to pass, when all the kings of the Amorites, which [were] on the side of Jordan westward, and all the kings of the Canaanites, which [were] by the sea, heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of Jordan from before the children of Israel, until we were passed over, that their heart melted, neither was there spirit in them any more, because of the children of Israel." They were not afraid of Israel. They were afraid of Israel's God.

Jeremiah 32:22 "And hast given them this land, which thou didst swear to their fathers to give them, a land flowing with milk and honey;"

The promise had been made to Abraham, but was fulfilled when the children of Israel came from Egypt and took possession. It was a fruitful

land, just as God had promised. One cluster of grapes was so large one man could not carry it.

Jeremiah 32:23 "And they came in, and possessed it; but they obeyed not thy voice, neither walked in thy law; they have done nothing of all that thou commandedst them to do: therefore thou hast caused all this evil to come upon them:"

Jeremiah has been reviewing all the great miracles God had done for them. He suddenly realizes all the terrible things happening to them now, is because they were unfaithful to God. God promised to bless His people, if they obeyed Him, and walked uprightly before Him. If they did not obey Him, and walked in evil ways, He would bring curses upon them. They brought the trouble on themselves.

Jeremiah 32:24 "Behold the mounts, they are come unto the city to take it; and the city is given into the hand of the Chaldeans, that fight against it, because of the sword, and of the famine, and of the pestilence: and what thou hast spoken is come to pass; and, behold, thou seest [it]."

Jeremiah is recognizing the fact that God had warned them of what would happen, unless they repented and returned to God. They did not, and God has brought the pestilence, sword, and famine, just as He said He would. The Chaldeans have overrun them, and taken them.

Jeremiah 32:25 "And thou hast said unto me, O Lord GOD, Buy thee the field for money, and take witnesses; for the city is given into the hand of the Chaldeans."

Jeremiah has given close attention to the greatness of God, now it is as if he is saying, "Why did you tell me to buy the land"? He is saying, "What can I do with this land while the Chaldeans are in control of everything"?

Jeremiah 32:26 "Then came the word of the LORD unto Jeremiah, saying,"  
Jeremiah 32:27 "Behold, I [am] the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?"

God quickly reminds Jeremiah that He is God of all flesh. He controls even the Chaldeans.

Jeremiah 32:28 "Therefore thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the Chaldeans, and into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, and he shall take it:"

God has a purpose in giving this land over to the Chaldeans and into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. They do not really realize it, but God is in control of them, too.

Jeremiah 32:29 "And the Chaldeans, that fight against this city, shall come and set fire on this city, and burn it with the houses, upon whose roofs they have offered incense unto Baal, and poured out drink offerings unto other gods, to provoke me to anger."

Not only does God tell Jeremiah that the houses are going to be burned, but gives him the reason. They have worshipped false gods on the roofs of these houses.

Jeremiah 32:30 "For the children of Israel and the children of Judah have only done evil before me from their youth: for the children of Israel have only provoked me to anger with the work of their hands, saith the LORD."

The work of their hands, here, is speaking of the making of idols. They have been rebellious children from the beginning. God has been longsuffering and forgiving, but His patience has run out.

Jeremiah 32:31 "For this city hath been to me [as] a provocation of mine anger and of my fury from the day that they built it even unto this day; that I should remove it from before my face,"

They have not used the temple, or the city, the way God intended. Their false worship has provoked Him to great wrath.

Jeremiah 32:32 "Because of all the evil of the children of Israel and of the children of Judah, which they have done to provoke me to anger, they, their kings, their princes, their priests, and their prophets, and the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem."

The memory of the evil done in God's holy city, is why God will destroy it. Even the ones God had set up to rule over the people, had been evil themselves. It is too much, God will burn it to the ground.

Jeremiah 32:33 "And they have turned unto me the back, and not the face: though I taught them, rising up early and teaching [them], yet they have not hearkened to receive instruction."

God had tried, over and over, to send prophets to them to warn them of what would happen, if they did not repent. They turned their backs to the message God had sent by the prophets. They refused God's instruction.

Jeremiah 32:34 "But they set their abominations in the house, which is called by my name, to defile it."

They had even set up idols in God's temple.

Jeremiah 32:35 "And they built the high places of Baal, which [are] in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through [the fire] unto Molech; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my mind, that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin."

Both the worship of Baal and Molech required their children to walk through the fire. The worship of false gods benefits the false gods. The worship of God benefits the person worshipping.

Jeremiah 32:36 "And now therefore thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning this city, whereof ye say, It shall be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence;" Jeremiah 32:37 "Behold, I will gather them out of all

countries, whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath; and I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely:"

God may drive them away, until they repent, but He will restore His chosen ones to their land. The punishment is for a while, but then God greatly blesses them, again.

Jeremiah 32:38 "And they shall be my people, and I will be their God:"

We discussed before, that they must choose to be His people, and then, He will be their God.

Jeremiah 32:39 "And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them:"

Their hearts will be changed by God Himself. This "one way" is in Jesus. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. God has always taught to be one in heart. The Spirit came on Day of Pentecost, because they were with one accord.

Jeremiah 32:40 "And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me."

This everlasting covenant is the covenant of grace through Jesus Christ. God will pour out unmerited favor on His children. They will put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ their Lord.

Jeremiah 32:41 "Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will plant them in this land assuredly with my whole heart and with my whole soul."

God has purified them with their captivity to Babylon. They are, now, His precious children. God loves them with His heart and soul. John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." This is love beyond human understanding.

Jeremiah 32:42 "For thus saith the LORD; Like as I have brought all this great evil upon this people, so will I bring upon them all the good that I have promised them."

God has brought all this evil upon them to refine them, and the minute that is done, He will pour out His blessings upon them. He never breaks a promise. If He says it, you can count on it.

Jeremiah 32:43 "And fields shall be bought in this land, whereof ye say, [It is] desolate without man or beast; it is given into the hand of the Chaldeans."

All of the above was said to tell Jeremiah, why He told him to buy the land. It was an act of absolute faith in the promise that God would restore the land to them. Jeremiah was to buy the land in bad times, to give the people hope that God would restore them to their land. In the natural, it

seemed foolish to buy this land that had neither man nor beast. God knew that would change.

Jeremiah 32:44 "Men shall buy fields for money, and subscribe evidences, and seal [them], and take witnesses in the land of Benjamin, and in the places about Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, and in the cities of the mountains, and in the cities of the valley, and in the cities of the south: for I will cause their captivity to return, saith the LORD."

Jeremiah's purchase was a purchase as an example of better days to come. All of the procedures Jeremiah went through to buy the land, would be the order of the day, when the land was restored. It was a physical example of the fulfilling of the prophecy God had given Jeremiah. It was saying, God has promised, it will be.

## Jeremiah 35 Questions

1. At what time did God give Jeremiah the word in verse 1?
2. How long would Zedekiah reign?
3. When Jerusalem was besieged, where was Jeremiah?
4. Who had put Jeremiah there?
5. Who would Zedekiah rather believe than Jeremiah?
6. Why did Zedekiah, {the prophet} die in a fire?
7. Who speaks the judgment on Zedekiah?
8. What does the statement "Until I visit him" mean?
9. Who did God say would come to Jeremiah to sell him land?
10. Where was Jeremiah's dad the priest?
11. What made Jeremiah know, it was the Word of the LORD?
12. What was the price of the land?
13. What does "silver" symbolize?
14. What is verse 10 speaking of?
15. The custom of the Jews was to sell land to a near \_\_\_\_\_.
16. Where were the documents to be kept?
17. What is the prophecy of verse 15?
18. What was Jeremiah praying for, after the purchase?
19. What does the author say, every believer should take into consideration?
20. What statement did the man make to Jesus, when he brought his son for healing?
21. What description does Jeremiah give of God in verses 18 and 19?
22. What statement did the evil men of Egypt make after the 10 plagues?
23. Quote 1 Kings chapter 18 verse 39.
24. God brought forth Israel out of Egypt with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
25. Quote Joshua chapter 5 verse 1.
26. The land God gave the Israelites was a land flowing with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
27. Why had the evil come upon God's people?
28. What does God quickly remind Jeremiah of?
29. How will the city be destroyed?
30. When God sent the prophets to warn these His people, what did they do?
31. What was their sin?
32. Why had God told Jeremiah to buy the land?
33. What is the everlasting covenant?
34. Quote John chapter 3 verse 16.
35. What was Jeremiah's purchase of the land an example of?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 33:1 "Moreover the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah the second time, while he was yet shut up in the court of the prison, saying,"

Jeremiah is still in the court of the prison. It seems, he had some freedom of movement, because he took the documents to be recorded in the last lesson. This really is a continuation of chapter 32. The word "moreover" indicates it is connected. Notice, that a prison could not shut Jeremiah away from God.

Jeremiah 33:2 "Thus saith the LORD the maker thereof, the LORD that formed it, to establish it; the LORD [is] his name;"

Jehovah is spoken of, here, as the Maker, the One who formed it and established it. LORD, here, is Jehovah. Jesus, in its extended meaning, is Jehovah Saviour.

Jeremiah 33:3 "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."

God is telling Jeremiah to pray, and He will answer his prayer. James 4:2 "Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not." God will hear Jeremiah, because he is righteous in God's sight. James 5:16 "Confess [your] faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." Jeremiah certainly did not know all there was to know of God. The closer Jeremiah {or any of us} will draw to God in prayer, the more of Himself God will show. There is nothing impossible to God. God reveals Himself to those who obey and follow Him.

Jeremiah 33:4 "For thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the houses of this city, and concerning the houses of the kings of Judah, which are thrown down by the mounts, and by the sword;"

Jeremiah had been concerned about all of the destruction by the Chaldeans, or the Babylonians. They were thrown down, but God has a plan, which He is about to reveal to Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 33:5 "They come to fight with the Chaldeans, but [it is] to fill them with the dead bodies of men, whom I have slain in mine anger and in my fury, and for all whose wickedness I have hid my face from this city."

They thought they were fighting the Chaldeans, but it was God who sent the Chaldeans to bring judgment on them for their wickedness. God had not looked at the city for a long time, because the people were so evil. He cannot look upon sin, because He is Holy. When He does look upon sin, He must destroy it. When He looked, His fury rose up, and He destroyed them.

Jeremiah 33:6 "Behold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth."

It is only God who can restore them. Man cannot save Himself, he needs a Saviour. God will bring health and cure. Peace and Truth will be revealed to them, but the real Peace and Truth is in the person of Jesus Christ. Sin dominated the soul of man, until Jesus defeated sin on the cross. Jesus said, "They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick" He came to heal the sick.

Jeremiah 33:7 "And I will cause the captivity of Judah and the captivity of Israel to return, and will build them, as at the first."

In just 70 years after the captivity, Babylon will be overrun by Cyrus, and the captives will go back to their homeland. Not only will Judah {which includes Benjamin} return, but the 10 tribes of Israel, as well. This really is speaking, also, of those who come home to the Lord in the spirit.

Jeremiah 33:8 "And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity, whereby they have sinned against me; and I will pardon all their iniquities, whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against me."

The fact is that it is God who cleanses us from sin. To forgive includes a cleansing of the heart. The major emphasis, here, is the cleansing that occurs when a person is washed in the blood of the Lamb {Jesus Christ}. Hebrews 8:12 "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more." Revelation 1:5 "And from Jesus Christ, [who is] the faithful witness, [and] the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,"

Jeremiah 33:9 "And it shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and an honour before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear all the good that I do unto them: and they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and for all the prosperity that I procure unto it."

The world has always stood in awe at the undeserved blessings God's people have. The Jews were thought of as God's people. When God was blessing them, the other nations feared them. They were not afraid of Israel, they were afraid of Israel's God. The Christians bear the name of Christ. The world still does not understand the covenant relationship. The Jews were thought of as the people with the law of God. They were respected, because of the power of their God. Christians are under the covenant of Grace. We are God's representative here on the earth. The world still does not understand.

Jeremiah 33:10 "Thus saith the LORD; Again there shall be heard in this place, which ye say [shall be] desolate without man and without beast, [even] in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, that are desolate, without man, and without inhabitant, and without beast,"

Death is silent. There was no sound, because of the massive destruction. When they are restored back into their land, there will be the usual noises of a city.

Jeremiah 33:11 "The voice of joy, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the voice of them that shall say, Praise the LORD of hosts: for the LORD [is] good; for his mercy

[endureth] for ever: [and] of them that shall bring the sacrifice of praise into the house of the LORD. For I will cause to return the captivity of the land, as at the first, saith the LORD."

When the restoration is complete, the things listed above will be heard in the city, and in the countryside. The joy will be because of the blessings God has bestowed upon His people. This is describing a time of joy in the land. They recognize the worth of being home, because they had lost it for a time. You do not appreciate something, or someone, until they are taken from you. The praise to the LORD is because they are totally aware of why they are home. They are forgiven, what better reason for praising the LORD? This would even be a joy for Jeremiah to prophesy.

Jeremiah 33:12 "Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Again in this place, which is desolate without man and without beast, and in all the cities thereof, shall be an habitation of shepherds causing [their] flocks to lie down."

The mention of the pastoral scene is to show the great peace that has come. The shepherds, and their flocks lying down, shows perfect peace. This reminds me of the 23rd Psalm, which is speaking of the sheep as the followers of God. The great Shepherd is the Lord Jesus. The shepherds are like pastors of churches, and the sheep are the congregation {flock}.

Jeremiah 33:13 "In the cities of the mountains, in the cities of the vale, and in the cities of the south, and in the land of Benjamin, and in the places about Jerusalem, and in the cities of Judah, shall the flocks pass again under the hands of him that telleth [them], saith the LORD."

This is speaking of the care of the shepherd over his sheep. They pass under his hand for inspection and for counting to make sure there are none missing. This spiritually is speaking of the spread of Christianity to the mountains, the countryside, and to the cities. The sheep {believers in Christ} grow rapidly in number. In one day, thousands were saved when Peter preached. God is concerned, if even one strays from the flock. He keeps constant watch.

Jeremiah 33:14 "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will perform that good thing which I have promised unto the house of Israel and to the house of Judah."

Whatever God promises, He does. It may not be in a day or two, but He will do it.

Jeremiah 33:15 "In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land."

This means that God has a specified time picked out for this to happen. No man knows the day, or the hour. God knows. The Branch of Righteousness is Jesus Christ, our Lord. He will be descended from David in the flesh, but is David's God in the Spirit. Jesus is that righteous Judge of all the earth. We will each stand before Him, and give account.

Jeremiah 33:16 "In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely: and this [is the name] wherewith she shall be called, The LORD our righteousness."

This is speaking of Judah and Jerusalem as all Israel. This is speaking of physical Israel and spiritual Israel. The LORD is the righteousness of the church. We, Christians, are clothed in His {Jesus'} righteousness. He took our sin on His body on the cross, and gave us His righteousness. Jerusalem shall be called the city of our great King. The church {she} takes on the name of Christ {Christian}. II Timothy 4:8 "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

Jeremiah 33:17 "For thus saith the LORD; David shall never want a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel;"

Jesus Christ will reign for ever and ever as King. Jesus is King of the Jews, but He is, also, King of all the believers, as well. David, in the verse above, is speaking of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jeremiah 33:18 "Neither shall the priests the Levites want a man before me to offer burnt offerings, and to kindle meat offerings, and to do sacrifice continually."

Jesus is the High Priest. The high priest of the covenant represented the people to God and God to the people. Our High Priest, Jesus Christ, tore down the wall of partition, and opened the way for everyone who believes to have access to the Father. There would be no further need for sacrifice after the perfect sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. To sacrifice after the crucifixion of Jesus would be saying, that Jesus was not the perfect sacrifice. I personally believe that God allowed the temple in Jerusalem to be destroyed to stop the sacrifices. If Jesus was the perfect sacrifice for all time for everyone, it would be a sin to continue to sacrifice. He either did it all, or nothing at all. There were no more burnt offerings needed. There were no more meat offerings needed after Jesus. He did it all.

Jeremiah 33:19 "And the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah, saying,"  
Jeremiah 33:20 "Thus saith the LORD; If ye can break my covenant of the day, and my covenant of the night, and that there should not be day and night in their season;"

We see from the next verse just how long there will be day and night on the earth. Genesis 8:22 "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." God spoke it. It will not be broken.

Jeremiah 33:21 "[Then] may also my covenant be broken with David my servant, that he should not have a son to reign upon his throne; and with the Levites the priests, my ministers."

Son, in the verse above, is speaking of descendent. Just as God will not break His covenant of night and day, He will not break His covenant with David. There will always be someone representing the Lord upon the earth as ministers, as well.

Jeremiah 33:22 "As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither the sand of the sea measured: so will I multiply the seed of David my servant, and the Levites that minister unto me."

This is speaking of that great multitude that cannot be numbered who belong to God. Seed is singular, indicating this is the seed spoken of in the following Scripture. Galatians 3:16 "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ." Notice, in the following Scripture, who become so many they cannot be numbered. Galatians 3:29 "And if ye [be] Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

Jeremiah 33:23 "Moreover the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying," Jeremiah 33:24 "Considerest thou not what this people have spoken, saying, The two families which the LORD hath chosen, he hath even cast them off? thus they have despised my people, that they should be no more a nation before them."

The people are speaking in the verse above, so possibly, they are speaking of the house of Israel and the house of Judah. The people thought God had forsaken them. Notice, also, God still calls them, His people. I really believe this is speaking of the physical and spiritual house of Israel.

Jeremiah 33:25 "Thus saith the LORD; If my covenant [be] not with day and night, [and if] I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth;"

In this, God is saying, Do you believe my covenant with day and night? Do you believe God ordained all of the heavens for their special duties?

Jeremiah 33:26 "Then will I cast away the seed of Jacob, and David my servant, [so] that I will not take [any] of his seed [to be] rulers over the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: for I will cause their captivity to return, and have mercy on them."

The seed of Jacob is speaking of the physical house of Israel. The seed of David {Jesus} is speaking of the spiritual house of Israel {Christians}. Just as ridiculous as the sun not shining, is the statement that God might throw away His children. He is our Father. He would never throw away any of His children. I John 3:1 "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not."

## Jeremiah 36 Questions

1. Where was Jeremiah, when the Word of the Lord came to him?
2. Who is the LORD in verse 2?
3. Quote James chapter 4 verse 2.
4. Quote James chapter 5 verse 16.
5. Who does God reveal Himself to?
6. Who were they really fighting, instead of the Chaldeans?
7. Why had God not looked on the city for a long time?
8. Man can not save himself, he needs a \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Where does the real Peace and Truth come from?
10. Who cleanses from sin?
11. Quote Hebrews chapter 8 verse 12.
12. Who washed us from our sins in His blood?
13. Why does the earth stand in awe of God's people?
14. Why was there no sound in the city?
15. When they are restored, what sounds will there be?
16. What does the mention of the pastoral scene mean?
17. In verse 13, the shepherds are the \_\_\_\_\_ and the sheep are the \_\_\_\_\_{flock}.
18. What is verse 13 speaking of?
19. What does verse 15 mean when it says, in that day?
20. Who is verse 16 speaking of?
21. Who is David in verse 17?
22. Who was the perfect sacrifice?
23. To sacrifice animals, after the sacrifice of Jesus, would be a \_\_\_\_\_.
24. Quote Genesis chapter 8 verse 22.
25. What are some of the things that cannot be numbered?
26. Who are the two families of verse 24?
27. Who is the seed of Jacob?
28. Who is the seed of David?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 34:1 "The word which came unto Jeremiah from the LORD, when Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and all his army, and all the kingdoms of the earth of his dominion, and all the people, fought against Jerusalem, and against all the cities thereof, saying,"

The word that was translated "earth" here, does not mean the entire earth, but a country or area. This is speaking of the siege that came, when Jerusalem and all of Judah was captured by Babylon.

Jeremiah 34:2 "Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel; Go and speak to Zedekiah king of Judah, and tell him, Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will give this city into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall burn it with fire:"

We had discussed in a previous lesson, that king Zedekiah did not want to hear this prophecy. He would much rather believe the false prophets, who were saying they would be quickly restored. Jeremiah has said, now, that the destruction will be by fire.

Jeremiah 34:3 "And thou shalt not escape out of his hand, but shalt surely be taken, and delivered into his hand; and thine eyes shall behold the eyes of the king of Babylon, and he shall speak with thee mouth to mouth, and thou shalt go to Babylon."

We will see in chapter 39 verse 7, that Zedekiah's eyes will be put out. This is mentioned again in II Kings 25:7 "And they slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him with fetters of brass, and carried him to Babylon." Nebuchadnezzar will be the one to pronounce sentence on Zedekiah. This is unusual, since this is Nebuchadnezzar's uncle. After they have put Zedekiah's eyes out, they will take him to Babylon.

Jeremiah 34:4 "Yet hear the word of the LORD, O Zedekiah king of Judah; Thus saith the LORD of thee, Thou shalt not die by the sword:"

Zedekiah would have preferred to die by the sword in battle. It would be very humiliating to be taken bound to Babylon.

Jeremiah 34:5 "[But] thou shalt die in peace: and with the burnings of thy fathers, the former kings which were before thee, so shall they burn [odours] for thee; and they will lament thee, [saying], Ah lord! for I have pronounced the word, saith the LORD."

This peace was at great expense to Zedekiah. His eyes had been put out, because of his rebellion against Nebuchadnezzar, his sons had been killed and his daughters left in Jerusalem. There was little for him to do but live in peace in Babylon, until his death. It appears that the usual burning of spices for high officials who died, would be carried out for Zedekiah. This does not say exactly where this mourning will take place.

Jeremiah 34:6 "Then Jeremiah the prophet spake all these words unto Zedekiah king of Judah in Jerusalem,"

This is just placing the location of the prophecy in Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 34:7 "When the king of Babylon's army fought against Jerusalem, and against all the cities of Judah that were left, against Lachish, and against Azekah: for these defenced cities remained of the cities of Judah."

The "defenced cities" meant that they had a wall surrounding them to deter any attack.

Jeremiah 34:8 "[This is] the word that came unto Jeremiah from the LORD, after that the king Zedekiah had made a covenant with all the people which [were] at Jerusalem, to proclaim liberty unto them;"

This covenant had to do with the Levitical law. It appears, this covenant was made in Jerusalem at the temple. It had to do with releasing Jews who had served, as a slave. This was connected with jubilee.

Jeremiah 34:9 "That every man should let his manservant, and every man his maidservant, [being] an Hebrew or an Hebrewess, go free; that none should serve himself of them, [to wit], of a Jew his brother."

A fellow Hebrew was to serve as a slave to another Hebrew for no more than 7 years. They were to be released then. They were set free, because they had fulfilled the law of the jubilee. It did not matter if the slave was male or female, this was the law.

Jeremiah 34:10 "Now when all the princes, and all the people, which had entered into the covenant, heard that every one should let his manservant, and every one his maidservant, go free, that none should serve themselves of them any more, then they obeyed, and let [them] go."

This appears from a glance, that they had repented. It appears to me, they realize they had not been keeping the covenant with God about their servants, who were fellow Hebrews. They let them go for fear of being punished.

Jeremiah 34:11 "But afterward they turned, and caused the servants and the handmaids, whom they had let go free, to return, and brought them into subjection for servants and for handmaids."

Their repentance was short-lived. They had not really repented. They repented long enough to keep from being punished, and then went right back to their evil ways.

Jeremiah 34:12 "Therefore the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,"

We may hide our sin from our neighbor, but God knows. He is about to act on this in the verse above.

Jeremiah 34:13 "Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel; I made a covenant with your fathers in the day that I brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondmen, saying,"

This covenant had been made with God and their ancestors, when He brought them out of Egypt to the promised land. This is part of the things that set them apart from the rest of the world. This was so very important for them to keep, since God had taken them out of bitter slavery in Egypt.

Jeremiah 34:14 "At the end of seven years let ye go every man his brother an Hebrew, which hath been sold unto thee; and when he hath served thee six years, thou shalt let him go free from thee: but your fathers hearkened not unto me, neither inclined their ear."

They were to work six years, and be released the seventh year. God made the earth, and all in it in 6 days, and rested the seventh. These people worked 6 years, and were to be set free the 7th. Their fathers had not kept covenant with God to do this thing. This was part of the reason God was so angry with them.

Jeremiah 34:15 "And ye were now turned, and had done right in my sight, in proclaiming liberty every man to his neighbour; and ye had made a covenant before me in the house which is called by my name:"

Since their fathers had not kept covenant, and they had kept their fellow Hebrews longer than the 7 years, they were to release all of their Hebrew brothers who were slaves. In a very short time, they would be slaves themselves, then perhaps, they would realize the misery of being a slave. "The house that is called by my name" is speaking of the temple in Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 34:16 "But ye turned and polluted my name, and caused every man his servant, and every man his handmaid, whom he had set at liberty at their pleasure, to return, and brought them into subjection, to be unto you for servants and for handmaids."

They had not kept their word to the servants, but worse, they had broken covenant and lied to God. They had made this oath in the temple. They had polluted God's name before their Hebrew brothers, and before the Babylonians. They had no respect for God.

Jeremiah 34:17 "Therefore thus saith the LORD; Ye have not hearkened unto me, in proclaiming liberty, every one to his brother, and every man to his neighbour: behold, I proclaim a liberty for you, saith the LORD, to the sword, to the pestilence, and to the famine; and I will make you to be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth."

God had given them a last moment chance to repent, and they had backslidden into sin. Since they did this terrible thing against God and their fellowman, now they will feel hunger, the sword, and pestilence. They will know how it feels to be slaves, because they will be slaves to their captors.

Jeremiah 34:18 "And I will give the men that have transgressed my covenant, which have not performed the words of the covenant which they had made before me, when they cut the calf in twain, and passed between the parts thereof."

This was a blood covenant they had made. They walked between the two parts of the divided calf, to show that if they broke the covenant, the same

would come to them. If they killed, they would be killed. In this case, they took the slaves back, so they will be slaves. The walking between the two halves of the calf, made this a very serious covenant.

Jeremiah 34:19 "The princes of Judah, and the princes of Jerusalem, the eunuchs, and the priests, and all the people of the land, which passed between the parts of the calf;"

This just explains that anyone who walked through the calf, and in fact all who did, would pay for the breaking of the covenant.

Jeremiah 34:20 "I will even give them into the hand of their enemies, and into the hand of them that seek their life: and their dead bodies shall be for meat unto the fowls of the heaven, and to the beasts of the earth."

Now, we see the severity of the punishment for breaking covenant with God. They will pay with their lives. They will not even have the honor of burial. They are to be eaten of the vultures, like those of disgrace.

Jeremiah 34:21 "And Zedekiah king of Judah and his princes will I give into the hand of their enemies, and into the hand of them that seek their life, and into the hand of the king of Babylon's army, which are gone up from you."

Earlier in this lesson, we found what would happen to Zedekiah. There are worse things than death, and Zedekiah's fate was worse than death.

Jeremiah 34:22 "Behold, I will command, saith the LORD, and cause them to return to this city; and they shall fight against it, and take it, and burn it with fire: and I will make the cities of Judah a desolation without an inhabitant."

A very important thing to remember, here, is that this is God who causes this destruction. It is done, because of the sins of these people. This type of punishment is so severe, because they broke covenant with God.

## Jeremiah 37 Questions

1. When did this word of the LORD come to Jeremiah?
2. What does "earth" in verse 1 mean?
3. What was Jeremiah to tell Zedekiah?
4. How will the destruction come?
5. Who passes judgment on Zedekiah?
6. What did he do to Zedekiah, before he took him to Babylon?
7. What happened to Zedekiah's sons?
8. How would Zedekiah have preferred to die?
9. How shall Zedekiah die?
10. What was usually done as part of the mourning for high officials?
11. Where did Jeremiah speak to Zedekiah {in verse 6}?
12. What are two other cities specifically named, besides Jerusalem, that were destroyed?
13. What was meant by "defenced cities"?
14. What covenant did Zedekiah make with the people?
15. What was this connected with?
16. What did the covenant say, they were to do?
17. When they heard about the covenant agreement, what did the princes and the people do?
18. What did they do afterwards?
19. How did God feel about this?
20. When had God made the covenant with their fathers?
21. Had their fathers kept the covenant?
22. When were the Hebrews supposed to release their Hebrew slaves?
23. What is the "house that is called by my name"?
24. How had they polluted God's name?
25. What was their punishment to be?
26. What had they done, showing this to be a very serious covenant?
27. Who had been part of the covenant?
28. How severe is the punishment?
29. Zedekiah's fate was worse than \_\_\_\_\_.
30. Who causes the destruction to come, and why?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 35:1 "The word which came unto Jeremiah from the LORD in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, saying,"

This is a totally different prophecy from the one in the last chapter. This prophecy is not addressed to Zedekiah.

Jeremiah 35:2 Go unto the house of the Rechabites, and speak unto them, and bring them into the house of the LORD, into one of the chambers, and give them wine to drink.

Who were the Rechabites, you might ask? It seems, they were a group of very simple living people, who lived above the sinful lifestyle of the cities. They were nomads. They did not even settle down to one spot, when they were in the city. They were constantly on the move. They were people of very high morals. Many believe them to be associated with the Kenites. Others believe they ministered as the Levites. Their daughters were said to marry men from the Levitical tribe, and their children ministered. Their lifestyle depicts the fact that all believers are strangers in this land. This is not our home. We are headed for our home in heaven. They were not materialistic people, they lived a very simple lifestyle. We might learn from that, too. Many of the problems in our society today come from the cravings for the material things of life. Their religious convictions were much like the Israelites, but the difference being, they lived more holy lives than the Israelites. The fact they met in one of the rooms attached to the temple, is what is meant by "chambers". They were offered wine to drink. It was believed however, they were teetotalers. The wine, then, had some religious significance.

Jeremiah 35:3 "Then I took Jaazaniah the son of Jeremiah, the son of Habaziniah, and his brethren, and all his sons, and the whole house of the Rechabites;"

The Jeremiah, in the verse above, is not Jeremiah who penned the book of Jeremiah. He is mentioned in the word "I". The Jeremiah mentioned was part of the family of Rechabites.

Jeremiah 35:4 "And I brought them into the house of the LORD, into the chamber of the sons of Hanan, the son of Igdaliah, a man of God, which [was] by the chamber of the princes, which [was] above the chamber of Maaseiah the son of Shallum, the keeper of the door:"

The Scripture, here, is explaining where Jeremiah took them. This area was the area of Hanan. Hanan was an officer in the temple area. He was believed by many to be a prophet. Notice, there was someone who kept the door, to keep all out who were not invited.

Jeremiah 35:5 "And I set before the sons of the house of the Rechabites pots full of wine, and cups, and I said unto them, Drink ye wine."

This is like a test for the Rechabites. They did not drink wine. This was a temptation to see, just exactly what they would do, if they were

offered the wine in private. Will their morals withstand such temptation? We will see in the next verse.

Jeremiah 35:6 "But they said, We will drink no wine: for Jonadab the son of Rechab our father commanded us, saying, Ye shall drink no wine, [neither ye], nor your sons for ever:"

We see from this, their morals they had been taught will not allow them to drink. Jonadab was spoken of as the father of the Rechabites, here. The one thing that set them aside from others, was their desire to live holy before God.

Jeremiah 35:7 "Neither shall ye build house, nor sow seed, nor plant vineyard, nor have [any]: but all your days ye shall dwell in tents; that ye may live many days in the land where ye [be] strangers."

We can see in this, that their lifestyle was very different from the Hebrews, especially in the cities. They wanted no permanent roots. It reminds me a little of Abraham, who left Ur of the Chaldees and lived in tents the rest of his life. He was looking for a city whose maker was God. The permanence of a house was what they were trying to avoid. They were strangers in the land. They were not controlled by such stable things as vineyards, or crops.

Jeremiah 35:8 "Thus have we obeyed the voice of Jonadab the son of Rechab our father in all that he hath charged us, to drink no wine all our days, we, our wives, our sons, nor our daughters;"

Their obedience to the holy life that Jonadab had set for them is admirable. This abstinence from wine was for the entire family.

Jeremiah 35:9 "Nor to build houses for us to dwell in: neither have we vineyard, nor field, nor seed:" Jeremiah 35:10 "But we have dwelt in tents, and have obeyed, and done according to all that Jonadab our father commanded us."

Many times the best way to keep away from sin, is to separate yourself from the temptations. This they have done. Their friends are those of their family, who believe the same thing they do. They have separated themselves from the world and its sins.

Jeremiah 35:11 "But it came to pass, when Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon came up into the land, that we said, Come, and let us go to Jerusalem for fear of the army of the Chaldeans, and for fear of the army of the Syrians: so we dwell at Jerusalem."

This explains what they are doing in the city of Jerusalem. They have come here for safety from the Chaldean army. They felt there would be safety in Jerusalem, believing God would preserve His holy city.

Jeremiah 35:12 "Then came the word of the LORD unto Jeremiah, saying," Jeremiah 35:13 "Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Go and tell the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, Will ye not receive instruction to hearken to my words? saith the LORD."

This is a break from the Rechabites. Perhaps, Jeremiah stopped while he was at the temple, and gave them a warning from God. God is fast losing patience with the inhabitants of Jerusalem, because they will not heed His warnings.

Jeremiah 35:14 "The words of Jonadab the son of Rechab, that he commanded his sons not to drink wine, are performed; for unto this day they drink none, but obey their father's commandment: notwithstanding I have spoken unto you, rising early and speaking; but ye hearkened not unto me."

The Rechabites had no problem keeping the commandments of their earthly father, but the Israelites would not keep the commandments of their heavenly Father. The Rechabites made these Israelites look bad, because Israel was not keeping God's commandments. The Rechabites were not constantly being warned by prophets to repent. They just lived the holy life from the beginning. The Israelites had been warned, over and over by prophets that God sent, to repent and live for God.

Jeremiah 35:15 "I have sent also unto you all my servants the prophets, rising up early and sending [them], saying, Return ye now every man from his evil way, and amend your doings, and go not after other gods to serve them, and ye shall dwell in the land which I have given to you and to your fathers: but ye have not inclined your ear, nor hearkened unto me."

God's people had been taught from the time of Abraham that they would be blessed, if they kept God's commandments. They, also, had been taught to be disobedient to God, brought curses. They ignored all of that and lived to please their flesh. They were unfaithful to God, and started worshipping false gods. They were a stiff-necked people, who would not listen to God's warnings.

Jeremiah 35:16 "Because the sons of Jonadab the son of Rechab have performed the commandment of their father, which he commanded them; but this people hath not hearkened unto me:"

Jonadab and Rechab were but men, and yet their people obeyed the commandments they had laid down. God's people will not even listen to the commandments of the God that made them.

Jeremiah 35:17 "Therefore thus saith the LORD God of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will bring upon Judah and upon all the inhabitants of Jerusalem all the evil that I have pronounced against them: because I have spoken unto them, but they have not heard; and I have called unto them, but they have not answered."

God explains, one more time, why He is going to carry out all of the punishment against them. They have been unfaithful, worshipping false gods and have not repented.

Jeremiah 35:18 "And Jeremiah said unto the house of the Rechabites, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Because ye have obeyed the commandment of Jonadab your father, and kept all his precepts, and done according unto all that he hath commanded you:"

These Rechabites will be rewarded for living a holy life by obeying the commandments of Jonadab. God never overlooks even one person who is living

upright before Him. It appears, the teachings of Jonadab were pleasing to God. They had made a stand, and had not backslidden from that stand. God respects this type of loyalty.

Jeremiah 35:19 "Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Jonadab the son of Rechab shall not want a man to stand before me for ever."

The following Scripture connects these Rechabites to the Levites. Deuteronomy 10:8 "At that time the LORD separated the tribe of Levi, to bear the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to stand before the LORD to minister unto him, and to bless in his name, unto this day." Deuteronomy 18:5 "For the LORD thy God hath chosen him out of all thy tribes, to stand to minister in the name of the LORD, him and his sons for ever." Deuteronomy 18:7 "Then he shall minister in the name of the LORD his God, as all his brethren the Levites [do], which stand there before the LORD." The type of life that God wanted the Levites to live is the type of life these Rechabites were living. God will honor their holiness by always having a Rechabite stand before Him. These Rechabites have pleased God, but the Israelites have greatly disappointed Him.

## Jeremiah 38 Questions

1. In verse 2, where did God send Jeremiah to prophesy?
2. Who were the Rechabites?
3. They were a people of very high \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Some believe they were associated with the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Others believe they ministered like the \_\_\_\_\_.
6. What do many of the problems in our society today come from?
7. Their lifestyle depicts that all believers are \_\_\_\_\_ in this land.
8. What is meant by "chambers"?
9. They were \_\_\_\_\_, so the wine had some religious significance.
10. What chambers did they meet in?
11. How much wine was set before them?
12. Did their morals withstand this much temptation?
13. Why did they not drink the wine?
14. What were some of the other things he had commanded them not to do?
15. Who does this remind the author of?
16. Who, in their families, drank no wine?
17. Who were their friends?
18. Why had they come to Jerusalem?
19. What was Jeremiah to tell the men of Judah?
20. Who had commanded the Rechabites to not drink wine?
21. The Rechabites had no problem keeping the commandments of their earthly father, but the Israelites would not keep the commandments of their \_\_\_\_\_ Father.
22. Who had God sent to warn them?
23. How long had God's people been taught to keep the commandments of God, if they wanted to be blessed?
24. What did disobedience to God bring?
25. Why will God bring the evil on Judah and Jerusalem?
26. What will the Rechabites be rewarded for?
27. What promise does God make the Rechabites?
28. What two things does this lesson show?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 36:1 "And it came to pass in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, [that] this word came unto Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,"

We must remember that the 4th year of Jehoiakim is the same as the first year of Nebuchadnezzar.

Jeremiah 36:2 "Take thee a roll of a book, and write therein all the words that I have spoken unto thee against Israel, and against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spake unto thee, from the days of Josiah, even unto this day."

Jeremiah had been speaking the Word God had put into his mouth to speak in prophecy. Now, we see the written Word is powerful, as well. This written Word would be the second witness against them. The 2 great powers in the world are God's spoken Word and His written Word. Now, we see them both being brought to these rebellious people to try to get them to listen and change. When a person prophesies from God, the Words are actually God's Words in the mouth of the prophet. They are inspired. Josiah did right in the sight of God. It was his successors Jehoiachin, Jehioachin, and Zedekiah that were evil rulers.

Jeremiah 36:3 "It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the evil which I purpose to do unto them; that they may return every man from his evil way; that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin."

The house of Judah, which consisted of Judah and Benjamin were not destroyed, until many years after the 10 tribes had been destroyed. They had had some good rulers, and Israel did not. God has more hope for Judah. God wanted them to turn from their evil, and ask forgiveness. God wanted to forgive them. He is also just, and could not let their worship of false gods go unpunished.

Jeremiah 36:4 "Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah: and Baruch wrote from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the LORD, which he had spoken unto him, upon a roll of a book."

Baruch was Jeremiah's assistant. He acted in this particular instance, like a secretary. Jeremiah spoke and Baruch wrote it down. He was a man of some distinction himself. His grandfather was governor of the city. In 2nd Chronicles chapter 34 verse 8, we see Maaseiah {Baruch's grandfather} as acting governor. It was not unusual for a prophet to have an assistant. Jeremiah had Baruch to write all the prophecies God made through him in a book, or roll.

Jeremiah 36:5 "And Jeremiah commanded Baruch, saying, I [am] shut up; I cannot go into the house of the LORD:"

For some unspoken reason, Jeremiah could not go into the temple at this particular time.

Jeremiah 36:6 "Therefore go thou, and read in the roll, which thou hast written from my mouth, the words of the LORD in the ears of the people in

the LORD'S house upon the fasting day: and also thou shalt read them in the ears of all Judah that come out of their cities."

This was a task that would take a brave man. This message was not given to Baruch by God, but by Jeremiah. Baruch had to believe 100% in Jeremiah to be willing to do this. The hate some had felt for Jeremiah, would now be partly aimed at Baruch. The people did not want to hear of their sins. The best time, however, for this to be done would be at a time of fasting, when they were seeking the will of God. This was not a message for just one class of people, but for all, from the king to the servant. There would be people from all over Judah here for fasting day, and the most people would hear it there.

Jeremiah 36:7 "It may be they will present their supplication before the LORD, and will return every one from his evil way: for great [is] the anger and the fury that the LORD hath pronounced against this people."

We learned in an earlier lesson, that "supplication" had to do with prayer of petition. If they would be open to repent at all, this would be the time. They must repent of their evil way of life. God's great anger has come up, and He has pronounced their doom.

Jeremiah 36:8 "And Baruch the son of Neriah did according to all that Jeremiah the prophet commanded him, reading in the book the words of the LORD in the LORD'S house."

When a person is working as an assistant to someone, this is the proper thing to do. They must work as a team. The assistant cannot fight Jeremiah, or they would be stopped then. Baruch will be blessed of God for his part of this operation. Generally, God speaks through His mouthpiece here on the earth. Seldom does anyone hear the voice of the LORD directly. There are occasions like at Mount Sinai, but that is unusual. He occasionally speaks to prophets, as He did to Jeremiah, but generally speaking, He speaks through a minister, or prophet, to the people.

Jeremiah 36:9 "And it came to pass in the fifth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, in the ninth month, [that] they proclaimed a fast before the LORD to all the people in Jerusalem, and to all the people that came from the cities of Judah unto Jerusalem."

This fast was called, probably, because of the impending war.

Jeremiah 36:10 "Then read Baruch in the book the words of Jeremiah in the house of the LORD, in the chamber of Gemariah the son of Shaphan the scribe, in the higher court, at the entry of the new gate of the LORD'S house, in the ears of all the people."

If all the people were there, this was the outer court. It appears, that was where Baruch read the roll from, so that all would be able to hear. God wanted all to hear, so they would be without excuse, if they did not repent. This solemn occasion of fasting would have been a perfect time to examine themselves and repent of their sin.

Jeremiah 36:11 "When Michaiah the son of Gemariah, the son of Shaphan, had heard out of the book all the words of the LORD," Jeremiah 36:12 "Then he went down into the king's house, into the scribe's chamber: and, lo, all

the princes sat there, [even] Elishama the scribe, and Delaiah the son of Shemaiah, and Elnathan the son of Achbor, and Gemariah the son of Shaphan, and Zedekiah the son of Hananiah, and all the princes."

Perhaps, he went down to tell them of this roll and its contents. He did not know what to think of this. The people in authority were gathered together in the king's house. These were frightening times, and they were, perhaps, trying to decide what to do.

Jeremiah 36:13 "Then Michaiah declared unto them all the words that he had heard, when Baruch read the book in the ears of the people."

They had not been in the court of the common people and heard the message Baruch had read. Michaiah gives them what Baruch had read to the others.

Jeremiah 36:14 "Therefore all the princes sent Jehudi the son of Nethaniah, the son of Shelemiah, the son of Cush, unto Baruch, saying, Take in thine hand the roll wherein thou hast read in the ears of the people, and come. So Baruch the son of Neriah took the roll in his hand, and came unto them."

Jehudi was, probably, a eunuch in the service of the king. He was, probably, Ethiopian. Nevertheless, he was a message bearer to Baruch. Baruch was to bring the roll to these officials.

Jeremiah 36:15 "And they said unto him, Sit down now, and read it in our ears. So Baruch read [it] in their ears."

God had intended it to be read in their ears. They just made it easier for this to happen, when they called Baruch to come and read it.

Jeremiah 36:16 "Now it came to pass, when they had heard all the words, they were afraid both one and other, and said unto Baruch, We will surely tell the king of all these words."

These were frightening accusations about all of them, and worse the frightening punishment, if they did not repent. The first thing they thought to do, was go tell the king. This was a matter of great magnitude. They would have to tell the king, and see what he would do.

Jeremiah 36:17 "And they asked Baruch, saying, Tell us now, How didst thou write all these words at his mouth?"

From this statement, this seems to have been a lengthy roll. They are now questioning Baruch about how he wrote it? Perhaps, they were questioning whether Baruch made this up himself, and wrote it down.

Jeremiah 36:18 "Then Baruch answered them, He pronounced all these words unto me with his mouth, and I wrote [them] with ink in the book."

Baruch explains that he just wrote them down, as Jeremiah spoke them. He is saying, I am the man's secretary.

Jeremiah 36:19 "Then said the princes unto Baruch, Go, hide thee, thou and Jeremiah; and let no man know where ye be."

The princes were afraid for the life of Jeremiah and the life of Baruch. They feared what the king would do, so they told Baruch to hide and tell Jeremiah to hide, as well.

Jeremiah 36:20 "And they went in to the king into the court, but they laid up the roll in the chamber of Elishama the scribe, and told all the words in the ears of the king."

It appears, they did not read the roll, just told the king what the roll said. They did keep the roll and give it to the court scribe, Elishama to keep.

Jeremiah 36:21 "So the king sent Jehudi to fetch the roll: and he took it out of Elishama the scribe's chamber. And Jehudi read it in the ears of the king, and in the ears of all the princes which stood beside the king."

It appears, the king was not satisfied with just hearing about the roll. He had Jehudi to get the roll from Elishama, and read it aloud to him and the princes.

Jeremiah 36:22 "Now the king sat in the winterhouse in the ninth month: and [there was a fire] on the hearth burning before him."

It was cold, and the king was sitting in front of the fireplace to warm. There was fire in the fireplace.

Jeremiah 36:23 "And it came to pass, [that] when Jehudi had read three or four leaves, he cut it with the penknife, and cast [it] into the fire that [was] on the hearth, until all the roll was consumed in the fire that [was] on the hearth."

He cut it with the penknife, and threw it in the fire at the command of the king. It appears, he kept cutting and burning, until it was burned up. Even the burning of the roll was a message to the king. The city would burn, as this roll had burned. The king, and all in attendance, did not like what they heard and thought by burning it, it would be destroyed. You cannot destroy the Word of God. It lives on forever.

Jeremiah 36:24 "Yet they were not afraid, nor rent their garments, [neither] the king, nor any of his servants that heard all these words."

They showed no action of repenting at all. They did not believe these to be the Words of God.

Jeremiah 36:25 "Nevertheless Elnathan and Delaiah and Gemariah had made intercession to the king that he would not burn the roll: but he would not hear them."

It appears, there were three who did recognize this roll as the Word of God, and did not want it burned. They pleaded to the king, but it did no good at all.

Jeremiah 36:26 "But the king commanded Jerahmeel the son of Hammelech, and Seraiah the son of Azriel, and Shelemiah the son of Abdeel, to take Baruch the scribe and Jeremiah the prophet: but the LORD hid them."

The king sent his men to go capture Jeremiah and Baruch, but God hid them where they could not be found. God protects His faithful servants. Just as He hid Moses in the rock, and put His hand over him to keep Satan from finding his body, He helped Baruch and Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 36:27 "Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, after that the king had burned the roll, and the words which Baruch wrote at the mouth of Jeremiah, saying," Jeremiah 36:28 "Take thee again another roll, and write in it all the former words that were in the first roll, which Jehoiakim the king of Judah hath burned."

We might think that to be an impossible task, but God put the Words in Jeremiah's mouth, Jeremiah spoke them and Baruch wrote them. The burning of a roll cannot destroy the Word of God. His Word is everlasting. Jesus speaks the following about the eternity of the Word. Matthew 24:35 "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."

Jeremiah 36:29 "And thou shalt say to Jehoiakim king of Judah, Thus saith the LORD; Thou hast burned this roll, saying, Why hast thou written therein, saying, The king of Babylon shall certainly come and destroy this land, and shall cause to cease from thence man and beast?"

The roll is restored. Now, Jeremiah must tell Jehoiakim of his fate, and the fate of his land. Jeremiah must tell him that the king of Babylon will come, and destroy the land. The man and beast ceasing means they will be killed, or captured and carried away.

Jeremiah 36:30 "Therefore thus saith the LORD of Jehoiakim king of Judah; He shall have none to sit upon the throne of David: and his dead body shall be cast out in the day to the heat, and in the night to the frost."

Jehoiakim will die and have no one to bury him.

Jeremiah 36:31 "And I will punish him and his seed and his servants for their iniquity; and I will bring upon them, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and upon the men of Judah, all the evil that I have pronounced against them; but they hearkened not."

The punishment of Jehoiachim will be so great, it will extend to his family, as well. He has greatly sinned, by disregarding the Word of God. God gave them every chance to repent, and they did not. Their punishment will be their own fault.

Jeremiah 36:32 "Then took Jeremiah another roll, and gave it to Baruch the scribe, the son of Neriah; who wrote therein from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the book which Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire: and there were added besides unto them many like words."

God's Words live on. You may burn the Bibles, but someone would just write them down again. Now, God adds the happenings, here with Jehoiachim, to the book. The Word of God is alive. Baruch wrote it down again, just as God had instructed Jeremiah.

## Jeremiah 39 Questions

1. What must we remember about the 4th year of Jehoichim?
2. Instead of speaking the prophecy, what is Jeremiah to do?
3. What would be the second witness against these people?
4. Where do the Words of a true prophet come from?
5. Who were the three evil rulers that followed Josiah?
6. What did God want them to do?
7. Who did Jeremiah call to do the actual writing of the roll?
8. What was he to Jeremiah?
9. Why did Jeremiah not go himself?
10. Who was Baruch to read the roll to?
11. What special day was the roll to be read?
12. Where was Baruch to read the roll?
13. What sort of man would it take for this task?
14. What does the word "supplication" mean?
15. How does God generally speak to His people?
16. When did Baruch go to read the roll?
17. Why had they called a fast, probably?
18. In whose chamber did he first read it?
19. If the people were there, this was the \_\_\_\_\_ court.
20. What did Michaiah do, when he heard the Words of the roll?
21. What nationality was Jehudi?
22. What effect did the reading of these Words of the roll have on the princes?
23. Who did they go and tell about the roll?
24. What answer did Baruch give, when they asked him about his writing the roll?
25. What did the princes tell Baruch to do, and to tell Jeremiah to do?
26. Where did the princes put the roll?
27. What did the king do, when he heard about the roll?
28. After he heard the roll read, what did the king do with it?
29. What amazing statement does verse 24 make about their attitude?
30. Who were three that interceded to get them not to burn the roll?
31. Why could the king not find Baruch and Jeremiah?
32. What did God tell Jeremiah to have Baruch do again?
33. What will happen to Jehoiachim?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 37:1 "And king Zedekiah the son of Josiah reigned instead of Coniah the son of Jehoiakim, whom Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon made king in the land of Judah."

II Kings 24:17 "And the king of Babylon made Mattaniah his father's brother king in his stead, and changed his name to Zedekiah." Coniah is the same person as Jehoiachin. Zedekiah was 21 years old, when he began to reign.

Jeremiah 37:2 "But neither he, nor his servants, nor the people of the land, did hearken unto the words of the LORD, which he spake by the prophet Jeremiah."

It appears, that all the warnings that God sent Zedekiah and his people were in vain. They did not listen to Jeremiah at all. They thought of him as being the false prophet. They preferred to accept the prophecy of their own false prophets, who spoke of good times.

Jeremiah 37:3 "And Zedekiah the king sent Jehucal the son of Shelemiah and Zephaniah the son of Maaseiah the priest to the prophet Jeremiah, saying, Pray now unto the LORD our God for us."

This is very ridiculous. They do not believe Jeremiah, but they ask him to pray for them. Perhaps, they thought Jeremiah to be a righteous man. James 5:16 "Confess [your] faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." They still claim that the LORD is their God, but they certainly do not show that when they are unfaithful to Him. Even the priest's son {Jehucal} comes to ask for prayer.

Jeremiah 37:4 "Now Jeremiah came in and went out among the people: for they had not put him into prison."

This is early in the prophecies, when Jeremiah met with them. At this time, they had not put him in prison. Even when they do put him in prison, he had privileges that most prisoners do not have.

Jeremiah 37:5 "Then Pharaoh's army was come forth out of Egypt: and when the Chaldeans that besieged Jerusalem heard tidings of them, they departed from Jerusalem."

They had tried to get help from Egypt, but the effort here is temporary. At least for a moment, the Chaldeans turn back and leave Jerusalem, because of the threat of the Egyptians. The Pharaoh mentioned here was Hophra, who had fled to Egypt for safety. God had warned that those who fled would be punished. He was not successful at all.

Jeremiah 37:6 "Then came the word of the LORD unto the prophet Jeremiah, saying," Jeremiah 37:7 "Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel; Thus shall ye say to the king of Judah, that sent you unto me to inquire of me; Behold, Pharaoh's army, which is come forth to help you, shall return to Egypt into their own land."

Zedekiah had sent to Jeremiah for prayer, but Jeremiah would not pray for something that was not in the will of God. Instead of praying an intercessory prayer for Zedekiah and Judah, Jeremiah sends another prophecy. Pharaoh's army will go home, and the Chaldeans will be back. The Pharaoh had run for safety before, he would again.

Jeremiah 37:8 "And the Chaldeans shall come again, and fight against this city, and take it, and burn it with fire."

Jeremiah tells them that not only will the Chaldeans come again, but they will win. When they have taken the city, they will burn it.

Jeremiah 37:9 "Thus saith the LORD; Deceive not yourselves, saying, The Chaldeans shall surely depart from us: for they shall not depart."

They certainly had been deceiving themselves right along. They did not believe the message God had sent them by Jeremiah. They were deceived into believing the city would not fall.

Jeremiah 37:10 "For though ye had smitten the whole army of the Chaldeans that fight against you, and there remained [but] wounded men among them, [yet] should they rise up every man in his tent, and burn this city with fire."

Even if these exiled Jews from Egypt had won the battle, the city would not be spared, because it is the judgment of God for it to burn. Since God is truly behind this attack, even men near to death could win. They would be fighting in the strength of the LORD, and not in their own strength. They might turn them back, but they will come again, and defeat the city.

Jeremiah 37:11 "And it came to pass, that when the army of the Chaldeans was broken up from Jerusalem for fear of Pharaoh's army," Jeremiah 37:12 "Then Jeremiah went forth out of Jerusalem to go into the land of Benjamin, to separate himself thence in the midst of the people."

It seems, that while the siege of Jerusalem by the Chaldeans was momentarily stopped, Jeremiah went back to Anathoth, his home. This separation is a holy separation. He was in the world, but not of the world, the same as we Christians are. He was in the midst of the people, but not involved in the sins of the people.

Jeremiah 37:13 "And when he was in the gate of Benjamin, a captain of the ward [was] there, whose name [was] Irijah, the son of Shelemiah, the son of Hananiah; and he took Jeremiah the prophet, saying, Thou fallest away to the Chaldeans."

Now, Jeremiah has been accused by Irijah of going over to the side of the Chaldeans. This was a captain, so he had some authority. It appears, that he arrested Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 37:14 "Then said Jeremiah, [It is] false; I fall not away to the Chaldeans. But he hearkened not to him: so Irijah took Jeremiah, and brought him to the princes."

Jeremiah tries to defend himself from the accusations by denying affiliation with the Chaldeans.

Jeremiah 37:15 "Wherefore the princes were wroth with Jeremiah, and smote him, and put him in prison in the house of Jonathan the scribe: for they had made that the prison."

The princes had spoken highly of Jeremiah in the past, but they must not have much depth in themselves. The first accusation from Irijah of Jeremiah siding in with the Chaldeans, is accepted as fact by them. They did not examine the facts, just took Irijah's word. They not only took Jeremiah, but struck him. This is a dangerous thing to do to a prophet of God. The scribe, here, is like a secretary of state. They imprisoned Jeremiah in the house of Jonothan.

Jeremiah 37:16 "When Jeremiah was entered into the dungeon, and into the cabins, and Jeremiah had remained there many days;"

This was some underground building with rooms in it. They locked Jeremiah in this place, and left him three days.

Jeremiah 37:17 "Then Zedekiah the king sent, and took him out: and the king asked him secretly in his house, and said, Is there [any] word from the LORD? And Jeremiah said, There is: for, said he, thou shalt be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon."

Remember, that Zedekiah had asked Jeremiah to pray for him. He now wants to know what the answer is from God. This is, probably, the only reason he took him out of the dungeon. Jeremiah can only speak the words that God puts into his mouth. He tells Zedekiah the bad news, that he will be taken by the king of Babylon.

Jeremiah 37:18 "Moreover Jeremiah said unto king Zedekiah, What have I offended against thee, or against thy servants, or against this people, that ye have put me in prison?"

The king in the land is responsible for what the princes do. Jeremiah wants to know what crime he committed that was worthy of imprisonment. He asks Zedekiah, "Why did you put me in prison"?

Jeremiah 37:19 "Where [are] now your prophets which prophesied unto you, saying, The king of Babylon shall not come against you, nor against this land?"

Jeremiah reminds Zedekiah, that the prophecy he had given, came true. The false prophets, that he was so eager to listen to, had lied. Now, Jeremiah asks Zedekiah, "How have you punished the false prophets"? They had dealt harshly with Jeremiah, and he was a true prophet. What punishment had the false prophets received?

Jeremiah 37:20 "Therefore hear now, I pray thee, O my lord the king: let my supplication, I pray thee, be accepted before thee; that thou cause me not to return to the house of Jonathan the scribe, lest I die there."

Jeremiah is speaking this to Zedekiah. The word "lord" is not capitalized, which means an earthly lord. "Supplication", in this particular instance, means graciousness, or entreaty. Jeremiah is explaining that he is just speaking the Words that God puts into his mouth. That is his duty as a prophet. He has committed no crime, and should not be imprisoned

in the dungeon, again. This is such a terrible place, that Jeremiah felt he might die there.

Jeremiah 37:21 "Then Zedekiah the king commanded that they should commit Jeremiah into the court of the prison, and that they should give him daily a piece of bread out of the bakers' street, until all the bread in the city were spent. Thus Jeremiah remained in the court of the prison."

Jeremiah was still imprisoned, but it was minimum security. He would even receive a piece of bread each day to keep him from starving. Probably, this was more than what we would call a slice. It was, possibly, a small loaf. Bread was short, because there was a famine, as well as a siege against the city. The court was a little like being under house arrest. He was detained, but had some freedom of movement.

## Jeremiah 40 Questions

1. Who is Coniah?
2. How old was Zedekiah, when he began to reign?
3. Verse 2 tells us the people \_\_\_\_\_ accept the prophecy of Jeremiah?
4. What did Zedekiah send messengers to Jeremiah to ask him to do?
5. Quote James chapter 5 verse 16.
6. Who was sent to ask Jeremiah to pray?
7. Verse 4 says, Jeremiah could come and go as he pleased because of what?
8. What happened to the Chaldeans in Jerusalem, when they heard of the Egyptians coming?
9. Who was the Pharaoh mentioned in verse 5?
10. What did God tell Jeremiah to say to the king of Judah?
11. Why had Jeremiah not prayed for Zedekiah?
12. What will the Chaldeans do, when they come again to the city?
13. Why would the city not be spared, even if the exiled Jews had defeated the Chaldeans?
14. When did Jeremiah decide to leave Jerusalem?
15. Where did he want to go?
16. What happened, when Jeremiah was in the gate of Benjamin?
17. Who accused Jeremiah?
18. What did he accuse Jeremiah of?
19. What answer did Jeremiah give to the accusation?
20. What did Irijah do with Jeremiah?
21. Who smote Jeremiah?
22. Where did they imprison Jeremiah?
23. How long was Jeremiah in the dungeon?
24. Who took Jeremiah out of the dungeon?
25. What did he ask Jeremiah?
26. How did Jeremiah answer him?
27. What does Jeremiah remind Zedekiah of in verse 19?
28. Why did Jeremiah ask not to be sent back to Jonothan's house?
29. Where did they imprison Jeremiah?
30. What was he to be fed?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 38:1 "Then Shephatiah the son of Mattan, and Gedaliah the son of Pashur, and Jucal the son of Shelemiah, and Pashur the son of Malchiah, heard the words that Jeremiah had spoken unto all the people, saying,"

These were some of the princes. "Had spoken" could be continued to speak. They did not like what Jeremiah had to say. They did not even like Zedekiah taking Jeremiah out of the dungeon, and giving him an opportunity to speak.

Jeremiah 38:2 "Thus saith the LORD, He that remaineth in this city shall die by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence: but he that goeth forth to the Chaldeans shall live; for he shall have his life for a prey, and shall live."

They did not like this message from God that Jeremiah was speaking. They still had an opportunity to save their lives, if they would voluntarily surrender to the Chaldeans. If they did not surrender, God would let them die by the sword, famine, and by pestilence. Jeremiah might be imprisoned, but his message was the same.

Jeremiah 38:3 "Thus saith the LORD, This city shall surely be given into the hand of the king of Babylon's army, which shall take it."

The king of Babylon whose army would take the city, was Nebuchadnezzar.

Jeremiah 38:4 "Therefore the princes said unto the king, We beseech thee, let this man be put to death: for thus he weakeneth the hands of the men of war that remain in this city, and the hands of all the people, in speaking such words unto them: for this man seeketh not the welfare of this people, but the hurt."

The princes marked Jeremiah a traitor, because he told them to surrender to Babylon. They did not believe him to be a prophet. They wanted him killed for telling them the truth. They still wanted to fight for the city, and they believed some who heard him might not be willing to fight. Some might believe, this message might be from God.

Jeremiah 38:5 "Then Zedekiah the king said, Behold, he [is] in your hand: for the king [is] not [he that] can do [any] thing against you."

It appears, the princes had begun to take over the reins of tending the government. Zedekiah said, "you handle this, it is out of my hands".

Jeremiah 38:6 "Then took they Jeremiah, and cast him into the dungeon of Malchiah the son of Hammelech, that [was] in the court of the prison: and they let down Jeremiah with cords. And in the dungeon [there was] no water, but mire: so Jeremiah sunk in the mire."

Dungeon, here, means cistern. All of the houses had cisterns, so they would not run out of water in time of war. We remember, there was a droughth in the land at this time, so there would not be any water. There would be

just mud at the bottom. This was a deep cistern and Jeremiah had to be let down with ropes. When he got to the bottom, he sunk in the mud.

Jeremiah 38:7 "Now when Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, one of the eunuchs which was in the king's house, heard that they had put Jeremiah in the dungeon; the king then sitting in the gate of Benjamin;"

"Ebed-melech" means servant of a king. He was a black man {Ethiopian}. It appears, he had been working in the king's house, and heard about them putting Jeremiah in this cistern.

Jeremiah 38:8 "Ebed-melech went forth out of the king's house, and spake to the king, saying,"

This is very unusual for a slave to speak to a king without being called.

Jeremiah 38:9 "My lord the king, these men have done evil in all that they have done to Jeremiah the prophet, whom they have cast into the dungeon; and he is like to die for hunger in the place where he is: for [there is] no more bread in the city."

It appears, the famine was widespread by this time. People had to eat whatever they could find. No one would go and put bread into the dungeon for Jeremiah, when they did not have enough for themselves. This black slave has interceded with the king for Jeremiah's life. He was a brave slave, to say that the princes were evil for doing this to Jeremiah. Notice, he calls Jeremiah a prophet.

Jeremiah 38:10 "Then the king commanded Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, saying, Take from hence thirty men with thee, and take up Jeremiah the prophet out of the dungeon, before he die."

It would be quite a task to pull a mud-soaked man out of that cistern. He would be heavy, and it would take many men for the task. Zedekiah sends 30 men to pull Jeremiah out. He would probably be weak from his stay in the cistern. It would be like dead weight they would have to pull straight up.

Jeremiah 38:11 "So Ebed-melech took the men with him, and went into the house of the king under the treasury, and took thence old cast clouts and old rotten rags, and let them down by cords into the dungeon to Jeremiah."

"Clouts" is the same thing as rags. The rags seem to be the only things that Ebed-melech had access to, so he made ropes out of the old thrown-away rags.

Jeremiah 38:12 "And Ebed-melech the Ethiopian said unto Jeremiah, Put now [these] old cast clouts and rotten rags under thine armholes under the cords. And Jeremiah did so."

It seems as though, they were tied and there were knots every little ways. These tied places would help give a hold for Jeremiah. He was to put this home-made rope under his arm pits, because he had little strength to hold on to it.

Jeremiah 38:13 "So they drew up Jeremiah with cords, and took him up out of the dungeon: and Jeremiah remained in the court of the prison."

They were successful in getting him out of the cistern, but they still did not release him. He was in minimum security, but still locked up. The court of the prison was near the king's house.

Jeremiah 38:14 "Then Zedekiah the king sent, and took Jeremiah the prophet unto him into the third entry that [is] in the house of the LORD: and the king said unto Jeremiah, I will ask thee a thing; hide nothing from me."

Even though Zedekiah publicly denied believing in the prophecy of Jeremiah, it appears he did believe privately. This was a place where Zedekiah would not be seen talking to Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 38:15 "Then Jeremiah said unto Zedekiah, If I declare [it] unto thee, wilt thou not surely put me to death? and if I give thee counsel, wilt thou not hearken unto me?"

Jeremiah feels he has nothing to gain by telling the king of his fate. The king might kill him. The king had not listened to his prophecy before, so why would he take heed now?

Jeremiah 38:16 "So Zedekiah the king sware secretly unto Jeremiah, saying, [As] the LORD liveth, that made us this soul, I will not put thee to death, neither will I give thee into the hand of these men that seek thy life."

Zedekiah promised Jeremiah he would protect him, if he would tell him the prophecy. We remember, that Zedekiah had turned most of the administration of his office over to the princes, so this had to be a private agreement.

Jeremiah 38:17 "Then said Jeremiah unto Zedekiah, Thus saith the LORD, the God of hosts, the God of Israel; If thou wilt assuredly go forth unto the king of Babylon's princes, then thy soul shall live, and this city shall not be burned with fire; and thou shalt live, and thine house:"

Jeremiah tells him, one more time, that the only way to live and save the city, is to surrender to the princes of Babylon. We must remember, that this is a punishment from God for their unfaithfulness. If they do not surrender, they are rebelling against the punishment of God for their sin.

Jeremiah 38:18 "But if thou wilt not go forth to the king of Babylon's princes, then shall this city be given into the hand of the Chaldeans, and they shall burn it with fire, and thou shalt not escape out of their hand."

One more time, he tells Zedekiah the consequences of not surrendering to Babylon.

Jeremiah 38:19 "And Zedekiah the king said unto Jeremiah, I am afraid of the Jews that are fallen to the Chaldeans, lest they deliver me into their hand, and they mock me."

We see now, the reason that Zedekiah did not want to surrender to the Chaldeans. He was not as afraid of the Babylonians as he was of the Jews. He had, possibly, been severe with some of them and feared reprisal.

Jeremiah 38:20 "But Jeremiah said, They shall not deliver [thee]. Obey, I beseech thee, the voice of the LORD, which I speak unto thee: so it shall be well unto thee, and thy soul shall live."

Jeremiah appreciated Zedekiah saving his life, and he wanted Zedekiah to surrender, so his life would be spared, as well. He gives Zedekiah a promise that he will not be turned over to the Jews, if he surrenders.

Jeremiah 38:21 "But if thou refuse to go forth, this [is] the word that the LORD hath shewed me:" Jeremiah 38:22 "And, behold, all the women that are left in the king of Judah's house [shall be] brought forth to the king of Babylon's princes, and those [women] shall say, Thy friends have set thee on, and have prevailed against thee: thy feet are sunk in the mire, [and] they are turned away back."

The friends, that Zedekiah had believed, convinced him not to surrender to Babylon. He had listened to them, instead of Jeremiah. The women were concubines and women slaves in Zedekiah's house.

Jeremiah 38:23 "So they shall bring out all thy wives and thy children to the Chaldeans: and thou shalt not escape out of their hand, but shalt be taken by the hand of the king of Babylon: and thou shalt cause this city to be burned with fire."

The wives and children are different from the women in verse 22. Zedekiah had married several women and had children, as well. There is an indication of the fact that he would be blinded, because of the statement. "taken by the hand of the king of Babylon". The cause of the fire would be Zedekiah's stubbornness not to surrender. He would not actually set the fire, but it would be his fault.

Jeremiah 38:24 "Then said Zedekiah unto Jeremiah, Let no man know of these words, and thou shalt not die."

Zedekiah did not want the princes to know he had inquired of Jeremiah. Jeremiah's silence about their meetings would cause Zedekiah to protect Jeremiah from death.

Jeremiah 38:25 "But if the princes hear that I have talked with thee, and they come unto thee, and say unto thee, Declare unto us now what thou hast said unto the king, hide it not from us, and we will not put thee to death; also what the king said unto thee:"

Zedekiah was afraid of the princes. He did not want them to feel that he had any weakness. He was asking Jeremiah to promise he would not tell them the details of the meeting. If they came, Zedekiah wanted Jeremiah to cover up the facts for him.

Jeremiah 38:26 "Then thou shalt say unto them, I presented my supplication before the king, that he would not cause me to return to Jonathan's house, to die there."

Zedekiah has an answer ready, that he thinks will stop the princes inquiry. They were aware that Jeremiah did not want to go back into the dungeon of Jonathan's house. Zedekiah felt this would suffice them.

Jeremiah 38:27 "Then came all the princes unto Jeremiah, and asked him: and he told them according to all these words that the king had commanded. So they left off speaking with him; for the matter was not perceived."

It appears from this, that Jeremiah did exactly as the king had asked him to. The answer was accepted by the princes.

Jeremiah 38:28 "So Jeremiah abode in the court of the prison until the day that Jerusalem was taken: and he was [there] when Jerusalem was taken."

God had promised Jeremiah that he would see the fall of Jerusalem. He did just that. He was in minimum security, when the city fell to the Babylonians. Jeremiah lived to see his prophecy fulfilled.

## Jeremiah 41 Questions

1. Who were the people mentioned in verse 1?
2. How did they feel about Zedekiah taking Jeremiah out of the dungeon, and letting him speak?
3. What did Jeremiah prophesy would happen to those who remained in the city?
4. How could they have saved their lives?
5. What will happen to this city?
6. Who was the king of Babylon at this time?
7. What did the princes want to happen to Jeremiah?
8. What excuse did they give for wanting Jeremiah punished this way?
9. Why did Zedekiah turn Jeremiah over to the princes?
10. What did they do to Jeremiah?
11. What does dungeon, in verse 6, mean?
12. How did they get him in the cistern?
13. Who came to the king's house to speak in Jeremiah's behalf?
14. What nationality was he?
15. What does "Ebed-melech" mean?
16. What report did he give the king?
17. What did the king command him to do?
18. How much help did he give him to do this?
19. What did they use for ropes?
20. Why did Zedekiah meet privately with Jeremiah?
21. What did Jeremiah make Zedekiah promise, before he prophesied to him here?
22. What did Jeremiah tell Zedekiah?
23. Who was Zedekiah afraid of?
24. How could Zedekiah live?
25. Who had deceived Zedekiah into believing a lie?
26. Who were the women in verse 22?
27. What indicates the blinding of Zedekiah in verse 23?
28. What must Jeremiah promise, for Zedekiah to keep him from death?
29. What was Jeremiah to say to the princes?
30. Where did Jeremiah live, until Jerusalem was taken?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 39:1 In the ninth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, in the tenth month, came Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon and all his army against Jerusalem, and they besieged it."

We see from this, that Jeremiah prophesied for about 40 years. Jeremiah is one of the few prophets who actually saw his prophecy fulfilled. Zedekiah reigned for approximately 11 years. This siege on Jerusalem lasted about 18 months.

Jeremiah 39:2 "[And] in the eleventh year of Zedekiah, in the fourth month, the ninth [day] of the month, the city was broken up."

A city as fortified as Jerusalem was, could last a good while. In this case, the battle went on for a year and a half.

Jeremiah 39:3 "And all the princes of the king of Babylon came in, and sat in the middle gate, [even] Nergal-sharezer, Samgar-nebo, Sarsechim, Rab-saris, Nergal-sharezer, Rab-mag, with all the residue of the princes of the king of Babylon."

This is just listing the names of some of the princes from Babylon, who fought against Jerusalem and prevailed.

Jeremiah 39:4 "And it came to pass, [that] when Zedekiah the king of Judah saw them, and all the men of war, then they fled, and went forth out of the city by night, by the way of the king's garden, by the gate betwixt the two walls: and he went out the way of the plain."

There seemed to be a secret way between the walls to get out of the city, and that is what Zedekiah, and probably Zedekiah's sons, used.

Jeremiah 39:5 "But the Chaldeans' army pursued after them, and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho: and when they had taken him, they brought him up to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon to Riblah in the land of Hamath, where he gave judgment upon him."

The plains of Jericho are a short distance from Jerusalem, so Zedekiah had not gone far, before he was caught. The Chaldean army took Zedekiah to Nebuchadnezzar to be judged. This might have been, because he was a close relative of Nebuchadnezzar.

Jeremiah 39:6 "Then the king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedekiah in Riblah before his eyes: also the king of Babylon slew all the nobles of Judah."

There is no greater hurt than to see your sons slain before your eyes. This was a terrible grief to Zedekiah, and probably the last act to see with his own eyes. Remember, they all could have saved their lives, if they had listened to Jeremiah's prophecy from God, and heeded it. They did not, so they are paying the ultimate price.

Jeremiah 39:7 "Moreover he put out Zedekiah's eyes, and bound him with chains, to carry him to Babylon."

There are worse things than dying, and putting out your eyes would be one of the things. It seems, Zedekiah would have a long time to regret not heeding the prophet Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 39:8 "And the Chaldeans burned the king's house, and the houses of the people, with fire, and brake down the walls of Jerusalem."

This is a fulfillment of the very thing Jeremiah had prophesied. He said the city would be burned, and that is just what happened.

Jeremiah 39:9 "Then Nebuzar-adan the captain of the guard carried away captive into Babylon the remnant of the people that remained in the city, and those that fell away, that fell to him, with the rest of the people that remained."

God will always save a remnant of His people. They were captives, but they were alive.

Jeremiah 39:10 "But Nebuzar-adan the captain of the guard left of the poor of the people, which had nothing, in the land of Judah, and gave them vineyards and fields at the same time."

The poor were left, because they were no threat to Nebuchadnezzar. They {in a sense} benefited from the siege. They were given land that they had never been able to have before, and they were growing vineyards for themselves, instead of working them for someone else. They had nothing the Babylonians wanted, so they left them in the land.

Jeremiah 39:11 "Now Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon gave charge concerning Jeremiah to Nebuzar-adan the captain of the guard, saying," Jeremiah 39:12 "Take him, and look well to him, and do him no harm; but do unto him even as he shall say unto thee."

God is still taking care of Jeremiah. Possibly, Nebuchadnezzar had heard of the predictions of Jeremiah. He, also, knew Jeremiah had tried to get the people to surrender without all this bloodshed. You remember, how Zedekiah's sons thought Jeremiah to be a traitor to his country. Perhaps, these Babylonians believe he was on their side. Both were wrong, Jeremiah was just bringing the message to the people that God had given him. Now, Nebuchadnezzar tells Nebuzar-adan to give Jeremiah whatever he wants.

Jeremiah 39:13 "So Nebuzar-adan the captain of the guard sent, and Nebushasban, Rab-saris, and Nergal-sharezer, Rab-mag, and all the king of Babylon's princes;" Jeremiah 39:14 "Even they sent, and took Jeremiah out of the court of the prison, and committed him unto Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan, that he should carry him home: so he dwelt among the people."

The minister must be with his people. That is why Jeremiah had stayed in Jerusalem. Now, he will, again, be with his people. Jeremiah knew there would be affliction during the siege, because he had prophesied it, yet he stayed with his people. Jeremiah is removed from imprisonment.

Jeremiah 39:15 "Now the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah, while he was shut up in the court of the prison, saying,"

This is looking back to the Word God had given him, while he was yet imprisoned.

Jeremiah 39:16 "Go and speak to Ebed-melech the Ethiopian, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will bring my words upon this city for evil, and not for good; and they shall be [accomplished] in that day before thee."

We remember, that the Ethiopian had saved Jeremiah out of the cistern. This Word is a promise from God, because God saw the Ethiopian's good work with Jeremiah. God would not overlook protecting someone who had protected His prophet. Surely the city of Jerusalem was to be destroyed, and was, as we read in the earlier part of this lesson.

Jeremiah 39:17 "But I will deliver thee in that day, saith the LORD: and thou shalt not be given into the hand of the men of whom thou [art] afraid."

The Ethiopian will not suffer in the siege. He would be protected by the LORD. It appears, this Ethiopian had feared the Babylonians. That would be a natural thing, since his master, Zedekiah feared them. God will bring the Ethiopian out of the city unharmed.

Jeremiah 39:18 "For I will surely deliver thee, and thou shalt not fall by the sword, but thy life shall be for a prey unto thee: because thou hast put thy trust in me, saith the LORD."

This Ethiopian had won favor in the sight of the LORD, because he feared God more than man. He had bravely gone to his superior, and saved Jeremiah's life. God is rewarding him, now, by protecting him from harm. Nahum 1:7 "The LORD [is] good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him." To trust in the Lord, brings protection beyond the world's comprehension. The following Scripture is the very thing that happened to the Ethiopian. Psalms 91:7 "A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; [but] it shall not come nigh thee."

## Jeremiah 42 Questions

1. About how many years did Jeremiah prophesy?
2. How many years did Zedekiah reign?
3. How long did the siege on Jerusalem last?
4. When was the city broken up?
5. What is verse 3 a listing of?
6. When Zedekiah saw the men of war, what did he do?
7. Who pursued Zedekiah and captured him?
8. Where did they catch him?
9. Who personally judged Zedekiah?
10. What was done to Zedekiah's sons, before his eyes?
11. What punishment was inflicted on Zedekiah?
12. What happened to the king's house?
13. What happened to the remnant of the people?
14. What happened to the very poor?
15. What did Nebuchadnezzar do to Jeremiah?
16. Whose side was Jeremiah on? Explain.
17. Where had Jeremiah been imprisoned?
18. Where did Jeremiah go?
19. Why had Jeremiah stayed in Jerusalem?
20. What is verse 15?
21. What was the name of the Ethiopian who helped Jeremiah?
22. What did God promise would not happen to him in the siege?
23. Why was the Ethiopian afraid of the Babylonians, probably?
24. Who had the Ethiopian feared, more than the king?
25. Quote Nahum chapter 1 verse 7.
26. Quote chapter 91 verse 7.

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 40:1 "The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, after that Nebuzar-adan the captain of the guard had let him go from Ramah, when he had taken him being bound in chains among all that were carried away captive of Jerusalem and Judah, which were carried away captive unto Babylon."

We are, now, looking into what happened to Jeremiah, after the fall of Jerusalem. Jeremiah had been chained, as if he were a criminal. We have discussed before, how the innocent sometimes are caught up in war, and there is nothing they can do about it. The real rewards that Jeremiah would experience were not in this world. His greatest reward is to stand before the LORD and hear Him say, "Well done, thy good and faithful servant". His chains are gone. He is free.

Jeremiah 40:2 "And the captain of the guard took Jeremiah, and said unto him, The LORD thy God hath pronounced this evil upon this place."

Even this Babylonian knew the destruction, here, was a judgment from God. This was not only a witness to Judah and Benjamin, but to the Babylonians, as well, that this was truly God. The Babylonians had worshipped false gods, but this captain realizes Jeremiah's God is God.

Jeremiah 40:3 "Now the LORD hath brought [it], and done according as he hath said: because ye have sinned against the LORD, and have not obeyed his voice, therefore this thing is come upon you."

There was no question in anyone's mind, that this judgment from God was caused by their unfaithfulness to God.

Jeremiah 40:4 "And now, behold, I loose thee this day from the chains which [were] upon thine hand. If it seem good unto thee to come with me into Babylon, come; and I will look well unto thee: but if it seem ill unto thee to come with me into Babylon, forbear: behold, all the land [is] before thee: whither it seemeth good and convenient for thee to go, thither go."

We see that this captain was very smart. He did not want to anger God by forcing Jeremiah to go with him. He had great respect for this mighty prophet of God. Jeremiah is free to choose his habitation.

Jeremiah 40:5 "Now while he was not yet gone back, [he said], Go back also to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan, whom the king of Babylon hath made governor over the cities of Judah, and dwell with him among the people: or go wheresoever it seemeth convenient unto thee to go. So the captain of the guard gave him victuals and a reward, and let him go."

One of the greatest blessings a man or woman can have, is to be free, especially, when you have been imprisoned for a long time. Jeremiah is now free. Gedaliah was chosen as a governor over Judah. He will rule Judah under the supervision of Nebuchadnezzar. This captain did not just wish Jeremiah God speed, but gave him food {victuals} and some money to sustain him.

Jeremiah 40:6 "Then went Jeremiah unto Gedaliah the son of Ahikam to Mizpah; and dwelt with him among the people that were left in the land."

Jeremiah's choice from the beginning had been to live in his home land. He had not planned to go to Babylon. He had made his choice early to stay in Jerusalem. His people were here, and he could, possibly, help them. Gedaliah was the grandson of Shaphan. Shaphan had been a scribe for Josiah. It appears, the grandson had inherited some of his faithfulness from his grandfather.

Jeremiah 40:7 "Now when all the captains of the forces which [were] in the fields, [even] they and their men, heard that the king of Babylon had made Gedaliah the son of Ahikam governor in the land, and had committed unto him men, and women, and children, and of the poor of the land, of them that were not carried away captive to Babylon;"

These, who fled the siege, had been living in exile. They, now, hear that Nebuchadnezzar has made Gedaliah governor in Judah. He was over the remnant of people left in the land. If you remember from a previous lesson, these are the poor. They could not rule themselves, so Nebuchadnezzar appointed Gedaliah for that task.

Jeremiah 40:8 "Then they came to Gedaliah to Mizpah, even Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and Johanan and Jonathan the sons of Kareah, and Seraiah the son of Tanhumeth, and the sons of Ephai the Netophathite, and Jezaniah the son of a Maachathite, they and their men."

Ishmael was believed to be of royal birth. Some believe he might have been a close relative of Zedekiah. For our study here, it does not matter. During the siege, he had escaped to Baalis. He was a very evil man. Johanan was with this group, but did not share their evil intentions. These appear to have been leaders of some men. Perhaps, they were like the captains themselves.

Jeremiah 40:9 "And Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan sware unto them and to their men, saying, Fear not to serve the Chaldeans: dwell in the land, and serve the king of Babylon, and it shall be well with you."

Gedaliah offered them peace. If they would lay down their arms and serve the Chaldeans, they could live. He told them not to fear that Nebuchadnezzar would not harm them, if they would live peaceably.

Jeremiah 40:10 "As for me, behold, I will dwell at Mizpah, to serve the Chaldeans, which will come unto us: but ye, gather ye wine, and summer fruits, and oil, and put [them] in your vessels, and dwell in your cities that ye have taken."

This is a promise that their vineyards would be fruitful again. It seems, that Gedaliah had been appointed as a mediator between the Chaldeans and the Hebrews that were left. He had the authority to offer them peace. They needed to start producing this fruitful land.

Jeremiah 40:11 "Likewise when all the Jews that [were] in Moab, and among the Ammonites, and in Edom, and that [were] in all the countries, heard that the king of Babylon had left a remnant of Judah, and that he had set over them Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan;"

We remember from a previous lesson, that many had fled to safety in the lands around Judah. Now, the word has spread that the war is over, and one

of their own has been made ruler. Shaphan had a good reputation. They should have known that Gedaliah would be a good man, too.

Jeremiah 40:12 "Even all the Jews returned out of all places whither they were driven, and came to the land of Judah, to Gedaliah, unto Mizpah, and gathered wine and summer fruits very much."

There was an inflow of the exiled Jews, that came into the land and began to produce the vineyards and the fruit trees.

Jeremiah 40:13 "Moreover Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the captains of the forces that [were] in the fields, came to Gedaliah to Mizpah,"

Mizpah was a city of Benjamin. Remember, Johanan was the good one of the captains that ran from the siege.

Jeremiah 40:14 "And said unto him, Dost thou certainly know that Baalis the king of the Ammonites hath sent Ishmael the son of Nethaniah to slay thee? But Gedaliah the son of Ahikam believed them not."

Johanan was trying to save the life of Gedaliah. He was taking a big chance, coming to warn him. Baalis was behind the plot to kill Gedaliah. Ishmael, the son of Nethaniah, was the man assigned to the actual killing of Gedaliah.

Jeremiah 40:15 "Then Johanan the son of Kareah spake to Gedaliah in Mizpah secretly, saying, Let me go, I pray thee, and I will slay Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and no man shall know [it]: wherefore should he slay thee, that all the Jews which are gathered unto thee should be scattered, and the remnant in Judah perish?" Jeremiah 40:16 "But Gedaliah the son of Ahikam said unto Johanan the son of Kareah, Thou shalt not do this thing: for thou speakest falsely of Ishmael."

Johanan realizes the seriousness of the threat. He, also, realizes what a cruel man Ishmael is. He offers to kill Ishmael to keep him from killing Gedaliah. It appears, the reason for this assassination is to scatter the Jews again. Gedaliah trusted Ishmael too much.

## Jeremiah 43 Questions

1. Verse 1 is the beginning of what for Jeremiah?
2. Jeremiah had been chained, as if he were a \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Where would Jeremiah receive his greatest reward?
4. What startling statement did the captain of the guard make to Jeremiah in verse 2?
5. Why had the judgment come?
6. What two choices did the captain give Jeremiah?
7. Who did he tell Jeremiah to go back to?
8. Who was Gedaliah?
9. What office had Nebuchadnezzar given him?
10. What did the captain give Jeremiah?
11. What is one of the greatest blessings a man or woman can have?
12. Which place did Jeremiah choose to go?
13. Who was Shaphan?
14. What news spread to those captains of the forces in the fields?
15. Who did Gedaliah rule over?
16. Which of these captains came to talk with Gedaliah?
17. Where was Gedaliah staying?
18. Ishmael was believed to be of \_\_\_\_\_ birth.
19. To whom had Ishmael escaped during the siege?
20. What promise did Gedaliah make them?
21. Gedaliah had been appointed a mediator of whom?
22. When the exiled Jews heard that some were left in the land living, what did they do?
23. Who came to Gedaliah and reported the plot against his life?
24. What did Johanan offer to do for Gedaliah?
25. Why would Gedaliah not let Johanan do this thing?

In the last lesson, Johanan had warned Gedaliah that Ishmael was plotting to kill him. Gedaliah trusted Ishmael, and would not let Johanan kill Ishmael.

Now, we will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 41:1 Now it came to pass in the seventh month, [that] Ishmael the son of Nethaniah the son of Elishama, of the seed royal, and the princes of the king, even ten men with him, came unto Gedaliah the son of Ahikam to Mizpah; and there they did eat bread together in Mizpah.

The seventh month on the Jewish calendar is similar to our October. The number 10 symbolizes world government. This, then, is the world coming against this man who lived above the worldly temptation. This eating of the bread together was more than filling their stomachs. This was a time to carry out their evil deed.

Jeremiah 41:2 "Then arose Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and the ten men that were with him, and smote Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan with the sword, and slew him, whom the king of Babylon had made governor over the land."

Gedaliah was a peaceful man. He had not wanted the death of Ishmael, but Ishmael was not so honorable. It appears, they rushed in on him unawares, and slew Gedaliah with the sword. This was an act of violence against Gedaliah, but was also an act of rebellion against Babylon.

Jeremiah 41:3 "Ishmael also slew all the Jews that were with him, [even] with Gedaliah, at Mizpah, and the Chaldeans that were found there, [and] the men of war."

All of these people were relaxing in the palace, and never dreamed that Ishmael had such terrible plans. They were caught unaware and unprepared. This should tell us something, as well. We must be ready at all times to combat the enemy. We must be more alert at recognizing who the enemy is. We must listen to warnings. The Chaldeans, mentioned here, are the people Nebuchadnezzar left to guard Gedaliah.

Jeremiah 41:4 "And it came to pass the second day after he had slain Gedaliah, and no man knew [it],"

You can easily see from the two days, that no one knew about the murder, since they had done this quietly. This was a surprise attack. They were thought to be friends, so they could have easily gotten to Gedaliah.

Jeremiah 41:5 "That there came certain from Shechem, from Shiloh, and from Samaria, [even] fourscore men, having their beards shaven, and their clothes rent, and having cut themselves, with offerings and incense in their hand, to bring [them] to the house of the LORD."

These were descendents from the 10 tribes of Israel. They were on their way to worship. It appears, they were seriously trying to please God. They were in a state of mourning and repentance. It was a custom to shave the

beard and cut yourself in extreme mourning. The temple in Jerusalem was destroyed. They were going to a place that had been set aside for worship.

Jeremiah 41:6 "And Ishmael the son of Nethaniah went forth from Mizpah to meet them, weeping all along as he went: and it came to pass, as he met them, he said unto them, Come to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam."

This, Ishmael, was a liar. He was not interested in the temple, or in these men. He had no desire to worship God, only to trick these men. There are people today in the church that are like Ishmael here. They are going to church, but not to worship God. Just because someone sits on the pew with you in church, does not make them a Christian. We are warned to try the spirits, and see whether they be of God, or not.

Jeremiah 41:7 "And it was [so], when they came into the midst of the city, that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah slew them, [and cast them] into the midst of the pit, he, and the men that [were] with him."

The enemy is out to kill, and destroy any way he can. Just as Ishmael killed these people, who were truly seeking God, the enemy {Satan} will destroy you, if you are not aware of him. This, Ishmael, was as evil as Satan himself.

Jeremiah 41:8 "But ten men were found among them that said unto Ishmael, Slay us not: for we have treasures in the field, of wheat, and of barley, and of oil, and of honey. So he forbore, and slew them not among their brethren."

These ten men had hidden their treasures to keep from being robbed. Life is more precious than things. These ten offered their goods in return for their lives. Someone who was a vicious murderer would, also, be greedy. This is the case, here. The greed of Ishmael was greater than his desire to murder the ten. There is no record that Ishmael ever collected this bribe.

Jeremiah 41:9 "Now the pit wherein Ishmael had cast all the dead bodies of the men, whom he had slain because of Gedaliah, [was] it which Asa the king had made for fear of Baasha king of Israel: [and] Ishmael the son of Nethaniah filled it with [them that were] slain."

This pit had, probably, been a giant cistern, to catch water to keep water in the city, when they were under attack. Asa was the exact opposite of Ishmael. Asa had tried to restore true worship of God to his land. Baasha did not want his people going to Asa to worship. I Kings 15:17 "And Baasha king of Israel went up against Judah, and built Ramah, that he might not suffer any to go out or come in to Asa king of Judah." Ishmael had a very evil use for the cistern. He threw all the dead bodies in the cistern.

Jeremiah 41:10 "Then Ishmael carried away captive all the residue of the people that [were] in Mizpah, [even] the king's daughters, and all the people that remained in Mizpah, whom Nebuzar-adan the captain of the guard had committed to Gedaliah the son of Ahikam: and Ishmael the son of Nethaniah carried them away captive, and departed to go over to the Ammonites."

This evil man spoiled the kingdom, and fled with the daughters of the king. This is like Satan himself, who comes and steals the people away. We

must resist the devil, and he will flee from us. He may get away with his hideous crime here on the earth, but there is coming a day when he, too, will stand before the Judge of all the earth. He cannot hide his evil acts from God. Ezekiel 7:8 "Now will I shortly pour out my fury upon thee, and accomplish mine anger upon thee: and I will judge thee according to thy ways, and will recompense thee for all thine abominations."

Jeremiah 41:11 "But when Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the captains of the forces that [were] with him, heard of all the evil that Ishmael the son of Nethaniah had done,"

We remember, that Johanan had tried to warn Gedaliah. Johanan has, now, heard the terrible thing Ishmael had done.

Jeremiah 41:12 "Then they took all the men, and went to fight with Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, and found him by the great waters that [are] in Gibeon."

Johanan was not afraid of Ishmael. He took his men and chased him down. Ishmael had not made it to Ammon. He had stopped by the side of a big lake.

Jeremiah 41:13 "Now it came to pass, [that] when all the people which [were] with Ishmael saw Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the captains of the forces that [were] with him, then they were glad."

These people were afraid of Ishmael and that was the only reason they had come with him. The people were pleased, because they wanted to go home. These simple people did not trust Ishmael.

Jeremiah 41:14 "So all the people that Ishmael had carried away captive from Mizpah cast about and returned, and went unto Johanan the son of Kareah."

It appears, that all the people ran back to Johanan at once.

Jeremiah 41:15 "But Ishmael the son of Nethaniah escaped from Johanan with eight men, and went to the Ammonites."

In all of the confusion of the people running back to Johanan, Ishmael escapes with 8 men. The Ammonites were descended from Lot's youngest daughter. She had an incestuous affair with her father, and these are her descendents. They were not friendly with Israel. The Israelites did not attack them, but they would take sides against Israel quite often. Ishmael knew these Ammonites would not turn him over to Johanan.

Jeremiah 41:16 "Then took Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the captains of the forces that [were] with him, all the remnant of the people whom he had recovered from Ishmael the son of Nethaniah, from Mizpah, after [that] he had slain Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, [even] mighty men of war, and the women, and the children, and the eunuchs, whom he had brought again from Gibeon:"

At least Johanan recovered the people Ishmael had captured, and took them home. This is like snatching these people out of the grasp of Satan himself.

Jeremiah 41:17 "And they departed, and dwelt in the habitation of Chimham, which is by Beth-lehem, to go to enter into Egypt,"

Bethlehem is just 5 miles out of Jerusalem. Chimham is an area that had been given to the man Chimham by king David. It appears, there was an inn for strangers to stop and rest there.

Jeremiah 41:18 "Because of the Chaldeans: for they were afraid of them, because Ishmael the son of Nethaniah had slain Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, whom the king of Babylon made governor in the land."

It appears, they were afraid that Nebuchadnezzar would hold them responsible for the terrible thing that Ishmael had done. They were afraid of guilt by association.

## Jeremiah 44 Questions

1. Who had warned Gedaliah of the plot to kill him?
2. Why did Gedaliah not listen?
3. When did Ishmael come to see Gedaliah?
4. Who did he bring with him?
5. Gedaliah was a \_\_\_\_\_ man.
6. This act of violence against Gedaliah was, also, an act of rebellion against whom?
7. Who did Ishmael kill at the same time?
8. Why were they so easily killed?
9. What are some of the things we, Christians, can learn from this?
10. How long was it, before anyone knew he had killed Gedaliah?
11. What were Shechem and Samaria part of?
12. These men from Shechem and the other cities were headed where?
13. What revealed that they were mourning?
14. Why were they not going to the temple in Jerusalem?
15. What deceiving thing did Ishmael do?
16. How did the author compare some in the church today to Ishmael?
17. What happened to the men who had come to worship?
18. How many were not killed?
19. What saved them?
20. Vicious murderers are, also, \_\_\_\_\_.
21. Where did Ishmael put the dead bodies?
22. What had this been used for?
23. What type of man was Asa?
24. Quote 1 Kings chapter 15 verse 17.
25. What happened to the people, that had been entrusted to Gedaliah?
26. Who is Ishamael like?
27. Quote Ezekiel chapter 7 verse 8.
28. What did Johanan do, when he heard the evil that Ishmael had done?
29. Where did he catch Ishmael.
30. What did the people Ishmael had captured do, when they saw Johanan?
31. Who escaped from Johanan?
32. Who were the Ammonites descended from?
33. Where did Johanan and the people go to dwell?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 42:1 "Then all the captains of the forces, and Johanan the son of Kareah, and Jezaniah the son of Hoshaiah, and all the people from the least even unto the greatest, came near," Jeremiah 42:2 "And said unto Jeremiah the prophet, Let, we beseech thee, our supplication be accepted before thee, and pray for us unto the LORD thy God, [even] for all this remnant; (for we are left [but] a few of many, as thine eyes do behold us:)"

Johanan had led these people, and now, he is at the end of deciding himself. Most people do not even bother to pray, until they are in a desperate situation. Johanan and these people do not even trust their own prayers, and ask Jeremiah to intercede for them. Notice, they wanted Jeremiah to pray to his God. Their petition to Jeremiah was out of desperation, because they were just a remnant left.

Jeremiah 42:3 "That the LORD thy God may shew us the way wherein we may walk, and the thing that we may do."

They had not accepted God's guidance through Jeremiah before, but now, they say they are willing to be guided by God in their walk.

Jeremiah 42:4 "Then Jeremiah the prophet said unto them, I have heard [you]; behold, I will pray unto the LORD your God according to your words; and it shall come to pass, [that] whatsoever thing the LORD shall answer you, I will declare [it] unto you; I will keep nothing back from you."

We see that Jeremiah does not promise to bring good news to them. He promises to accurately relate to them what God would have him say. The promise they have made will be spoken in Jeremiah's prayer on their behalf. Whatever answer God gives, Jeremiah will speak.

Jeremiah 42:5 "Then they said to Jeremiah, The LORD be a true and faithful witness between us, if we do not even according to all things for the which the LORD thy God shall send thee to us."

This is like them swearing to accept whatever the message is from God. Whatever He says, is what they will do. This is the promise. They did not really realize what they were promising. It is dangerous to make a careless promise to God.

Jeremiah 42:6 "Whether [it be] good, or whether [it be] evil, we will obey the voice of the LORD our God, to whom we send thee; that it may be well with us, when we obey the voice of the LORD our God."

To obey God, does bring blessings from God. This promise has left them no room for adjustment at all. They have promised to keep the letter of God's commands. Sometimes God's commands are not what we would like to do in the flesh. The flesh and the spirit are always at odds.

Jeremiah 42:7 "And it came to pass after ten days, that the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah."

Again, the number ten has to do with world government. Perhaps, that is why God waited ten days to give Jeremiah the message.

Jeremiah 42:8 "Then called he Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the captains of the forces which [were] with him, and all the people from the least even to the greatest,"

Jeremiah gathered all the people together to hear the message from God. They would each one be without excuse, if they did not do the will of God.

Jeremiah 42:9 "And said unto them, Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, unto whom ye sent me to present your supplication before him;"

It is almost as if, Jeremiah is explaining to them who they had called upon. He is speaking as the voice of God, here. Remember, Jeremiah receives his messages from God in his mouth, and then he speaks them.

Jeremiah 42:10 "If ye will still abide in this land, then will I build you, and not pull [you] down, and I will plant you, and not pluck [you] up: for I repent me of the evil that I have done unto you."

Repent, in this particular instance, means to breathe strongly, pity, or to be sorry. This does not mean that God has sinned. It just means that he pities the plight they have found themselves in. He gives them an option to receive His blessings. They must obey Him and stay in the land. I believe this has a meaning for our day, as well. God will bless His children, if they will walk in His ways. Christianity is a condition of the heart. It, also, is a daily walk. It is extremely important to stay on the path of righteousness after you have begun your walk.

Jeremiah 42:11 "Be not afraid of the king of Babylon, of whom ye are afraid; be not afraid of him, saith the LORD: for I [am] with you to save you, and to deliver you from his hand."

Fear of anything, or anyone, in this world is not of God. Fear is the opposite of faith. Put your faith in God, and you need not fear what man can do to you. This is good advice for them, and for us.

Jeremiah 42:12 "And I will shew mercies unto you, that he may have mercy upon you, and cause you to return to your own land."

God had given the promised land to these people. He would bless them in their own land. They should immediately return to their place God had provided for them. This applies to our work in the church, as well. We need to work where God has put us to work, not where we choose to work.

Jeremiah 42:13 "But if ye say, We will not dwell in this land, neither obey the voice of the LORD your God,"

This would be the most foolish thing they could do. "But" shows there is another side to the promise of God. Blessings would be theirs, if they obey God; but curses, if they do not. Jesus had the right idea when He was obedient to the Father, even unto the death of His body on the cross.

Jeremiah 42:14 "Saying, No; but we will go into the land of Egypt, where we shall see no war, nor hear the sound of the trumpet, nor have hunger of bread; and there will we dwell:"

Egypt is symbolic of the world. The things mentioned like no war, no sound of trumpet, and bread are all things that satisfy the flesh. The trumpet was blown to assemble the people to worship and to call them to war. They might choose these things over God, to please the lust of their own flesh. This would be disobeying God.

Jeremiah 42:15 "And now therefore hear the word of the LORD, ye remnant of Judah; Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; If ye wholly set your faces to enter into Egypt, and go to sojourn there;"

This is choosing the world {Egypt} over God. There are just a few left, but they would be a majority with God. "Set your faces" is an expression that shows stubbornness. They are determined to do this.

Jeremiah 42:16 "Then it shall come to pass, [that] the sword, which ye feared, shall overtake you there in the land of Egypt, and the famine, whereof ye were afraid, shall follow close after you there in Egypt; and there ye shall die."

The way of the world leads to death. Their fear will be real, if they do this, because all of the terrible things shall come upon them, and they shall die. The wages of sin is death.

Jeremiah 42:17 "So shall it be with all the men that set their faces to go into Egypt to sojourn there; they shall die by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence: and none of them shall remain or escape from the evil that I will bring upon them."

The sad part of this, is these are God's people. It does look like they would learn. These are the very same things that came on the disobedient, here, in Judah of whom they were the remnant.

Jeremiah 42:18 "For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; As mine anger and my fury hath been poured forth upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem; so shall my fury be poured forth upon you, when ye shall enter into Egypt: and ye shall be an execration, and an astonishment, and a curse, and a reproach; and ye shall see this place no more."

For a believer to choose to go back into the world, is a very serious sin. They had seen the terrible destruction God had poured out on Jerusalem. He says, if they choose to go to Egypt against His wishes, it will be worse for them than the destruction in Jerusalem. The word that "execration" was translated from means, curse. The curse of God would be horrible for them to bear, and for others to see.

Jeremiah 42:19 "The LORD hath said concerning you, O ye remnant of Judah; Go ye not into Egypt: know certainly that I have admonished you this day."

Egypt is forbidden to them, because in this instance, it symbolizes the unsaved world. The main thing is to obey the Word of God. God had sent Joseph to Egypt for a purpose. He even sent the baby Jesus to Egypt for a

purpose. Neither of them stayed in Egypt. They did not choose to go there. They went, because God sent them. These people's ancestors have been delivered from Egypt. It would be a sin to return to Egypt.

Jeremiah 42:20 "For ye dissembled in your hearts, when ye sent me unto the LORD your God, saying, Pray for us unto the LORD our God; and according unto all that the LORD our God shall say, so declare unto us, and we will do [it]."

"Dissembled" is taken from a word that means deceived, vacillate, or stray. It appears, they had already decided in their hearts what they would do, they just wanted God to approve their plan. They had tried to deceive Jeremiah. They had no intention of doing God's will, they just wanted approval to do their will. Isn't that like many Christians?

Jeremiah 42:21 "And [now] I have this day declared [it] to you; but ye have not obeyed the voice of the LORD your God, nor any [thing] for the which he hath sent me unto you."

They should have immediately gone back to Jerusalem and the surrounding area, where God had them in the beginning. They did not obey God. They have willingly chosen the world over God. Worse than that, they had been in His holy city and left. This is the same thing as a person who accepts Christ as their Saviour, and then goes back into the world.

Jeremiah 42:22 "Now therefore know certainly that ye shall die by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence, in the place whither ye desire to go [and] to sojourn."

The punishment for their disobedience is set. They will die. Sin brings death, if not repented of. They have chosen a life of sin. They have sealed their own doom. They have no one to blame, but themselves.

## Jeremiah 45 Questions

1. Why did Johanan, and the captain of the forces, come to Jeremiah?
2. When do most people pray?
3. Why did they not pray themselves?
4. Why was this prayer one of desperation?
5. What did they want God to show them?
6. What answer did Jeremiah give them, when they asked him to pray for them?
7. What answer will Jeremiah bring them?
8. What was verse 5 like?
9. It is dangerous to make a \_\_\_\_\_ promise to God.
10. The promise, they made to God left no room for \_\_\_\_\_.
11. How many days later did God answer Jeremiah?
12. What does the number 10 symbolize?
13. Jeremiah gathered \_\_\_\_\_ to hear the message from God.
14. Whose Words was Jeremiah speaking?
15. What promises did God make to them, if they would abide in the land?
16. Christianity is a condition of the \_\_\_\_\_.
17. It is, also, a \_\_\_\_\_.
18. Fear of anything, or anyone in this world, is \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
19. Fear is the opposite of \_\_\_\_\_.
20. Where would God bless these people?
21. What does the little word "but" show in verse 13?
22. \_\_\_\_\_ was obedient unto death of His body.
23. What is Egypt symbolic of?
24. The things mentioned, in verse 14, please the \_\_\_\_\_.
25. What is meant by "set your faces"?
26. What does verse 16 say will happen to them, if they go to Egypt?
27. What is sad about verse 17?
28. What does "execration" mean?
29. Who were two examples God sent to Egypt?
30. What is the difference in them and these people?
31. What does "dissembled" mean?
32. What should they have done?
33. Sin brings \_\_\_\_\_, if not repented of.

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 43:1 "And it came to pass, [that] when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking unto all the people all the words of the LORD their God, for which the LORD their God had sent him to them, [even] all these words,"

In the last lesson, they had promised Jeremiah that whatever message he gave them from God, they would follow it completely. Now God has spoken through Jeremiah a message that is not pleasing to them at all. The words were not Jeremiah's, but God's.

Jeremiah 43:2 "Then spake Azariah the son of Hoshaiah, and Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the proud men, saying unto Jeremiah, Thou speakest falsely: the LORD our God hath not sent thee to say, Go not into Egypt to sojourn there:"

We see since they did not get the answer they wanted, they are saying God did not send the message. Why did they come to Jeremiah in the first place, if they did not believe him to be a truthful prophet? They proclaimed Jeremiah a false prophet, when they said he spoke falsely. It seemed there was a handful of proud men speaking for all of them. They should have been aware that Jeremiah's unpopular prophecies about Judah and Jerusalem had come true. They have no reason to doubt him, now, except they do not like the message he gave them. The leaders had already made up their minds to go to Egypt, before Jeremiah prayed. They did not accept his warning, because it went against their own desires.

Jeremiah 43:3 "But Baruch the son of Neriah setteth thee on against us, for to deliver us into the hand of the Chaldeans, that they might put us to death, and carry us away captives into Babylon."

Their fear of the Chaldeans was greater than their fear of God. Baruch had been a close friend of Jeremiah's. He had acted as secretary to Jeremiah, when he wrote the prophecies down. There are two apocryphal books which have been attributed to the pen of Baruch. Just why Baruch was thought to be for the Chaldeans is uncertain. Even if he was, Jeremiah would not be influenced, because he is a prophet of God. Jeremiah's instructions do not come from man, but God. I believe this was just another excuse, because they wanted to go to Egypt.

Jeremiah 43:4 "So Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the captains of the forces, and all the people, obeyed not the voice of the LORD, to dwell in the land of Judah."

They did exactly what they had sworn they would not do. They went against God's wishes. They would not live in Judah, as the LORD had commanded them to.

Jeremiah 43:5 "But Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the captains of the forces, took all the remnant of Judah, that were returned from all nations, whither they had been driven, to dwell in the land of Judah;"

Johanan was their leader, and this time is leading them to destruction. It is so dangerous to listen to anyone who discredits the Word of God. God's

Word is absolute Truth. We must know enough of God's Word, so we cannot be fooled into following a false prophet.

Jeremiah 43:6 "[Even] men, and women, and children, and the king's daughters, and every person that Nebuzar-adan the captain of the guard had left with Gedaliah the son of Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Jeremiah the prophet, and Baruch the son of Neriah."

They were just like sheep headed for the slaughter. They were all following Johanan. All of those who had been spared from Ishmael, were, now, following Johanan to their deaths. God will not force them to believe Him. He will let them, of their own free will, choose the world over Him.

Jeremiah 43:7 "So they came into the land of Egypt: for they obeyed not the voice of the LORD: thus came they [even] to Tahpanhes."

They all did exactly what the LORD told them not to do. They went into Egypt. Tahpanhes was a city at the Egyptian frontier. They would not go further into Egypt, until the Pharaoh sends a welcoming committee.

Jeremiah 43:8 "Then came the word of the LORD unto Jeremiah in Tahpanhes, saying,"

Notice, that Jeremiah went with them to keep bringing messages to them from God. They, probably, forced Jeremiah to go along, but really it was the will of God for Jeremiah to go, to prophesy.

Jeremiah 43:9 "Take great stones in thine hand, and hide them in the clay in the brickkiln, which [is] at the entry of Pharaoh's house in Tahpanhes, in the sight of the men of Judah;"

The hiding of the stones, perhaps, has something to do with the hidden time of God's judgment against them. All of Judah sees Jeremiah hide the stones. These stones will be a witness against these disobedient children of God. The stones will be there, until all of the prophecies against this people are fulfilled.

Jeremiah 43:10 "And say unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will send and take Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will set his throne upon these stones that I have hid; and he shall spread his royal pavilion over them."

The very people they had been afraid of, will now follow them into Egypt, where they had gone to find safety. There is no safety in the world. The only true security is in God. Nebuchadnezzar's conquest of Egypt occurs for more than one reason. One reason, of course, is to fulfill this prophecy. The other is because Egypt is an idolatrous nation. Judgment begins at the house of God, as it did in Judah, but it extends to all who are disobedient to God. Egypt's worship of false gods was a constant hurt to God.

Jeremiah 43:11 "And when he cometh, he shall smite the land of Egypt, [and deliver] such [as are] for death to death; and such [as are] for captivity to captivity; and such [as are] for the sword to the sword."

This is the very same punishment God had Nebuchadnezzar to bring on Judah and Jerusalem. God is no respecter of persons. For the same sin, the punishment is the same.

Jeremiah 43:12 "And I will kindle a fire in the houses of the gods of Egypt; and he shall burn them, and carry them away captives: and he shall array himself with the land of Egypt, as a shepherd putteth on his garment; and he shall go forth from thence in peace."

This kindling of fire in the houses of the false gods is to do away with them. This is very similar to what happens to the earth, when the wrath of God is poured out on it. It is no problem for a shepherd to wrap himself in his garment. It will be no problem for Nebuchadnezzar to take Egypt.

Jeremiah 43:13 "He shall break also the images of Beth-shemesh, that [is] in the land of Egypt; and the houses of the gods of the Egyptians shall he burn with fire."

God is a jealous God. He will have Nebuchadnezzar to destroy the false gods of Egypt, and burn them up. The Babylonians had their own false gods. They did not recognize Egypt's false gods, so they destroy them. At a later time, God will destroy Babylon's false gods too.

## Jeremiah 46 Questions

1. What had the people promised in the last lesson, to get Jeremiah to pray for them?
2. Who were two of the proud men specifically mentioned?
3. What did they accuse Jeremiah of doing?
4. Who were the proud men speaking for?
5. When did the leaders make up their minds to go to Egypt?
6. Why did they not accept the warning that Jeremiah gave them from God?
7. Who did they accuse of influencing Jeremiah?
8. Their fear of the \_\_\_\_\_ was greater than their fear of \_\_\_\_.
9. Who was Baruch?
10. What books are attributed to the pen of Baruch?
11. Who was leading them to destruction?
12. Johanan had spared their lives from whom?
13. Where, in Egypt, did they stop?
14. Why did they not go further into Egypt?
15. Why did Jeremiah go with them?
16. What did the hiding of the stones mean?
17. Where was Jeremiah to hide them?
18. Who will the stones be a witness against?
19. Who will bring the actual punishment on these disobedient children?
20. Where does judgment begin?
21. What is their punishment to be?
22. Why does Babylon destroy Egypt's false gods?
23. God is a \_\_\_\_\_ God.

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 44:1 "The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the Jews which dwell in the land of Egypt, which dwell at Migdol, and at Tahpanhes, and at Noph, and in the country of Pathros, saying,"

In the last lessons Jeremiah had warned them not to go to Egypt, or the wrath of God would descend upon them . We see they have defied the warnings and went to Egypt anyhow. The names above are just some of the cities in Egypt where they are living. I want to say, one more time, Egypt is a type of the world. The message for Christians in this is to stay in the city of God. Do not go back into the world after you are saved.

Jeremiah 44:2 "Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Ye have seen all the evil that I have brought upon Jerusalem, and upon all the cities of Judah; and, behold, this day they [are] a desolation, and no man dwelleth therein,"

There was no doubt from even the Chaldeans that this was a judgment of God. God had warned them over and over through Jeremiah to stop worshipping false gods, but they continued their evil ways. God finally poured his wrath out upon his people. Really God was not at fault for this. The people brought it on themselves because of their unfaithfulness.

Jeremiah 44:3 "Because of their wickedness which they have committed to provoke me to anger, in that they went to burn incense, [and] to serve other gods, whom they knew not, [neither] they, ye, nor your fathers."

We have spoken so many times in these lessons about the Jews being the wife of God symbolically. The worship of other gods is like an unfaithful wife. This is spiritual adultery. Just as a jealous husband will not tolerate and unfaithful wife, God will not tolerate unfaithfulness from his chosen. The burning of incense in the temple of God symbolized the rising of the prayers of saints to heaven. You can see why burning incense to false gods would be so bad.

Jeremiah 44:4 "Howbeit I sent unto you all my servants the prophets, rising early and sending [them], saying, Oh, do not this abominable thing that I hate."

Jeremiah had not been the only prophet that God had sent to warn them. Jeremiah was one that stayed and prophesied to them for about 40 years. They could not say they were not warned. They did not accept Jeremiah's message, because it was not a message of prosperity. They did not want the truth. They wanted to hear something that would tickle their ears.

Jeremiah 44:5 "But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear to turn from their wickedness, to burn no incense unto other gods."

They had ears to hear, but they did not hear. They heard words and did not accept Jeremiah's warning to them.

Jeremiah 44:6 "Wherefore my fury and mine anger was poured forth, and was kindled in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem; and they are wasted [and] desolate, as at this day."

They should have learned from the very recent destruction of Jerusalem and Judah. This is another warning to learn from the past. I personally believe that is why it is so important to read the Old Testament as well as the New. The modern Christian can find signs we need to heed. This Scripture says it well. I Corinthians 10:11 "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."

Jeremiah 44:7 "Therefore now thus saith the LORD, the God of hosts, the God of Israel; Wherefore commit ye [this] great evil against your souls, to cut off from you man and woman, child and suckling, out of Judah, to leave you none to remain;"

Therefore, connects this verse to the verse before. Because of their great sin, they have willfully committed, God has destroyed Judah. This remnant could have been saved, if they would have obeyed the LORD, but they chose to disobey God. They have sinned to the destruction of their own souls.

Jeremiah 44:8 "In that ye provoke me unto wrath with the works of your hands, burning incense unto other gods in the land of Egypt, whither ye be gone to dwell, that ye might cut yourselves off, and that ye might be a curse and a reproach among all the nations of the earth?"

These were God's chosen people to bring a blessing upon the entire earth through Abraham. Genesis 22:18 "And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;" It is such a shame that all nations were to be blessed through them and in verse 8 above we see curses by them. They were God's example on the earth and they have failed.

Jeremiah 44:9 "Have ye forgotten the wickedness of your fathers, and the wickedness of the kings of Judah, and the wickedness of their wives, and your own wickedness, and the wickedness of your wives, which they have committed in the land of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem?"

This is a very sad thing that they had sinned so much, they did not even recognize the fact that they were sinning. This seems that from the least to the greatest were all caught up in sin. Wives, usually set a standard of righteousness for their families. They teach their children righteousness as well. The sin had gotten so bad, even they were involved.

Jeremiah 44:10 "They are not humbled [even] unto this day, neither have they feared, nor walked in my law, nor in my statutes, that I set before you and before your fathers."

They had been a proud, stiff-necked people. They were the opposite of humble. James 4:6 "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble." God was trying to teach them that to be His children was a daily walk. They must remain faithful to Him.

Jeremiah 44:11 "Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will set my face against you for evil, and to cut off all Judah."

God is a holy God. He cannot look upon sin, without burning it up. This is the situation here. Judah had to be destroyed because of their unrepented sin.

Jeremiah 44:12 "And I will take the remnant of Judah, that have set their faces to go into the land of Egypt to sojourn there, and they shall all be consumed, [and] fall in the land of Egypt; they shall [even] be consumed by the sword [and] by the famine: they shall die, from the least even unto the greatest, by the sword and by the famine: and they shall be an execration, [and] an astonishment, and a curse, and a reproach."

God had given them another chance when he destroyed the land of Judah and Jerusalem. They did not learn from the experience. They will now face the same curse of God for their sin, as Judah did.

Jeremiah 44:13 "For I will punish them that dwell in the land of Egypt, as I have punished Jerusalem, by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence:"

It seems so strange, if God is going to totally destroy them, that He would still be telling them what was coming. I believe, even at this point, if they had returned out of Egypt, God would have saved them. God is longsuffering. II Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

Jeremiah 44:14 "So that none of the remnant of Judah, which are gone into the land of Egypt to sojourn there, shall escape or remain, that they should return into the land of Judah, to the which they have a desire to return to dwell there: for none shall return but such as shall escape."

This is still pleading with them to go back home to where God put them, before it is too late. After His wrath falls, it will be too late.

Jeremiah 44:15 "Then all the men which knew that their wives had burned incense unto other gods, and all the women that stood by, a great multitude, even all the people that dwelt in the land of Egypt, in Pathros, answered Jeremiah, saying," Jeremiah 44:16 "[As for] the word that thou hast spoken unto us in the name of the LORD, we will not hearken unto thee."

This is speaking of total rejection of the Word of the LORD. This is just about the worst sin a person can commit. This is total rejection of God's message. They have openly committed spiritual adultery by burning incense to false gods. The men and the women are guilty.

Jeremiah 44:17 "But we will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our own mouth, to burn incense unto the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, as we have done, we, and our fathers, our kings, and our princes, in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem: for [then] had we plenty of victuals, and were well, and saw no evil."

This is just choosing to worship a false god, for advantages they think they will receive from them. They chose this evil queen over God. They are not interested in the message Jeremiah brings them from God. They are like the people of our day, who want a feel good religion. They are doing whatever is pleasing to their own flesh. They are so blind, they do not realize their food came from God. They gave this false goddess credit for providing their food.

Jeremiah 44:18 "But since we left off to burn incense to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, we have wanted all [things], and have been consumed by the sword and by the famine."

They did not realize that the problems they were having now was in punishment for worshipping false gods like the queen of heaven. This queen is like all the idols, she is a nothing. She can do nothing to help them. The worship of this queen, would bring nothing but hopelessness. We might take a lesson from this on idolatry. There is only one God. Jesus is the only mediator. To seek help through another, would be sin.

Jeremiah 44:19 "And when we burned incense to the queen of heaven, and poured out drink offerings unto her, did we make her cakes to worship her, and pour out drink offerings unto her, without our men?"

This is just explaining that the husbands were in one accord with their wives burning incense to this false queen of heaven. The sad thing in all of this is that I see our society today. The society as a whole has decided to follow the false god of the flesh. You just need to turn on the television for a moment to see this is true. The men and the women are caught up in worship that is not holy, but pleasing to themselves.

Jeremiah 44:20 "Then Jeremiah said unto all the people, to the men, and to the women, and to all the people which had given him [that] answer, saying," Jeremiah 44:21 "The incense that ye burned in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, ye, and your fathers, your kings, and your princes, and the people of the land, did not the LORD remember them, and came it [not] into his mind?"

God is not like man. He does not forget anything. They were not unfaithful just once. It was a way of life with them.

Jeremiah 44:22 "So that the LORD could no longer bear, because of the evil of your doings, [and] because of the abominations which ye have committed; therefore is your land a desolation, and an astonishment, and a curse, without an inhabitant, as at this day."

They had broken the heart of the LORD. He loved them so much, but they did not return His love. An abomination is a revolting sin. The land is desolate because of their sin. The terrible thing about all of this is, I see a picture of our land in this. There is sin and abomination everywhere you look. The very same sins that Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed for, are present in our land. How long will it be, before God cannot bear our unfaithfulness?

Jeremiah 44:23 "Because ye have burned incense, and because ye have sinned against the LORD, and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD, nor

walked in his law, nor in his statutes, nor in his testimonies; therefore this evil is happened unto you, as at this day."

This is an indictment on them, but also on us. God does not bring punishment on anyone unprovoked. They have deliberately continued to walk in their own ways. They have rebelled against God.

Jeremiah 44:24 "Moreover Jeremiah said unto all the people, and to all the women, Hear the word of the LORD, all Judah that [are] in the land of Egypt:"

The women were specifically mentioned here, because they had burned the incense to this false queen of heaven. He reminds them also that they are in Egypt where the LORD had specifically told them not to go.

Jeremiah 44:25 "Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, saying; Ye and your wives have both spoken with your mouths, and fulfilled with your hand, saying, We will surely perform our vows that we have vowed, to burn incense to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her: ye will surely accomplish your vows, and surely perform your vows."

They think nothing of breaking the vows that they and their fathers had made to God. Jeremiah is saying, you surely will perform your vows to this false queen of heaven. It is implied by him that they would receive their punishment from the LORD. This would be their reward for the evil they had done and said.

Jeremiah 44:26 "Therefore hear ye the word of the LORD, all Judah that dwell in the land of Egypt; Behold, I have sworn by my great name, saith the LORD, that my name shall no more be named in the mouth of any man of Judah in all the land of Egypt, saying, The Lord GOD liveth."

Up until this time, the LORD had not left them, they had left the LORD. He had been still trying to reason with them. Now He is through reasoning with them. There is no greater name than the name of the LORD. The reason that no one will say, "The LORD liveth", is because they will all die.

Jeremiah 44:27 "Behold, I will watch over them for evil, and not for good: and all the men of Judah that [are] in the land of Egypt shall be consumed by the sword and by the famine, until there be an end of them."

There is a danger in worshipping false gods. This has never stopped. It seems people would rather believe a lie, than to believe the One True God. There are always false prophets. Every age has had them. The only way not to be deceived by them, is to know the Bible. Be familiar with its Words. Be led by the Spirit of God and not by your flesh. Try every spirit and see whether it is of God or not. Destruction comes to those who wander away from the Truth.

Jeremiah 44:28 Yet a small number that escape the sword shall return out of the land of Egypt into the land of Judah, and all the remnant of Judah, that are gone into the land of Egypt to sojourn there, shall know whose words shall stand, mine, or theirs."

It seems this remnant is saved to tell future generations of who really is God. Elijah proved this very thing on Mount Carmel, when God

destroyed the prophets of Baal. It seems people never learn. God is the only Truth.

Jeremiah 44:29 "And this [shall be] a sign unto you, saith the LORD, that I will punish you in this place, that ye may know that my words shall surely stand against you for evil:"

It is such a shame that they will not learn without the wrath of God being poured out on them. Just as surely as this sign came upon them and destroyed them, there is a wrath awaiting those today who continue to worship false gods. Repent today and follow the One True God. God is loving, but He is also Just.

Jeremiah 44:30 "Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will give Pharaoh-hophra king of Egypt into the hand of his enemies, and into the hand of them that seek his life; as I gave Zedekiah king of Judah into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, his enemy, and that sought his life."

This Hophra had fled to Egypt himself. He was not in the will of the LORD either. The very same thing that happened to Judah and Jerusalem will happen to Egypt. Nebuchadnezzar had destroyed Jerusalem and Judah. This evil pharaoh would do no better. History tells us he was strangled to death after the fall of Egypt.

## Jeremiah 47 Questions

1. What had God warned them of in the last lesson?
2. They defied the warnings and went to \_\_\_\_\_ anyhow.
3. What are the names in verse 1?
4. Verse 2 is explaining to them that they should learn from what?
5. What was one of the wicked things they had done, mentioned in verse 3?
6. These Jews were the \_\_\_\_\_ of God symbolically.
7. Their worship of a false god was like committing \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
8. What did the burning of incense in the temple symbolize?
9. Who had God sent to warn them?
10. Why did they not accept Jeremiah's message?
11. They had ears to hear, but did not \_\_\_\_\_.
12. What happened to Jerusalem?
13. Quote 1 Corinthians chapter 10 verse 11.
14. This remnant could have been saved, if they had done what?
15. Quote Genesis chapter 26 verse 4.
16. Who in the family, was wicked?
17. They were a proud, \_\_\_\_\_ people.
18. Quote James chapter 4 verse 6.
19. Why did Judah have to be destroyed?
20. He will punish those in Egypt as He did \_\_\_\_\_.
21. Quote 2 Peter chapter 3 verse 9.
22. Who are the only ones who will return to the land of Judah?
23. What did all the people say to Jeremiah about the Word of God they received from him?
24. What is this, really?
25. They chose this evil \_\_\_\_\_ over God.
26. Who is the only mediator?
27. How did Jeremiah reply to them?
28. They were not unfaithful just once, it was a \_\_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_\_ with them.
29. Who were they keeping their vows to?
30. How is the only way to not be deceived?
31. What sign did God give them?
32. What happens to Egypt?
33. What happens to the evil Pharaoh-Hophra?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 45:1 "The word that Jeremiah the prophet spake unto Baruch the son of Neriah, when he had written these words in a book at the mouth of Jeremiah, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, saying,"

We know that Baruch was a very good friend of Jeremiah's. He acted as secretary to Jeremiah, when he wrote the prophecies that Jeremiah spoke with his mouth. This chapter is looking back to the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of Jehoiakim.

Jeremiah 45:2 "Thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, unto thee, O Baruch;"

This prophecy is very unusual, in that it was addressed to an individual. This means that the general prophecy against the family of Judah did not include Baruch.

Jeremiah 45:3 "Thou didst say, Woe is me now! for the LORD hath added grief to my sorrow; I fainted in my sighing, and I find no rest."

Baruch was like many ministers, he found himself alone. His friends did not associate with him, because they did not like Jeremiah's message. In turn, they did not like Jeremiah. Baruch was included in that, because he believed everything Jeremiah said. Baruch did not want to associate with them for a totally different reason. He was grieved at their sinful way of life. He was even more grieved that they did not repent of their sins. It grieved him greatly when the writing he made for Jeremiah, was burned in the fire. He was a godly man, and could not understand their sinfulness. He was greatly grieved, because these were his people.

Jeremiah 45:4 "Thus shalt thou say unto him, The LORD saith thus; Behold, [that] which I have built will I break down, and that which I have planted I will pluck up, even this whole land."

Judgment had come upon the whole land. Baruch just happened to be living there, when it happened. Many godly people endure hardships, because of the sins of the people around them. All of it belonged to God, and He would do with it as He pleased.

Jeremiah 45:5 "And seekest thou great things for thyself? Seek [them] not: for, behold, I will bring evil upon all flesh, saith the LORD: but thy life will I give unto thee for a prey in all places whither thou goest."

God said unto him, "This is no time for you to prosper. You will have to be satisfied that I will save your life". Baruch would probably have to move about from place, to place because of the people's hatred of him. There would not be good times for anyone, even Jeremiah. A prophet usually suffers some of the hardships of the people they prophesy to.

We will, now, continue on in Jeremiah 46:1 "The word of the LORD which came to Jeremiah the prophet against the Gentiles;"

The Gentiles covered all who were not Jews. We will notice, however, that much of this is meant for Egypt and the other Gentile nations in this vicinity.

Jeremiah 46:2 "Against Egypt, against the army of Pharaoh-necho king of Egypt, which was by the river Euphrates in Carchemish, which Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon smote in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah."

This prophecy is addressed to Pharaoh-necho. This Pharaoh was not Jewish. This battle had already occurred, before the destruction of Jerusalem. The Babylonian, Nebuchadnezzar was the attacker. Carchemish was a very prominent Hittite city in Mesopotamia.

Jeremiah 46:3 Order ye the buckler and shield, and draw near to battle.  
Jeremiah 46:4 "Harness the horses; and get up, ye horsemen, and stand forth with [your] helmets; furbish the spears, [and] put on the brigandines."

This is a warning to get ready for war.

Jeremiah 46:5 "Wherefore have I seen them dismayed [and] turned away back? and their mighty ones are beaten down, and are fled apace, and look not back: [for] fear [was] round about, saith the LORD."

The Egyptian army was a well equipped, well trained army. It is interesting that they would turn and run. This is speaking of overwhelming fear, that came upon them and caused them to run.

Jeremiah 46:6 "Let not the swift flee away, nor the mighty man escape; they shall stumble, and fall toward the north by the river Euphrates."

This is saying, it would, probably, do no good to run. Since this is a prophecy of God, there is no running from it. It will happen, whether they fight, or not.

Jeremiah 46:7 "Who [is] this [that] cometh up as a flood, whose waters are moved as the rivers?"

This is speaking of a large army, that spreads out and covers everything it comes in contact with.

Jeremiah 46:8 "Egypt riseth up like a flood, and [his] waters are moved like the rivers; and he saith, I will go up, [and] will cover the earth; I will destroy the city and the inhabitants thereof."

Egypt was a strong force, and intended to take over their part of the world. They had planned to take many of the cities around them. They had no thought for human life. They were a very worldly country.

Jeremiah 46:9 "Come up, ye horses; and rage, ye chariots; and let the mighty men come forth; the Ethiopians and the Libyans, that handle the shield; and the Lydians, that handle [and] bend the bow."

These Ethiopians, Libyans, and Lydians were hired soldiers to fight in the Egyptian army. They were what we would call today mercenaries. They were soldiers for hire.

Jeremiah 46:10 "For this [is] the day of the Lord GOD of hosts, a day of vengeance, that he may avenge him of his adversaries: and the sword shall devour, and it shall be satiate and made drunk with their blood: for the Lord GOD of hosts hath a sacrifice in the north country by the river Euphrates."

The Egyptians had been cruel in their dealings with others. God has not overlooked that, and now it is their turn. There is a day set aside for God's vengeance. The sword, in this instance is the sword of the Lord. We remember, "satiated" means overflowed, or soaked. This is just speaking of the overwhelming deaths, that will occur, and the blood will flow profusely.

Jeremiah 46:11 "Go up into Gilead, and take balm, O virgin, the daughter of Egypt: in vain shalt thou use many medicines; [for] thou shalt not be cured."

When God speaks judgment, there is no stopping it. There is no medicine strong enough to heal this wound.

Jeremiah 46:12 "The nations have heard of thy shame, and thy cry hath filled the land: for the mighty man hath stumbled against the mighty, [and] they are fallen both together."

This is really speaking of them turning their swords on each other, and this is not one nation, but many. Egypt is a mighty man, but stumbleth against mighty, as well, and they both fall.

Jeremiah 46:13 "The word that the LORD spake to Jeremiah the prophet, how Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon should come [and] smite the land of Egypt."

Nebuchadnezzar was king of Babylon.

Jeremiah 46:14 "Declare ye in Egypt, and publish in Migdol, and publish in Noph and in Tahpanhes: say ye, Stand fast, and prepare thee; for the sword shall devour round about thee."

Migdol was near the Red Sea. Noph was a Hebrew name for the city of Memphis. Memphis was the capital of lower Egypt. Tahpanhes was the home of the Pharaoh. Nebuchadnezzar did attack this very area of Egypt. The attack was as much against God's people exiled here, as it was against Egypt.

Jeremiah 46:15 "Why are thy valiant [men] swept away? they stood not, because the LORD did drive them."

They were valiant against other men, not against the power of God. They fled from the LORD.

Jeremiah 46:16 "He made many to fall, yea, one fell upon another: and they said, Arise, and let us go again to our own people, and to the land of our nativity, from the oppressing sword."

This is the very thing those from Judah said when they fled to Egypt. We can hide from man, but there is no place to hide from God. The Egyptian army was made up of mercenaries from many countries. That is what they are

speaking of, about going to their own country. They were in such a hurry to run, that they fell over each other.

Jeremiah 46:17 "They did cry there, Pharaoh king of Egypt [is but] a noise; he hath passed the time appointed."

They had come to fight for Pharaoh, because they thought Egypt was a powerful nation. It appears, Egypt is no match for this battle. The reason being, this battle is of God. Nebuchadnezzar's army may be the ones fighting, but it is God's battle.

Jeremiah 46:18 "[As] I live, saith the King, whose name [is] the LORD of hosts, Surely as Tabor [is] among the mountains, and as Carmel by the sea, [so] shall he come."

This just means, he was coming from every direction at once.

Jeremiah 46:19 "O thou daughter dwelling in Egypt, furnish thyself to go into captivity: for Noph shall be waste and desolate without an inhabitant."

Noph is Hebrew for Memphis, you remember. The "daughter dwelling in Egypt" is referring to those of Judah who are exiled there. It appears, that Memphis will be destroyed by the army of Nebuchadnezzar.

Jeremiah 46:20 "Egypt [is like] a very fair heifer, [but] destruction cometh; it cometh out of the north."

The "very fair heifer" is speaking of a land that is fruitful and beautiful. Nothing is beautiful, after it is ravaged by war.

Jeremiah 46:21 "Also her hired men [are] in the midst of her like fatted bullocks; for they also are turned back, [and] are fled away together: they did not stand, because the day of their calamity was come upon them, [and] the time of their visitation."

This, again, is speaking of those hired by Egypt from other countries to be their army. They had been sitting back and drawing their wages in peacetime, but suddenly there is war. They have fled the country. They realized they would die, if they stayed, so they ran.

Jeremiah 46:22 "The voice thereof shall go like a serpent; for they shall march with an army, and come against her with axes, as hewers of wood."

When the army leaves, Egypt is left helpless. The voice like a serpent is a soft hissing sound. There will not be great clamour, as is usually in a war. The soldiers have fled, and it is no trouble for the enemy to use axes and hewers to cut everything in sight.

Jeremiah 46:23 "They shall cut down her forest, saith the LORD, though it cannot be searched; because they are more than the grasshoppers, and [are] innumerable."

This does not mean that they cut all the trees that they came to, because there were too many. They, perhaps, cut a path to pass through.

"The trees being as grasshoppers" and innumerable, means the forest was very thick with trees.

Jeremiah 46:24 "The daughter of Egypt shall be confounded; she shall be delivered into the hand of the people of the north."

Daughter, here, does not mean women, but men who are as weak as women. They were not the soldiers. They had run, because they were hired men. This just means Nebuchadnezzar shall take Egypt.

Jeremiah 46:25 "The LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, saith; Behold, I will punish the multitude of No, and Pharaoh, and Egypt, with their gods, and their kings; even Pharaoh, and [all] them that trust in him:"

No had to do with the false sun god Ra. No was known as Amon-Ra. This is an attack on all the false gods of Egypt, and the false gods those of Judah had been worshipping, as well. Some even worshipped Pharaoh, so the false gods included him. This is not just literal Egypt, but is worldliness of all kind, which Egypt symbolizes.

Jeremiah 46:26 "And I will deliver them into the hand of those that seek their lives, and into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, and into the hand of his servants: and afterward it shall be inhabited, as in the days of old, saith the LORD."

Egypt will be destroyed, as was Judah and Jerusalem, but it will come back again. God does not utterly destroy it to where it will never come back, like He does the city of Babylon at a later date.

Jeremiah 46:27 "But fear not thou, O my servant Jacob, and be not dismayed, O Israel: for, behold, I will save thee from afar off, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and be in rest and at ease, and none shall make [him] afraid."

When Jacob is mentioned instead of Israel, it is speaking of the twelve tribes of Israel. This is not just speaking to Judah and Benjamin, but to all the twelve tribes. This prophesies their return to the promised land. This speaks of a time of peace for all Israel. This had a near fulfillment in their return from Babylon, but this also has a far fulfillment that is going on even today. Physical Israel is being called from all nations of the world, where they had been scattered, even today. They were to be scattered, until the time of the Gentiles was fulfilled. Luke 21:24 "And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled."

Jeremiah 46:28 "Fear thou not, O Jacob my servant, saith the LORD: for I [am] with thee; for I will make a full end of all the nations whither I have driven thee: but I will not make a full end of thee, but correct thee in measure; yet will I not leave thee wholly unpunished."

This is primarily speaking of Babylon, who they were captive to. Babylon will be destroyed, and they will return to their land God gave them. This chastisement they suffered, was to turn them back to God. This, also, includes the inhuman acts against them, like the holocaust in Germany in World War 2. One sixth of all the Jews were killed in these atrocities

against them. God has always saved a remnant of them. They are moving back to their promised land today by the millions.

## Jeremiah 48 Questions

1. Who was this prophecy in verse 1 addressed to?
2. What was he to Jeremiah?
3. What does this prophecy to an individual mean?
4. How was Baruch like many ministers?
5. Why did his friends not associate with Baruch?
6. Why did Baruch not want to associate with them?
7. What does the LORD say, He will do in verse 4?
8. What would Baruch have to be satisfied with from God?
9. Who is the prophecy of Jeremiah, in chapter 46 verse 1, speaking to?
10. Who are the Gentiles?
11. Who attacks the Pharaoh-necho?
12. Carchemish was a very prominent \_\_\_\_\_ city of Mesopotamia.
13. What is verse 3 and 4 speaking of?
14. The Egyptian army was \_\_\_\_\_ trained and equipped.
15. Why will it not help to run?
16. What is the flood of verse 7?
17. What was the intention of Egypt toward their neighbors?
18. There is a day set aside for God's \_\_\_\_\_.
19. What does "satiated" mean?
20. Who would smite Egypt?
21. What was another name for Noph?
22. \_\_\_\_\_ was the home of the Pharaoh.
23. The Egyptians army was made up of \_\_\_\_\_.
24. Who is "the daughter dwelling in Egypt"?
25. What did the Egyptian hired army do when the fighting came?
26. What is meant by "the trees being as grasshoppers"?
27. What does "daughter", in verse 24, mean?
28. What false God did No have to do with?
29. Quote Jeremiah chapter 46 verse 27.
30. Who will God make a full end of?
31. What is the modern fulfillment of this?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 47:1 "The word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah the prophet against the Philistines, before that Pharaoh smote Gaza."

This begins a prophecy against the Philistines, who had been strong rivals of the nation of Israel. They settled in the coastal area of Palestine. One of their cities was Gaza. It appears, from this, that Egypt, or Babylon, attacked these Philistines. This prophecy was prior to that attack.

Jeremiah 47:2 "Thus saith the LORD; Behold, waters rise up out of the north, and shall be an overflowing flood, and shall overflow the land, and all that is therein; the city, and them that dwell therein: then the men shall cry, and all the inhabitants of the land shall howl."

This is an army so great it seems like a flood. This is, probably, speaking of a Babylonian army, since it mentions the north. This is a furiously fast army that attacks. The battle is so great, the people cry out in fear.

Jeremiah 47:3 "At the noise of the stamping of the hoofs of his strong [horses], at the rushing of his chariots, [and at] the rumbling of his wheels, the fathers shall not look back to [their] children for feebleness of hands;"

The chariots and horses come through so fast, that the fathers will not be able to reach out and help their children. The fathers will not be able to protect their families in this case.

Jeremiah 47:4 "Because of the day that cometh to spoil all the Philistines, [and] to cut off from Tyrus and Zidon every helper that remaineth: for the LORD will spoil the Philistines, the remnant of the country of Caphtor."

This is a judgment of God against these Philistines. Tyrus is the Greek form of Tyre. Tyre was a city about 10 miles from Zidon. They were, probably, attacked at the same time as Gaza. The LORD was the spoiler in this. Caphtor was another name for Crete. This is where these people came from originally.

Jeremiah 47:5 "Baldness is come upon Gaza; Ashkelon is cut off [with] the remnant of their valley: how long wilt thou cut thyself?"

"Baldness" is associated with extreme mourning. This would be for the great loss of life. Ashkelon was on the top of a mountain near the sea. Cutting themselves was a type of mourning, as well. They might as well stop mourning. This judgment against them is of God.

Jeremiah 47:6 "O thou sword of the LORD, how long [will it be] ere thou be quiet? put up thyself into thy scabbard, rest, and be still."

It is as if the LORD is doing a thorough work, before He stops. His wrath has come up in His face. He will stop, when they are all punished.

Jeremiah 47:7 "How can it be quiet, seeing the LORD hath given it a charge against Ashkelon, and against the sea shore? there hath he appointed it."

The judgment God has spoken will be carried out to the fullest. It will not stop, until every prophecy He made about it is fulfilled.

We will continue on now in Jeremiah 48:1 "Against Moab thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Woe unto Nebo! for it is spoiled: Kiriathaim is confounded [and] taken: Misgab is confounded and dismayed."

Moab is a Gentile city, or state. "Moab" was the name of Lot's eldest daughter's son that she had from committing incest with her father. He was the founder of the Moabites. They had an evil beginning, and their morals were no better at the time of this prophecy. Nebo was a place in the mountains, where the false god "Nebo" was worshipped. This woe is against the false god, and against the area where he was worshipped. Kiriathaim was known as the city of the terrible. Misgab, here, could mean fortress. A fortress will not hold back God.

Jeremiah 48:2 "[There shall be] no more praise of Moab: in Heshbon they have devised evil against it; come, and let us cut it off from [being] a nation. Also thou shalt be cut down, O Madmen; the sword shall pursue thee."

Their destruction was great physically, but they were humiliated, as well. These evil men of Moab are the madmen.

Jeremiah 48:3 "A voice of crying [shall be] from Horonaim, spoiling and great destruction."

Horonaim is a city of Moab near the border of Edom.

Jeremiah 48:4 "Moab is destroyed; her little ones have caused a cry to be heard."

I believe this is speaking of the entire land of Moab being destroyed. The crying of the children just shows the magnitude of the destruction.

Jeremiah 48:5 "For in the going up of Luhith continual weeping shall go up; for in the going down of Horonaim the enemies have heard a cry of destruction."

This shows that the destruction is widespread.

Jeremiah 48:6 "Flee, save your lives, and be like the heath in the wilderness."

Their only chance of survival, is to flee to the wilderness. Heath is speaking of the destitute. We are all destitute, until we reach out to God for His help. Our help is in the Lord.

Jeremiah 48:7 "For because thou hast trusted in thy works and in thy treasures, thou shalt also be taken: and Chemosh shall go forth into captivity [with] his priests and his princes together."

The works are, probably, the same as the works of their hands. This could be speaking of their idols they worshipped. They worshipped idols, and trusted in their money, as well. This sounds very familiar doesn't it?

Jeremiah 48:8 "And the spoiler shall come upon every city, and no city shall escape: the valley also shall perish, and the plain shall be destroyed, as the LORD hath spoken."

This needs no explanation, this is total destruction.

Jeremiah 48:9 "Give wings unto Moab, that it may flee and get away: for the cities thereof shall be desolate, without any to dwell therein."

Moab is spoken of here as a bird that flies away. The problem is, there is no safe place to land. The whole land is desolate.

Jeremiah 48:10 "Cursed [be] he that doeth the work of the LORD deceitfully, and cursed [be] he that keepeth back his sword from blood."

This is not just Moab, but anyone who deals deceitfully with the Word of God. II Timothy 2:15 "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Jeremiah 48:11 "Moab hath been at ease from his youth, and he hath settled on his lees, and hath not been emptied from vessel to vessel, neither hath he gone into captivity: therefore his taste remained in him, and his scent is not changed."

Another way of explaining this, is that God has not chastised them before. They have lived as they pleased. Their sins have not been pointed out to them for them to change the smell. God chastises His children, not the world.

Jeremiah 48:12 "Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will send unto him wanderers, that shall cause him to wander, and shall empty his vessels, and break their bottles."

Moab is sometimes spoken of as a wine jar. This jar would have a flat side. The person drinking could tilt it to the side and not get trash from the bottom. If these bottles were broken, the new ones would not have this special side.

Jeremiah 48:13 "And Moab shall be ashamed of Chemosh, as the house of Israel was ashamed of Beth-el their confidence."

There had been an alternate place of worship set up at Bethel. The part they were ashamed of, was the golden calf used in the worship services. This was idolatry.

Jeremiah 48:14 "How say ye, We [are] mighty and strong men for the war?" Jeremiah 48:15 "Moab is spoiled, and gone up [out of] her cities, and his chosen young men are gone down to the slaughter, saith the King, whose name [is] the LORD of hosts."

They might have been strong in the past, but now their young strong men had been killed in battle. There were no strong left to fight.

Jeremiah 48:16 "The calamity of Moab [is] near to come, and his affliction hasteth fast." Jeremiah 48:17 "All ye that are about him, bemoan him; and all ye that know his name, say, How is the strong staff broken, [and] the beautiful rod!"

The lamenting would be great, because of all of Moab is desolation.

Jeremiah 48:18 "Thou daughter that dost inhabit Dibon, come down from [thy] glory, and sit in thirst; for the spoiler of Moab shall come upon thee, [and] he shall destroy thy strong holds."

Dibon was a city that was either of Gad, or Reuben. It was in Moab, and was destroyed as the other cities. I believe the word "daughter" was used to show they had been from one of the tribes of Israel.

Jeremiah 48:19 "O inhabitant of Aroer, stand by the way, and espy; ask him that fleeth, and her that escapeth, [and] say, What is done?"

Aroer would have been on the edge of the country on the way of their flight out. "Espy" means to peer into the distance. They looked down the road, and saw them fleeing, and asked them, why they were fleeing?

Jeremiah 48:20 "Moab is confounded; for it is broken down: howl and cry; tell ye it in Arnon, that Moab is spoiled,"

This is the answer to verse 19. They are fleeing, because they have been defeated.

Jeremiah 48:21 "And judgment is come upon the plain country; upon Holon, and upon Jahazah, and upon Mephaath," Jeremiah 48:22 "And upon Dibon, and upon Nebo, and upon Beth-diblathaim," Jeremiah 48:23 "And upon Kiriathaim, and upon Beth-gamul, and upon Beth-meon," Jeremiah 48:24 "And upon Kerioth, and upon Bozrah, and upon all the cities of the land of Moab, far or near."

The Scriptures, above, are a listing of the destroyed cities of Moab.

Jeremiah 48:25 "The horn of Moab is cut off, and his arm is broken, saith the LORD."

The "horn", throughout the Bible, symbolizes strength. This is saying, their strength is gone. The arm is an instrument of ability to do the things necessary. The arm can no more do these tasks.

Jeremiah 48:26 "Make ye him drunken: for he magnified [himself] against the LORD: Moab also shall wallow in his vomit, and he also shall be in derision."

This is just showing the extent of the despair throughout Moab. He is drunk and wallowing in the vomit, because he cannot face the reality surrounding him.

Jeremiah 48:27 "For was not Israel a derision unto thee? was he found among thieves? for since thou spakest of him, thou skippedst for joy."

"Derision" means a pond to swim in, in this Scripture. They had spoken disrespectfully of Israel. They were happy over Israel's problems. Now, they have problems of their own.

Jeremiah 48:28 "O ye that dwell in Moab, leave the cities, and dwell in the rock, and be like the dove [that] maketh her nest in the sides of the hole's mouth."

This is just saying, Moab will not be a safe place to be. The dove hides her little ones to keep them safe.

Jeremiah 48:29 "We have heard the pride of Moab, (he is exceeding proud) his loftiness, and his arrogancy, and his pride, and the haughtiness of his heart."

Pride goeth before a fall. All of this will fade away, when the judgment of God falls upon Moab.

Jeremiah 48:30 "I know his wrath, saith the LORD; but [it shall] not [be] so; his lies shall not so effect [it]."

Moab will lie no more. They have been rendered helpless.

Jeremiah 48:31 "Therefore will I howl for Moab, and I will cry out for all Moab; [mine heart] shall mourn for the men of Kir-heres."

All of Moab is destroyed, and the prophet Jeremiah cries out in anguish at the terrible destruction.

Jeremiah 48:32 "O vine of Sibmah, I will weep for thee with the weeping of Jazer: thy plants are gone over the sea, they reach [even] to the sea of Jazer: the spoiler is fallen upon thy summer fruits and upon thy vintage."

The wonderful vineyards are all gone.

Jeremiah 48:33 "And joy and gladness is taken from the plentiful field, and from the land of Moab; and I have caused wine to fail from the winepresses: none shall tread with shouting; [their] shouting [shall be] no shouting."

Without the fruit of the vineyard, there can be no wine made. Sometimes wine, joy, and gladness are thought of as all part of each other. Wine, perhaps, gives a false sense of joy and gladness.

Jeremiah 48:34 "From the cry of Heshbon [even] unto Elealeh, [and even] unto Jahaz, have they uttered their voice, from Zoar [even] unto Horonaim, [as] an heifer of three years old: for the waters also of Nimrim shall be desolate."

Again, we see the extent of the widespread desolation. The cry of a heifer three years old. is speaking of when she has her first calf. The cry of one city goes to another, and so on.

Jeremiah 48:35 "Moreover I will cause to cease in Moab, saith the LORD, him that offereth in the high places, and him that burneth incense to his gods."

Now, we see the reason for the widespread destruction. They worship false gods. The burning of incense to a false god was an abomination to God. The LORD stopped them Himself.

Jeremiah 48:36 "Therefore mine heart shall sound for Moab like pipes, and mine heart shall sound like pipes for the men of Kir-heres: because the riches [that] he hath gotten are perished."

These pipes were used at funerals. This gives off a very mournful sound. Jeremiah mourns, even though he knows God's judgment is just.

Jeremiah 48:37 "For every head [shall be] bald, and every beard clipped: upon all the hands [shall be] cuttings, and upon the loins sackcloth."

All of these things are outward signs of mourning.

Jeremiah 48:38 "[There shall be] lamentation generally upon all the housetops of Moab, and in the streets thereof: for I have broken Moab like a vessel wherein [is] no pleasure, saith the LORD."

These housetops are where they burned their incense to the false gods, so it would be correct for them to be places of mourning now.

Jeremiah 48:39 "They shall howl, [saying], How is it broken down! how hath Moab turned the back with shame! so shall Moab be a derision and a dismaying to all them about him."

Not only was Moab defeated, but they were humiliated, as well. They could not understand how this could happen to so strong a land.

Jeremiah 48:40 "For thus saith the LORD; Behold, he shall fly as an eagle, and shall spread his wings over Moab."

This is speaking of the leader of their oppressor, possibly, Nebuchadnezzar, who swoops down like an eagle and takes his prey.

Jeremiah 48:41 "Kerioth is taken, and the strong holds are surprised, and the mighty men's hearts in Moab at that day shall be as the heart of a woman in her pangs."

This is speaking of fear and pain that comes upon these men, as a woman giving birth.

Jeremiah 48:42 "And Moab shall be destroyed from [being] a people, because he hath magnified [himself] against the LORD."

Lucifer found out that you do not magnify yourself against the LORD. This is just punishment for such a horrendous sin.

Jeremiah 48:43 "Fear, and the pit, and the snare, [shall be] upon thee, O inhabitant of Moab, saith the LORD."

All of these things happen, when a people are doomed. There is no escape. Unchecked sin brings this type of doom, whether you are Moab, or anyone else.

Jeremiah 48:44 "He that fleeth from the fear shall fall into the pit; and he that getteth up out of the pit shall be taken in the snare: for I will bring upon it, [even] upon Moab, the year of their visitation, saith the LORD."

The year of their visitation speaks of their death. This judgment is of God, and there is no escape.

Jeremiah 48:45 "They that fled stood under the shadow of Heshbon because of the force: but a fire shall come forth out of Heshbon, and a flame from the midst of Sihon, and shall devour the corner of Moab, and the crown of the head of the tumultuous ones."

They may escape imprisonment, but if they do, the fire will destroy them. There is no escaping the wrath of God.

Jeremiah 48:46 "Woe be unto thee, O Moab! the people of Chemosh perisheth: for thy sons are taken captives, and thy daughters captives." Jeremiah 48:47 "Yet will I bring again the captivity of Moab in the latter days, saith the LORD. Thus far [is] the judgment of Moab."

Some are killed, and the others are taken captive. In the end times {latter days}, God will bring Moab back to its land.

## Jeremiah 49 Questions

1. Who is this prophecy against?
2. They had been strong \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel.
3. What is verse 2 speaking of?
4. Why will the fathers not be able to help the children?
5. In verse 4, we see this is a judgment of \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Tyre is \_\_\_\_\_ miles from Zidon?
7. Caphtor is another name for \_\_\_\_\_.
8. "Baldness" is associated with extreme \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Where was Ashkelon located?
10. Why should they stop the mourning?
11. When will the war stop?
12. Who was "Moab"?
13. Who was "Nebo"?
14. Kiriathsaim was known as the city of the \_\_\_\_\_.
15. Their destruction was great physically, but they were \_\_\_\_\_, as well.
16. How could they save their lives?
17. What had they trusted in, instead of in God?
18. In verse 9, Moab is spoken of as what?
19. Who, besides Moab, is cursed, if they deceitfully use the Word of God?
20. Quote 2 Timothy chapter 2 verse 15.
21. What is another way of explaining verse 11?
22. Moab is sometimes spoken of as a \_\_\_\_\_ jar.
23. Why was the house of Israel ashamed about Bethel?
24. What had happened to the young, strong men?
25. What does "espy" mean?
26. Why is Moab fleeing?
27. What verses give a list of the destroyed cities?
28. What does the "horn" symbolize in the Bible?
29. Why are they drunk in verse 26?
30. What does "derision", in verse 27, mean?
31. What has happened to the vineyards?
32. Wine gives a false sense of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
33. What was the reason for the widespread destruction?
34. What are the pipes, in verse 36, used for?
35. Where were the lamentations given?
36. What are some of the outward signs of mourning?
37. Who is flying like an eagle in verse 40?
38. \_\_\_\_\_ found out you do not magnify yourself against the LORD.
39. What will happen to them, if they escape imprisonment?
40. When are the latter days?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 49:1 "Concerning the Ammonites, thus saith the LORD; Hath Israel no sons? hath he no heir? why [then] doth their king inherit Gad, and his people dwell in his cities?"

The Ammonites were a violent people. The Ammonites have moved into the area of the Gadites. The "king", here, is speaking of a false god, probably Molech. The meaning of inherit, in the verse above, is take possession of. This means they have taken land that was given to Gad by God. This land belonged to the Israelites and their children for all generations.

Jeremiah 49:2 "Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will cause an alarm of war to be heard in Rabbah of the Ammonites; and it shall be a desolate heap, and her daughters shall be burned with fire: then shall Israel be heir unto them that were his heirs, saith the LORD."

God will burn these oppressors with fire, and they will leave the land to the Israelites, who it belonged to in the first place.

Jeremiah 49:3 " Howl, O Heshbon, for Ai is spoiled: cry, ye daughters of Rabbah, gird you with sackcloth; lament, and run to and fro by the hedges; for their king shall go into captivity, [and] his priests and his princes together."

Heshbon is a city located in the land of Gad, but inhabited by the Ammonites. Daughters of Rabbah are speaking of their unwalled cities. This says, run, because your false god cannot help you.

Jeremiah 49:4 "Wherefore gloriest thou in the valleys, thy flowing valley, O backsliding daughter? that trusted in her treasures, [saying], Who shall come unto me?"

These Ammonites were the offspring of Lot and his daughter. This family started with an incestuous affair. They were related to Abraham, because Lot was Abraham's nephew. This is the only connection I can make with them being a daughter. They certainly were backslidden from several generations back. They certainly had forsaken the God of Lot. They worshipped the false god Molech. To put trust in a false god, is a hopeless thing. It seems, they trusted in riches, as well. In time of God's judgment, neither one are of much use. The only God to go to is the great I Am.

Jeremiah 49:5 Behold, I will bring a fear upon thee, saith the Lord GOD of hosts, from all those that be about thee; and ye shall be driven out every man right forth; and none shall gather up him that wandereth.

We see the cities and towns being abandoned. People were running for fear of things to come.

Jeremiah 49:6 "And afterward I will bring again the captivity of the children of Ammon, saith the LORD."

This is speaking of the time when Cyrus releases the captives in Babylon, and they return to their homeland.

Jeremiah 49:7 "Concerning Edom, thus saith the LORD of hosts; [Is] wisdom no more in Teman? is counsel perished from the prudent? Is their wisdom vanished?"

The Edomites are the descendents of Esau, who sold his birthright for a bowl of soup. They were not hostile to the Israelites, like the Ammonites were. The reason for their destruction is, because of their unfaithfulness to God. The Edomites were known of as very wise men. The question, here, is why are they not using that wisdom and making better decisions? The first mention of the Temanites is in Genesis. One of Job's friends was a Temanite, as well.

Jeremiah 49:8 "Flee ye, turn back, dwell deep, O inhabitants of Dedan; for I will bring the calamity of Esau upon him, the time [that] I will visit him."

The inhabitants of Dedan were commercially minded. This destruction leads to Dedan, as well. The Edomites were fleeing for safety away from the towns. They came through Dedan to safety. They would hide in caves, or in the desert.

Jeremiah 49:9 "If grapegatherers come to thee, would they not leave [some] gleaning grapes? if thieves by night, they will destroy till they have enough."

This is just saying, that grapegatherers hired by the owner of the vineyard, would conform to the wishes of the owner to leave a remnant of grapes for the poor. When a robber comes, they have no regard for the owner, or the poor. They take all they want, and destroy the rest.

Jeremiah 49:10 "But I have made Esau bare, I have uncovered his secret places, and he shall not be able to hide himself: his seed is spoiled, and his brethren, and his neighbours, and he [is] not."

This is speaking of the judgment of God being like a robber, who leaves nothing. They had hidden in caves before, but even this will not be hidden from God who sent the invaders. All the men will be caught and killed, or taken into captivity.

Jeremiah 49:11 Leave thy fatherless children, I will preserve [them] alive; and let thy widows trust in me."

The LORD had sworn that all of Edom's cities would be laid waste. He is, also, promising here, to take care of the widows and orphans, if the Edomites will leave them. God has always cared for the fatherless and the widows.

Jeremiah 49:12 "For thus saith the LORD; Behold, they whose judgment [was] not to drink of the cup have assuredly drunken; and [art] thou he [that] shall altogether go unpunished? thou shalt not go unpunished, but thou shalt surely drink [of it]."

If God punishes His beloved Israel, He will surely punish their enemies, as well. The cup, spoken of here, is the cup of God's wrath.

Jeremiah 49:13 "For I have sworn by myself, saith the LORD, that Bozrah shall become a desolation, a reproach, a waste, and a curse; and all the cities thereof shall be perpetual wastes."

The LORD swore by Himself, because there was no greater to swear by. Bozrah was a fortress of the metropolis of North Edom. Bozrah is mentioned, because of its fortress. Since Bozrah, which was so heavily fortified, was destroyed, all the other cities less fortified would be, too. They were all turned into useless waste.

Jeremiah 49:14 "I have heard a rumour from the LORD, and an ambassador is sent unto the heathen, [saying], Gather ye together, and come against her, and rise up to the battle."

Jeremiah is giving some of his own statements in this verse. He is aware God has contacted a heathen nation to come against them. He is trying to make them understand, that this is very near. God is sending the heathen nation, that is the important message here.

Jeremiah 49:15 "For, lo, I will make thee small among the heathen, [and] despised among men."

They had been highly thought of, because of their wisdom, in the past. The invasion, and conquering of them, would take away the prestige they had.

Jeremiah 49:16 "Thy terribleness hath deceived thee, [and] the pride of thine heart, O thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, that holdest the height of the hill: though thou shouldst make thy nest as high as the eagle, I will bring thee down from thence, saith the LORD."

It seems, their pride was their downfall. In their hearts they thought themselves better than the Israelites. This grieved God. There is no mountain high enough, or no cave deep enough, to hide from God. Be sure, He will find you out.

Jeremiah 49:17 "Also Edom shall be a desolation: every one that goeth by it shall be astonished, and shall hiss at all the plagues thereof."

This destruction is very near, when Jeremiah is speaking, but there is another desolation about 70 A.D. when Edom fades away altogether. Perhaps, both times are mentioned here. Those who had been praised for their greatness, will now be hissed for their weakness.

Jeremiah 49:18 "As in the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbour [cities] thereof, saith the LORD, no man shall abide there, neither shall a son of man dwell in it."

Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by fire and brimstone which fell from the heavens. This will be a different cause of destruction, but with the same results. No Sodomites will ever call Sodom home again, after the destruction in 70 A. D.

Jeremiah 49:19 "Behold, he shall come up like a lion from the swelling of Jordan against the habitation of the strong: but I will suddenly make him run away from her: and who [is] a chosen [man, that] I may appoint over her?"

for who [is] like me? and who will appoint me the time? and who [is] that shepherd that will stand before me?"

The shepherd in this is, probably, speaking of the ruler of Edom, since Edom was known as a pastureland. Nebuchadnezzar or the invader {whoever he is}, comes up like a lion, roaring across the land, as if nothing were there. They come like a flood, that cannot be stopped against Edom. This could be looking on down, until the later invasion about 70 A.D., when the Edomites as a people are no more. There will be a new people appointed for the land at that time. God is "me" in the verse above. No one can resist the LORD. The ruler of Edom, like all, will stand before the LORD to be judged.

Jeremiah 49:20 "Therefore hear the counsel of the LORD, that he hath taken against Edom; and his purposes, that he hath purposed against the inhabitants of Teman: Surely the least of the flock shall draw them out: surely he shall make their habitations desolate with them."

The divine counsels, I believe, are those we read about in I John 5:7 "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one." This counsel was set from the foundation of the world. God foreknew all that would happen, in every instance. The least is, probably, speaking of a heathen nation.

Jeremiah 49:21 "The earth is moved at the noise of their fall, at the cry the noise thereof was heard in the Red sea."

Their fall was great and terrible. The earth moving speaks of an earthquake, so strong it will be heard in the Red Sea. Whether this is a literal earthquake, or just something terrible that appears to be an earthquake, is not known.

Jeremiah 49:22 "Behold, he shall come up and fly as the eagle, and spread his wings over Bozrah: and at that day shall the heart of the mighty men of Edom be as the heart of a woman in her pangs."

The eagle swoops down and takes his prey. This is a sudden destruction that comes. Women's pains of childbirth come on them suddenly. They are frightened during the birth. This is what is mentioned about the men, here. The destruction comes so suddenly, and so does their fear.

Jeremiah 49:23 "Concerning Damascus. Hamath is confounded, and Arpad: for they have heard evil tidings: they are fainthearted; [there is] sorrow on the sea; it cannot be quiet."

Damascus is on the border of the desert. Hamath is on the border of Israel. The mention of the sea has to do with the restlessness of the sea.

Jeremiah 49:24 "Damascus is waxed feeble, [and] turneth herself to flee, and fear hath seized on [her]: anguish and sorrows have taken her, as a woman in travail."

Damascus was a very worldly city. Pleasures of the world were the things you always think of when you think of Damascus. They were a mixture of people, who were not following after the one true God. The destruction of the enemy is sudden as a woman in travail. Her sorrows come in a day. She has been judged and condemned.

Jeremiah 49:25 "How is the city of praise not left, the city of my joy!"

This city of praise and joy is Damascus. The revelry, and worldly praise, and joy are what is spoken of here.

Jeremiah 49:26 "Therefore her young men shall fall in her streets, and all the men of war shall be cut off in that day, saith the LORD of hosts."

This just speaks of the entire army being destroyed.

Jeremiah 49:27 "And I will kindle a fire in the wall of Damascus, and it shall consume the palaces of Ben-hadad."

We see from this, that even the palaces will not be spared. The whole city shall be burned.

Jeremiah 49:28 "Concerning Kedar, and concerning the kingdoms of Hazor, which Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon shall smite, thus saith the LORD; Arise ye, go up to Kedar, and spoil the men of the east."

Kedar represents the Arabs who are nomads in this area. The name "Kedar" means to be dark. This is, probably, speaking of the dark Arab skin. They were descendents of Ishmael. Hazor was a district in Arabia. These were settled Arabs, not like the nomads of Kedar. We see from this, that God is not letting anyone off without punishment for their sins.

Jeremiah 49:29 "Their tents and their flocks shall they take away: they shall take to themselves their curtains, and all their vessels, and their camels; and they shall cry unto them, Fear [is] on every side."

The tents were their homes. Just as the houses had been burned in Israel, these tents are taken here. They will leave them nothing to live by. They utterly spoil them.

Jeremiah 49:30 "Flee, get you far off, dwell deep, O ye inhabitants of Hazor, saith the LORD; for Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon hath taken counsel against you, and hath conceived a purpose against you."

We see from this, that the army is the army of Babylon. This is a message to the Arabs, which are in the villages, to hurry and get out, while there is still time. This army will be sweeping through this area, and the only chance they have, is to flee.

Jeremiah 49:31 "Arise, get you up unto the wealthy nation, that dwelleth without care, saith the LORD, which have neither gates nor bars, [which] dwell alone."

This wealthy nation, spoken of here, are these Arabs. They do not have an army, and do not even have walled cities, so it will be no trouble to overcome them. They had been wealthy in the fact that they had been at peace. They had not been fighters, so they had no army.

Jeremiah 49:32 "And their camels shall be a booty, and the multitude of their cattle a spoil: and I will scatter into all winds them [that are] in

the utmost corners; and I will bring their calamity from all sides thereof, saith the LORD."

It appears, they had many cattle and camels. This would be the booty for the conqueror. The camels were used much in the way our early settlers used horses. They were a mode of transportation. Cattle were food. It appears, there will be no way of escape for them, because the enemy will come from all around them.

Jeremiah 49:33 "And Hazor shall be a dwelling for dragons, [and] a desolation for ever: there shall no man abide there, nor [any] son of man dwell in it."

This is the very same fate as for Hazor. There will be utter destruction.

Jeremiah 49:34 "The word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah the prophet against Elam in the beginning of the reign of Zedekiah king of Judah, saying," Jeremiah 49:35 "Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, I will break the bow of Elam, the chief of their might."

Elam was one of the most ancient kingdoms in the world. It was south of Assyria. It was east of Persia. The man, Elam, was the first son of Shem. This Elam, probably, got its name from him. He was the father of the Elamites. Elam was a land of bowmen. This is just saying, they will break the bow so they cannot fight.

Jeremiah 49:36 "And upon Elam will I bring the four winds from the four quarters of heaven, and will scatter them toward all those winds; and there shall be no nation whither the outcasts of Elam shall not come."

This is very similar to the scattering of the Jews to every country. They will be scattered to all lands. They would be a dispersed people to all nations.

Jeremiah 49:37 "For I will cause Elam to be dismayed before their enemies, and before them that seek their life: and I will bring evil upon them, [even] my fierce anger, saith the LORD; and I will send the sword after them, till I have consumed them:"

We do not read of why the wrath of God is upon them, but we know it is not without just cause. We do know at one point, that they were opposed to rebuilding the temple in the time of Ezra. This is explanation enough for me. God has every right to do with them, as He wishes.

Jeremiah 49:38 "And I will set my throne in Elam, and will destroy from thence the king and the princes, saith the LORD."

The throne is speaking of his tribunal. Elam's king will reign no more. There will be strangers on the throne.

Jeremiah 49:39 "But it shall come to pass in the latter days, [that] I will bring again the captivity of Elam, saith the LORD."

The latter days are speaking of the end times. In the following Scripture that speaks of all the nationalities of people at Pentecost, we

see the Elamites mentioned. Acts 2:9 "Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia". Seth was not from the family of Cain. He was the son of Adam and Eve, who the spiritual blessings came through. God never totally destroys this line. They will return, possibly, during the Messianic age.

## Jeremiah 50 Questions

1. Who is verse 1 addressed to?
2. The Ammonites had moved into the area of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. What false god is intended by "king" in verse 1?
4. This land belonged to whom?
5. Rabbah was of whom?
6. Heshbon is a city located in the land of \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The Ammonites were the offspring of whom?
8. To put trust in a false god, is \_\_\_\_\_.
9. They trusted in \_\_\_\_\_, as well.
10. The only God to go to is whom?
11. Why were the people running?
12. What time is verse 6 speaking of?
13. Who are the Edomites descended from?
14. He sold his birth right for a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
15. The Edomites were thought of as being \_\_\_\_\_ men.
16. Where are the Temanites mentioned the first time?
17. The inhabitants of Dedan were \_\_\_\_\_ minded.
18. What is verse 9 saying?
19. What will happen to Edom's fatherless children?
20. Who did the LORD swear by?
21. Where was Bozrah?
22. What is Jeremiah giving in verse 14?
23. When is a time of destruction of Edom, besides the near one in Jeremiah's time?
24. Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
25. Who is the shepherd in verse 19?
26. Who will the king of Edom stand before to be judged?
27. Who are the divine counsel of verse 20?
28. The earth moving speaks of an \_\_\_\_\_.
29. The \_\_\_\_\_ swoops down and takes his prey.
30. Describe the morals of Damascus?
31. What happens to the palace of Ben-hadad?
32. Who does Kedar represent?
33. The name "Kedar" means what?
34. These tents were their \_\_\_\_\_.
35. What is the wealthy nation speaking of?
36. Who was Elam?
37. What happens to the Elamites?
38. When will God bring Elam back?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 50:1 "The word that the LORD spake against Babylon [and] against the land of the Chaldeans by Jeremiah the prophet."

In the last few chapters, we have seen the Babylonians, Chaldeans used of God in judgment against Judah, and Benjamin, and many other small countries. Now, we see judgment against them.

Jeremiah 50:2 "Declare ye among the nations, and publish, and set up a standard; publish, [and] conceal not: say, Babylon is taken, Bel is confounded, Merodach is broken in pieces; her idols are confounded, her images are broken in pieces."

We see from this, that Jeremiah did not side in with the Babylonians. He would have preferred, from the beginning, to prophesy against Babylon, instead of his homeland. We can see from this, that even though judgment begins at the house of God, it finally reaches to everyone. God was never satisfied with the morals of the Babylonians, He just used them to accomplish His judgments. He, now, turns to them and judges them for their evil ways. Jeremiah does not just tell Babylon, but all who will hear. He is in total agreement that Babylon needed punishing. "Bel" and "Merodach" are names of false gods worshipped by the Babylonians. The statues of these false gods are broken in pieces. "Declare among the nations" means tell everyone.

Jeremiah 50:3 "For out of the north there cometh up a nation against her, which shall make her land desolate, and none shall dwell therein: they shall remove, they shall depart, both man and beast."

This nation, that cometh from the north, to attack Babylon is headed by Cyrus. This nation is the Persian empire, which Cyrus heads up. The her, here, is Babylon. This does happen to the Babylonians. The city of Babylon will never be built again.

Jeremiah 50:4 "In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the children of Israel shall come, they and the children of Judah together, going and weeping: they shall go, and seek the LORD their God."

This occurs at the end of the 70 year captivity of the Israelites. Specifically to the two tribes of Benjamin and Judah. In a sense, Cyrus sets them free to go back into their homeland. This is a time of great rejoicing. They have repented, and God has set them free. It would be of no help to anyone to return to their homeland, unless they return to their God. Home, for the believer, is wherever God is.

Jeremiah 50:5 "They shall ask the way to Zion with their faces thitherward, [saying], Come, and let us join ourselves to the LORD in a perpetual covenant [that] shall not be forgotten."

Zion is the city of God, but it is also His church. To "repent" means to turn in an opposite direction. This is not only for forgiveness of past sins, but to walk in newness of life in Christ. "Jesus said in the following Scripture in Matthew 7:7 "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall

find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:" In verse 5, above they are seeking God and His city. "The perpetual covenant" is the covenant of grace. Hebrews 8:10 "For this [is] the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:" Hebrews 8:11 "And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest." Hebrews 8:12 "For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more."

Jeremiah 50:6 "My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away [on] the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill, they have forgotten their restingplace."

Never has there been a people more scattered than the Jews. They are returning to Israel today by the millions. They are coming home, just like these of Judah and Benjamin came home from Babylon. Their leaders {shepherds} had gone astray and taken the people with them. We read in the 34th chapter of Ezekiel, that the Lord is going to take the people away from the shepherd that fleeces the sheep. The Lord, Himself, will be their great Shepherd.

Jeremiah 50:7 "All that found them have devoured them: and their adversaries said, We offend not, because they have sinned against the LORD, the habitation of justice, even the LORD, the hope of their fathers."

The Babylonians did not want to take any blame, because of what they did. They did capture them on the orders of God, but they had been deep in false worship themselves. Just because they were used of God to carry out His will on Judah, did not excuse their own sins.

Jeremiah 50:8 "Remove out of the midst of Babylon, and go forth out of the land of the Chaldeans, and be as the he goats before the flocks."

The he goat leads the flock, and that is what they are to do. They must flee the city now, before Cyrus' army actually starts fighting.

Jeremiah 50:9 "For, lo, I will raise and cause to come up against Babylon an assembly of great nations from the north country: and they shall set themselves in array against her; from thence she shall be taken: their arrows [shall be] as of a mighty expert man; none shall return in vain."

These great nations are the group that make up the Persians. Each arrow that the Persians shoot, will find their mark, is what is meant by "not return in vain".

Jeremiah 50:10 "And Chaldea shall be a spoil: all that spoil her shall be satisfied, saith the LORD."

There would be great treasures to spoil from all she had attained, when plundering the nations.

Jeremiah 50:11 "Because ye were glad, because ye rejoiced, O ye destroyers of mine heritage, because ye are grown fat as the heifer at grass, and bellow as bulls;"

You remember, when they attacked Jerusalem, they went much further than the LORD had told them to. They have become fat with the wealth of other nations they defeated. The "grown fat as the heifer at grass" means they have had an abundance of food, while their neighbors have felt famine. "Bellow as bulls" means they have been boasting of their conquests.

Jeremiah 50:12 "Your mother shall be sore confounded; she that bare you shall be ashamed: behold, the hindermost of the nations [shall be] a wilderness, a dry land, and a desert."

Not only will Babylon proper be destroyed, but the whole land. The land will be filled with shame. Babylon had been spoken of as one of the wonders of the world. Now, that will be no more. It is destroyed. This becomes a desert area, as the remains of Sodom and Gomorrah did.

Jeremiah 50:13 "Because of the wrath of the LORD it shall not be inhabited, but it shall be wholly desolate: every one that goeth by Babylon shall be astonished, and hiss at all her plagues."

The city of Babylon is never built again. The land of Iraq is in the same land as Babylon. Even today, there is still astonishment at the destruction. It is, also, astonishing that it has never been rebuilt.

Jeremiah 50:14 "Put yourselves in array against Babylon round about: all ye that bend the bow, shoot at her, spare no arrows: for she hath sinned against the LORD."

This is a direct statement to the Persian army, who is come to destroy Babylon. The punishment comes, because she has sinned against the LORD. The Persians are to be just as aggressive fighting them, as they were fighting Judah and Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 50:15 "Shout against her round about: she hath given her hand: her foundations are fallen, her walls are thrown down: for it [is] the vengeance of the LORD: take vengeance upon her; as she hath done, do unto her."

This is quite a statement. The walls around Babylon were wide enough to have chariot races on the top of them. It would really be something for this wall to fall. In fact, there was an inner and an outer wall. Persia is fighting the battle, but this is really the vengeance of the LORD.

Jeremiah 50:16 "Cut off the sower from Babylon, and him that handleth the sickle in the time of harvest: for fear of the oppressing sword they shall turn every one to his people, and they shall flee every one to his own land."

This is, perhaps, speaking of those who had been held captive. You remember, they built houses, and grew gardens, and had vineyards. This is speaking of them fleeing to their homeland, which would indicate they were the captives.

Jeremiah 50:17 "Israel [is] a scattered sheep; the lions have driven [him] away: first the king of Assyria hath devoured him; and last this Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon hath broken his bones."

Israel, in this verse, is speaking of the 12 tribes. The ten tribes, spoken of as Israel had been captured by Assyria. Judah {the two tribes of Judah and Benjamin} are part of the Israel in verse 17 above. They were captured by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. "Lions", just means the attackers.

Jeremiah 50:18 "Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will punish the king of Babylon and his land, as I have punished the king of Assyria."

This just means that it is God punishing them, rather than Persia.

Jeremiah 50:19 "And I will bring Israel again to his habitation, and he shall feed on Carmel and Bashan, and his soul shall be satisfied upon mount Ephraim and Gilead."

All of these places, mentioned in the Scripture above, are wonderful places to graze sheep, or cattle. Carmel is a beautiful green mountain often mentioned. "Habitation" is their place of permanent dwelling.

Jeremiah 50:20 "In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and [there shall be] none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon them whom I reserve."

They will be just as if they had never sinned, because they have repented and God has forgiven them. The iniquity will not be covered with animal's blood, but totally done away with. Hebrews 10:17 "And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more."

Jeremiah 50:21 "Go up against the land of Merathaim, [even] against it, and against the inhabitants of Pekod: waste and utterly destroy after them, saith the LORD, and do according to all that I have commanded thee."

This is the only mention in the Bible of Merathaim. It seems not to be a place, but a condition. The word "Merathaim" means double bitterness. It is, possibly, speaking of the attitude of the Babylonians after their defeat. The word "Pekod" means punishment. It, also, seems to be a symbolic name for Babylon. The word is mentioned one other time, and it is in connection with the Chaldeans. This is speaking of destroying Babylon.

Jeremiah 50:22 "A sound of battle [is] in the land, and of great destruction."

This is speaking of that last decisive battle, which destroys Babylon.

Jeremiah 50:23 "How is the hammer of the whole earth cut asunder and broken! how is Babylon become a desolation among the nations!"

Babylon was like a giant hammer that had come down on the nations around them. Now, they are destroyed by the Persians with Cyrus leading them. The hammer is broken.

Jeremiah 50:24 "I have laid a snare for thee, and thou art also taken, O Babylon, and thou wast not aware: thou art found, and also caught, because thou hast striven against the LORD."

The snare that was set was a way into the heavily fortified walls of Babylon. They diverted the water, and came in through the water ducts. They were in the city, before anyone knew what had happened. I personally believe God gave Cyrus this plan of attack. He was with Cyrus for the punishment of Babylon, as He had been with Nebuchadnezzar, when He used him to punish Judah.

Jeremiah 50:25 "The LORD hath opened his armoury, and hath brought forth the weapons of his indignation: for this [is] the work of the Lord GOD of hosts in the land of the Chaldeans."

This leaves no doubt where the ability to defeat Babylon came from. God was angry with the Chaldeans, and He is helping the Persians destroy them.

Jeremiah 50:26 "Come against her from the utmost border, open her storehouses: cast her up as heaps, and destroy her utterly: let nothing of her be left."

Earthly monuments cannot withstand God. In this very same area, the people had decided to build a tower to heaven, against the wishes of God. God confused their language and destroyed their tower. The tower of Babel was in the area we are calling Babylon, here. The City was thought of as one of the wonders of the world. God tore it down. It glorified man, and not God.

Jeremiah 50:27 "Slay all her bullocks; let them go down to the slaughter: woe unto them! for their day is come, the time of their visitation."

The bullocks are the males. They were slain so there would be no calves. In battle, most of those killed are of the male gender. Perhaps, that is what is spoken here.

Jeremiah 50:28 "The voice of them that flee and escape out of the land of Babylon, to declare in Zion the vengeance of the LORD our God, the vengeance of his temple."

They had utterly destroyed the temple and Jerusalem. They had gone further than what God had intended them to do. Now, it is their time to be destroyed. The Jews are fleeing back home, and carrying with them the story of the destruction of Babylon.

Jeremiah 50:29 "Call together the archers against Babylon: all ye that bend the bow, camp against it round about; let none thereof escape: recompense her according to her work; according to all that she hath done, do unto her: for she hath been proud against the LORD, against the Holy One of Israel."

The archers surrounding Babylon shows that it is time for the battle to begin. They killed without regard, so they will be killed the same way. "Being proud against the LORD" means she did not stay within the bounds of His instructions.

Jeremiah 50:30 "Therefore shall her young men fall in the streets, and all her men of war shall be cut off in that day, saith the LORD."

This is exactly what she did to Judah and Jerusalem, so her men will fall in battle, as well.

Jeremiah 50:31 "Behold, I [am] against thee, [O thou] most proud, saith the Lord GOD of hosts: for thy day is come, the time [that] I will visit thee."

We have mentioned before that the time God will visit them, is their day of death. Their pride caused this to come upon them.

Jeremiah 50:32 "And the most proud shall stumble and fall, and none shall raise him up: and I will kindle a fire in his cities, and it shall devour all round about him."

Pride comes before a fall. They will fall in their pride, and not stand up as a city again. They will burn, when the city burns.

Jeremiah 50:33 "Thus saith the LORD of hosts; The children of Israel and the children of Judah [were] oppressed together: and all that took them captives held them fast; they refused to let them go."

Those of Judah and Israel that were taken, were kept under adverse circumstances. Their captors oppressed them. They did not set them free after a reasonable limit of time. They were like those in Egypt whom the Pharaoh refused to let go.

Jeremiah 50:34 "Their Redeemer [is] strong; the LORD of hosts [is] his name: he shall thoroughly plead their cause, that he may give rest to the land, and disquiet the inhabitants of Babylon."

God is their Redeemer. He sent the person of Moses to represent Him in delivering them from Egypt. Jesus Christ is the true Redeemer of all the earth. LORD, in the verse above, is speaking of Jehovah, the self-existent One. Jesus, in its extended form, means Jehovah Saviour. This is the same. There is nothing, or no one, so powerful that Jesus cannot deliver them from it.

Jeremiah 50:35 "A sword [is] upon the Chaldeans, saith the LORD, and upon the inhabitants of Babylon, and upon her princes, and upon her wise [men]." Jeremiah 50:36 "A sword [is] upon the liars; and they shall dote: a sword [is] upon her mighty men; and they shall be dismayed." Jeremiah 50:37 "A sword [is] upon their horses, and upon their chariots, and upon all the mingled people that [are] in the midst of her; and they shall become as women: a sword [is] upon her treasures; and they shall be robbed."

The sword that is against the Chaldeans, even though it is in the hands of the Persians, is God's. This sword does not discriminate. Rich and poor, powerful and weak shall feel its cutting blade. The men are helpless as women before this sword. Her treasures shall be cut away from her {Babylon}.

Jeremiah 50:38 "A drought [is] upon her waters; and they shall be dried up: for it [is] the land of graven images, and they are mad upon [their] idols."

Now, we see the true reason for the punishment on Babylon. They worship idols {nothings}. God will stop the water of life from flowing, because of their worship of images.

Jeremiah 50:39 "Therefore the wild beasts of the desert with the wild beasts of the islands shall dwell [there], and the owls shall dwell therein: and it shall be no more inhabited for ever; neither shall it be dwelt in from generation to generation."

This just speaks of the total devastation. Until this day, the city of Babylon has never been rebuilt. There is no city.

Jeremiah 50:40 "As God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah and the neighbour [cities] thereof, saith the LORD; [so] shall no man abide there, neither shall any son of man dwell therein."

Sodom and Gomorrah are desert areas. This Babylon will be a desolate area, as well. It will be a place not suited to the habitation of man.

Jeremiah 50:41 "Behold, a people shall come from the north, and a great nation, and many kings shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth."

The Jewish people always thought of danger coming from the north. Persia was, in fact, made up of several nations.

Jeremiah 50:42 "They shall hold the bow and the lance: they [are] cruel, and will not shew mercy: their voice shall roar like the sea, and they shall ride upon horses, [every one] put in array, like a man to the battle, against thee, O daughter of Babylon."

Daughter of Babylon is, probably, speaking of the city of Babylon.

Jeremiah 50:43 "The king of Babylon hath heard the report of them, and his hands waxed feeble: anguish took hold of him, [and] pangs as of a woman in travail."

When they discovered that the aggressor was inside the walls of the city, the king knew all was lost. He feared for his own life. The comparison of a woman in travail, is speaking of the suddenness and the severity of the fear and anguish that came upon the king.

Jeremiah 50:44 "Behold, he shall come up like a lion from the swelling of Jordan unto the habitation of the strong: but I will make them suddenly run away from her: and who [is] a chosen [man, that] I may appoint over her? for who [is] like me? and who will appoint me the time? and who [is] that shepherd that will stand before me?"

This is a repeat of a previous verse. We know that all will stand, one at a time, before the Judge of all the earth on judgment day.

Jeremiah 50:45 "Therefore hear ye the counsel of the LORD, that he hath taken against Babylon; and his purposes, that he hath purposed against the land of the Chaldeans: Surely the least of the flock shall draw them out: surely he shall make [their] habitation desolate with them."

Babylon is thought of as all wicked cities, and also, is thought of as hell in a symbolic way. Just as this literal Babylon is destroyed, here, Hell will be thrown into the lake of fire for total destruction. Revelation 20:14 "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death."

Jeremiah 50:46 "At the noise of the taking of Babylon the earth is moved, and the cry is heard among the nations."

All I can say, is great is the fall of physical Babylon and spiritual Babylon. Both of them affected the whole earth.

## Jeremiah 51 Questions

1. Who is this prophecy against?
2. What is meant by "declare among the nations"?
3. We see from this, that Jeremiah did not side in with the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Even though judgment begins at the house of God, it reaches whom?
5. What are the names "Bel" and "Merodach"?
6. What happens to the statues of their false gods?
7. Who heads the army that comes from the north against Babylon?
8. When will the city of Babylon be rebuilt?
8. When does verse 4 occur?
9. In a sense, who sets the tribe of Judah, that were captives free from Babylon?
10. They have repented of their sin, and \_\_\_\_\_ has set them free.
11. It would be of no help to anyone to return to their homeland, if they did not return to their \_\_\_\_\_.
12. In verse 5, Zion is the \_\_\_\_\_.
13. Quote Matthew chapter 7 verse 7.
14. What is the "perpetual covenant"?
15. Quote Hebrews chapter 8 verse 11.
16. There has never been a people more scattered than the \_\_\_\_\_.
17. Just because they were used of God, does not excuse their own \_\_\_\_\_.
18. These great nations make up the \_\_\_\_\_.
19. What does the statement "grown fat as the heifer at grass" mean?
20. Why is Babylon not to be inhabited again?
21. What happens to the giant walls of Babylon?
22. How wide were these walls of Babylon?
23. Who is the sower they cut off?
24. What happens to Israel?
25. What do Carmen, Bashan, Ephraim, and Gilead have in common?
26. Quote Hebrews chapter 10 verse 17.
27. What is "Merathaim"?
28. What does "Pekod" mean?
29. How did they penetrate the walls of Babylon?
30. The city was thought of as one of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world.
31. What do the archers surrounding the city show us?
32. What happens to the city?
33. Who is the great Redeemer?
34. LORD, in verse 34, is who?
35. The sword against the Chaldeans is whose?
36. What is the real reason for God destroying them?
37. What do Sodom, and Gomorrah, and Babylon have in common?
38. Who is the daughter of Babylon?
39. What does Babylon symbolize?
40. Quote Revelation chapter 20 verse 14.
41. Who does Babylon affect?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 51:1 "Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will raise up against Babylon, and against them that dwell in the midst of them that rise up against me, a destroying wind;"

This wind is a spiritual wind. It comes from God. The Holy Spirit is like a rushing mighty wind. This destroying wind could, also, be the Persians, who swoop down like a wind and destroy them.

Jeremiah 51:2 "And will send unto Babylon fanners, that shall fan her, and shall empty her land: for in the day of trouble they shall be against her round about."

Both of the Scriptures above are spiritual. They are speaking of a fire, and the wind keeps the fire fanned up and going. God wants this fire to be very hot and not to go out, until it completely destroys.

Jeremiah 51:3 "Against [him that] bendeth let the archer bend his bow, and against [him that] lifteth himself up in his brigandine: and spare ye not her young men; destroy ye utterly all her host."

This is speaking of the battle being against the army of Babylon. The young men are in the service, and they are to die. It matters not whether they are officers or enlisted men.

Jeremiah 51:4 "Thus the slain shall fall in the land of the Chaldeans, and [they that are] thrust through in her streets."

Verse 4 makes it very clear that this battle is not just in town, but throughout the land. Many will be thrust through with a spear, or sword, and die on the spot they were struck.

Jeremiah 51:5 "For Israel [hath] not [been] forsaken, nor Judah of his God, of the LORD of hosts; though their land was filled with sin against the Holy One of Israel."

God still remembers the sin of Israel, but has forgiven that sin and restored her. God did not let them go into captivity and forget them. This battle is partially to free Israel to return to her homeland. God is the LORD of hosts.

Jeremiah 51:6 "Flee out of the midst of Babylon, and deliver every man his soul: be not cut off in her iniquity; for this [is] the time of the LORD'S vengeance; he will render unto her a recompence."

We see a warning, here, to all the Israelite captives in Babylon to flee before the war gets started, because they might get caught up in the war and die, if they remain.

Jeremiah 51:7 "Babylon [hath been] a golden cup in the LORD'S hand, that made all the earth drunken: the nations have drunken of her wine; therefore the nations are mad."

As we said in a previous lesson, there is a literal Babylon, and there is a spirit of Babylon. The physical is spoken of as being destroyed by the Persians. Both Babylons are actually destroyed by the LORD. Revelation 14:8 "And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." Revelation 16:19 "And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath." Both Babylons are evil, and it is good advice to flee out of her, before the LORD's wrath is poured out on her. Her cup is full of sin, or fornication.

Jeremiah 51:8 "Babylon is suddenly fallen and destroyed: howl for her; take balm for her pain, if so be she may be healed."

The fate of both Babylons is to fall suddenly, and be destroyed. In both cases, those looking on howl for her. Revelation 18:10 "Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come." Revelation 18:11 "And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:" Their is no medicine to heal this pain. This is the wrath of God upon her.

Jeremiah 51:9 "We would have healed Babylon, but she is not healed: forsake her, and let us go every one into his own country: for her judgment reacheth unto heaven, and is lifted up [even] to the skies."

"Her judgment reaching to heaven" says that God has judged Babylon and found her guilty. There will be no healing of this land.

Jeremiah 51:10 "The LORD hath brought forth our righteousness: come, and let us declare in Zion the work of the LORD our God."

This, actually, is the righteousness of God, which is a free gift to His people. The least we, or they, can do is be thankful for that gift of righteousness. Zion is the holy city, or the church. Notice, this is His work, and not ours.

Jeremiah 51:11 "Make bright the arrows; gather the shields: the LORD hath raised up the spirit of the kings of the Medes: for his device [is] against Babylon, to destroy it; because it [is] the vengeance of the LORD, the vengeance of his temple."

Making the arrows bright means they are shined, so they will not have any rough edges. This is preparation for war. The "Medes", here, is actually speaking of the Persians. They will do the actual fighting against Babylon. God uses whoever He wants to for carrying out His vengeance.

Jeremiah 51:12 "Set up the standard upon the walls of Babylon, make the watch strong, set up the watchmen, prepare the ambushes: for the LORD hath both devised and done that which he spake against the inhabitants of Babylon."

The "standard" is like a flag. Armies carry a flag in the front lines to show their soldiers where to go. The watchmen are to form a circle around

the city to watch against help coming from another city. The ambushes are the ones to go ahead and get into the city.

Jeremiah 51:13 "O thou that dwellest upon many waters, abundant in treasures, thine end is come, [and] the measure of thy covetousness."

They were on the Euphrates River, and there were canals everywhere. We know, also, that the city of Babylon had water surrounding it to keep back attackers. This is the very way the enemy got into the inner wall. Their covetousness is speaking of all the booty they recovered from the countries they had invaded.

Jeremiah 51:14 "The LORD of hosts hath sworn by himself, [saying], Surely I will fill thee with men, as with caterpillars; and they shall lift up a shout against thee."

The army that comes against them are so great in number, they are compared to caterpillars. This shout of the great army will add to the frightening experience of the invasion. The LORD swears by Himself, because there is no greater to swear by.

Jeremiah 51:15 "He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heaven by his understanding."

This is not some of these helpless false gods they have been worshipping, but the God who created the earth and everything in it. His power is in His Word. He said, "Let there be" and the world was created, and everything, and everyone in it. His understanding is so great that, He put the planets in perfect order, and they obey His voice to stay there.

Jeremiah 51:16 "When he uttereth [his] voice, [there is] a multitude of waters in the heavens; and he causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth: he maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of his treasures."

This is a description of how He did the creation. It, also, tells us that God alone is in charge of the lightning, and rain, and wind.

Jeremiah 51:17 "Every man is brutish by [his] knowledge; every founder is confounded by the graven image: for his molten image [is] falsehood, and [there is] no breath in them." Jeremiah 51:18 "They [are] vanity, the work of errors: in the time of their visitation they shall perish."

"Brutish" means to burn. Man's earthly intelligence will not save him. A man's so-called intelligence sometimes leads him to destruction. To decide to worship a graven image, or a false god, is certainly destructive. The knowledge we should seek, is the knowledge of God. I believe these few Scriptures, here, are showing that unlike false gods, which have no power, God has the power to do what He says. These false gods have no life, so they cannot give life. When death comes to these Babylonians, their false gods will not be able to help them.

Jeremiah 51:19 "The portion of Jacob [is] not like them; for he [is] the former of all things: and [Israel is] the rod of his inheritance: the LORD of hosts [is] his name."

We see from this, that Jacob is God's chosen. Jacob has a living God. Jacob's name was changed to Israel, when he encountered God. God had promised Abraham to bless him, and through him bless the nations. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was the father of Jacob. Israel belongs to God, and God to Israel. Even spiritual Israel {the Christians} belong to God, and God to us. We are joint-heirs with Jesus Christ. LORD, as we said before, is Jehovah. The extended meaning of Jesus is Jehovah Saviour.

Jeremiah 51:20 "Thou [art] my battle axe [and] weapons of war: for with thee will I break in pieces the nations, and with thee will I destroy kingdoms;"

God's family, on the earth, are His weapons. We fight the battles, even though He has already won the war. In this particular instance, God is using another worldly people to attack Babylon. God is their Creator. He can use them, if He wants to. They may not recognize Him as their God, but He is their Creator. They are but putty in His hands. Actually it is God who makes war against Babylon. He just uses Persia.

Jeremiah 51:21 "And with thee will I break in pieces the horse and his rider; and with thee will I break in pieces the chariot and his rider;" Jeremiah 51:22 "With thee also will I break in pieces man and woman; and with thee will I break in pieces old and young; and with thee will I break in pieces the young man and the maid;" Jeremiah 51:23 "I will also break in pieces with thee the shepherd and his flock; and with thee will I break in pieces the husbandman and his yoke of oxen; and with thee will I break in pieces captains and rulers."

Notice "I" will. God is causing the attack. One of the reasons, of course, is to deliver Judah. All of the things and people mentioned above, that He will break, are the power of their strength. They are the things that made Babylon strong.

Jeremiah 51:24 "And I will render unto Babylon and to all the inhabitants of Chaldea all their evil that they have done in Zion in your sight, saith the LORD."

The very things that Babylon did to Jerusalem will be done to them here. They will receive the same cruelty that they gave.

Jeremiah 51:25 "Behold, I [am] against thee, O destroying mountain, saith the LORD, which destroyest all the earth: and I will stretch out mine hand upon thee, and roll thee down from the rocks, and will make thee a burnt mountain."

The mountain could be speaking of a volcano. The burnt mountain with rolling rock down the side is a description of a volcano erupting. Whether this is a literal volcano, or is speaking of the terribleness of this battle, I cannot say. The volcano did not destroy, it had been Babylon that destroyed. This could possibly mean that the power of Babylon is burned and removed.

Jeremiah 51:26 "And they shall not take of thee a stone for a corner, nor a stone for foundations; but thou shalt be desolate for ever, saith the LORD."

Babylon is a city and a country, as well as a system of evil. In this, I believe it is speaking of the city, which has never been restored.

Jeremiah 51:27 "Set ye up a standard in the land, blow the trumpet among the nations, prepare the nations against her, call together against her the kingdoms of Ararat, Minni, and Ashchenaz; appoint a captain against her; cause the horses to come up as the rough caterpillars."

"Ararat" is, possibly, speaking of Armenia. The Persian empire was made up of many nations. The "horses as caterpillars" just speaks of the large number of horses in the battle.

Jeremiah 51:28 "Prepare against her the nations with the kings of the Medes, the captains thereof, and all the rulers thereof, and all the land of his dominion."

This, again, is speaking of the Persians, when it says the Medes. This just speaks of the many nations that are led by Cyrus.

Jeremiah 51:29 "And the land shall tremble and sorrow: for every purpose of the LORD shall be performed against Babylon, to make the land of Babylon a desolation without an inhabitant."

This is speaking of the vast destruction that the army of the Persians do. We must keep in mind, however, this is actually the judgment of God on these people.

Jeremiah 51:30 "The mighty men of Babylon have forborne to fight, they have remained in [their] holds: their might hath failed; they became as women: they have burned her dwellingplaces; her bars are broken."

The word "forborne" means to be flabby, or to cease, end, or fall. In fear, these brave Babylonians have run to hide. They fear this great army that has come against them. Their fear is well grounded, because their land is being burned and ravaged.

Jeremiah 51:31 "One post shall run to meet another, and one messenger to meet another, to shew the king of Babylon that his city is taken at [one] end,"

This just shows that the battle is coming from several places at once. The "post" are those who are posted to warn of impending danger. Since they came in the water way, under the wall, the posts were too late.

Jeremiah 51:32 "And that the passages are stopped, and the reeds they have burned with fire, and the men of war are affrighted."

There is no way of escape. Their brave soldiers are frightened, because they know they have lost the war.

Jeremiah 51:33 "For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; The daughter of Babylon [is] like a threshingfloor, [it is] time to thresh her: yet a little while, and the time of her harvest shall come."

Babylon had grown at the expense of others. Now, judgment time has come. Harvest time and time of God's judgment are the same.

## Jeremiah 52 Questions

1. In verse 1, God raises up what against Babylon?
2. What do fanners do?
3. What will happen to Babylon's young men?
4. Quote Jeremiah chapter 51 verse 5.
5. What is this battle partially for?
6. What are the Israelites being warned of in verse 6?
7. Quote Revelation chapter 14 verse 8.
8. Quote Revelation chapter 16 verse 19.
9. What is the fate of both Babylons?
10. Who will mourn for Babylon?
11. Who judged Babylon?
12. What is the righteousness in verse 10?
13. Who are the "Medes"?
14. What is the "standard" like?
15. What river was Babylon on?
16. Who did the LORD of hosts swear by?
17. God made the earth by His \_\_\_\_\_.
18. He has established the world by His \_\_\_\_\_.
19. He stretched out the heaven by His \_\_\_\_\_.
20. What is verse 16?
21. What does "brutish" mean?
22. \_\_\_\_\_ is God's chosen.
23. God has the power to do what He \_\_\_\_\_.
24. Who are the Christians joint-heirs with?
25. Why can God use Persia to do His will?
26. What are some of the things God breaks in pieces?
27. What is the mountain in verse 25?
28. What is "Ararat" speaking of?
29. Who are leading the nations against Babylon?
30. What does the word "forborne" mean?
31. Who are the "post"?
32. The daughter of Babylon is compared to what in verse 33?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 51:34 "Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon hath devoured me, he hath crushed me, he hath made me an empty vessel, he hath swallowed me up like a dragon, he hath filled his belly with my delicates, he hath cast me out."

Nubuchadnezzar was the king of Babylon, when they destroyed Jerusalem and Judah. He was like a dragon that could not stop finding more prey. Babylon and Nebuchadnezzar symbolize evil. He spoiled the land, and the people, and took them back to Babylonn to serve him.

Jeremiah 51:35 "The violence done to me and to my flesh [be] upon Babylon, shall the inhabitant of Zion say; and my blood upon the inhabitants of Chaldea, shall Jerusalem say."

We see, in this, violence done in Israel against God's people. The Babylon {which symbolizes evil in our world today} does violence to God's church even now. God holds them responsible for what they do to His family. His family's blood is on them. In this particular case, the blood of Jerusalem and Judah is on Chaldea or Babylon.

Jeremiah 51:36 "Therefore thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will plead thy cause, and take vengeance for thee; and I will dry up her sea, and make her springs dry."

The springs are really speaking of places where water is stored. God brings the drought sometimes as a way of punishment. Just as God turned the water to blood in Egypt. He is going to stop the water supply of Babylon, here.

Jeremiah 51:37 "And Babylon shall become heaps, a dwelling place for dragons, an astonishment, and an hissing, without an inhabitant."

Babylon will be destroyed and not rebuilt. Sodom and Gomorah are good examples of what happens to places when God's judgment is upon them. Until this day, they are not habitable.

Jeremiah 51:38 "They shall roar together like lions: they shall yell as lions' whelps."

They roared into the countries, and captured them like a lion on the prowl. Now, they will be helpless as a very young lion.

Jeremiah 51:39 "In their heat I will make their feasts, and I will make them drunken, that they may rejoice, and sleep a perpetual sleep, and not wake, saith the LORD."

The "perpetual sleep", here, is speaking of death. They will fear the army so much that they will get drunk, to help them face the problems ahead. Drinking does not help anyone. It only brings their death a little sooner.

Jeremiah 51:40 "I will bring them down like lambs to the slaughter, like rams with he goats."

This just shows the extent of their helplessness in the carrying out of judgment against them. There is nothing they can do to stop it. God has spoken, and it shall be.

Jeremiah 51:41 "How is Sheshach taken! and how is the praise of the whole earth surprised! how is Babylon become an astonishment among the nations!"

"Sheshack" is a symbolic name of Babylon. The miraculous way they were taken could have been thought up only by the LORD. The earth is surprised, because everyone thought Babylon was so well fortified that no one could take them. Only God could think to stop the water in the moat and attack by walking through the water lines.

Jeremiah 51:42 "The sea is come up upon Babylon: she is covered with the multitude of the waves thereof."

This "sea" is not water, but the enormous amount of army that comes over the land.

Jeremiah 51:43 "Her cities are a desolation, a dry land, and a wilderness, a land wherein no man dwelleth, neither doth [any] son of man pass thereby."

This explains, again, that it is not just the city of Babylon that is taken, but all the cities in the land of Babylon.

Jeremiah 51:44 "And I will punish Bel in Babylon, and I will bring forth out of his mouth that which he hath swallowed up: and the nations shall not flow together any more unto him: yea, the wall of Babylon shall fall."

The huge wall around the city of Babylon will fall. Bel in Babylon is the same as the false god Baal. God will destroy this false god. Bel had swallowed up, not just the goods of foreign lands, but the people themselves. This evil false god will have to give them up to the One True God. The Israelites will go back to their homeland before the terrible fighting begins. They will not only go home to their homeland, but to their God, as well.

Jeremiah 51:45 "My people, go ye out of the midst of her, and deliver ye every man his soul from the fierce anger of the LORD."

The key word in the above Scripture is "my". This is true for the Israelites, who had been captives of these Babylonians. They must leave to keep from being caught up in the battle. This is true, also, of people now. They must leave the world and the call of the flesh, if they are to serve God. We may be in the world, but we must not be of the world.

Jeremiah 51:46 "And lest your heart faint, and ye fear for the rumour that shall be heard in the land; a rumour shall both come [one] year, and after that in [another] year [shall come] a rumour, and violence in the land, ruler against ruler."

This lets us know that the war will not be over in just one year. There will be many rumors going ahead of the battles.

Jeremiah 51:47 "Therefore, behold, the days come, that I will do judgment upon the graven images of Babylon: and her whole land shall be confounded, and all her slain shall fall in the midst of her."

Just as God defamed the false gods of Egypt, He will defame the false gods of Babylon. The devastation will be throughout the land. There will be many who fall in death.

Jeremiah 51:48 "Then the heaven and the earth, and all that [is] therein, shall sing for Babylon: for the spoilers shall come unto her from the north, saith the LORD."

The Jewish people believed their trouble came from the north. This is why this is repeated. It strikes terror in the people.

Jeremiah 51:49 "As Babylon [hath caused] the slain of Israel to fall, so at Babylon shall fall the slain of all the earth."

This judgment is an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth. Just as they have slain others, they will be slain.

Jeremiah 51:50 "Ye that have escaped the sword, go away, stand not still: remember the LORD afar off, and let Jerusalem come into your mind."

This is speaking of the saved of God. Just because they were not killed at first, does not give them reason to stop moving forward for God. They must get Jerusalem on their mind, and keep it there, until they return there. Babylon symbolizes the evil in the world. They must get the world off their mind.

Jeremiah 51:51 "We are confounded, because we have heard reproach: shame hath covered our faces: for strangers are come into the sanctuaries of the LORD'S house."

The shame was that not only had they come into God's house, but they had taken the Godly things out with them. "Strangers" in the verse above, is speaking of committing adultery. This is spiritual adultery. They had no respect for God's sanctuary.

Jeremiah 51:52 "Wherefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will do judgment upon her graven images: and through all her land the wounded shall groan."

God is especially angered at the graven images. They are inanimate object that were being worshipped. They had no life. They are nothings. God will destroy these graven images by breaking them up and burning them.

Jeremiah 51:53 "Though Babylon should mount up to heaven, and though she should fortify the height of her strength, [yet] from me shall spoilers come unto her, saith the LORD."

This very same land had tried to build a tower to heaven once before. God came in, and confounded their language, so they could go no further. There is a time, when God will intervene in the affairs of man. She can fortify all she can, but God can destroy anything they can build. He is Creator God, and can do with His creation anything He desires to do.

Jeremiah 51:54 "A sound of a cry [cometh] from Babylon, and great destruction from the land of the Chaldeans:"

The cry is from the people.

Jeremiah 51:55 "Because the LORD hath spoiled Babylon, and destroyed out of her the great voice; when her waves do roar like great waters, a noise of their voice is uttered:"

The large city had many sounds coming from her. Now, all of that is stopped. It is as silent as the grave.

Jeremiah 51:56 "Because the spoiler is come upon her, [even] upon Babylon, and her mighty men are taken, every one of their bows is broken: for the LORD God of recompences shall surely requite."

"Recompences" means rewards. "Requite" means to be safe in mind, or restore.

Jeremiah 51:57 "And I will make drunk her princes, and her wise [men], her captains, and her rulers, and her mighty men: and they shall sleep a perpetual sleep, and not wake, saith the King, whose name [is] the LORD of hosts."

We dealt with this earlier. This perpetual sleep is speaking of death. The King of kings and Lord of lords is Jesus Christ.

Jeremiah 51:58 "Thus saith the LORD of hosts; The broad walls of Babylon shall be utterly broken, and her high gates shall be burned with fire; and the people shall labour in vain, and the folk in the fire, and they shall be weary."

These broad walls were a minimum of forty feet wide. We have mentioned before, that the enemy came inside this wall through the water ducts. The people of Babylon were unaware they were there, until they were already in control. It appears, they cut off all exits and then burned the city.

Jeremiah 51:59 "The word which Jeremiah the prophet commanded Seraiah the son of Neriah, the son of Maaseiah, when he went with Zedekiah the king of Judah into Babylon in the fourth year of his reign. And [this] Seraiah [was] a quiet prince."

"Seraiah" was believed to be the brother of Baruch. We know that Zedekiah was blinded and spent the rest of his time in Babylon in that condition. Seraiah seemed not to be in severe bondage.

Jeremiah 51:60 "So Jeremiah wrote in a book all the evil that should come upon Babylon, [even] all these words that are written against Babylon."

It seems, that Jeremiah recorded all that he had prophesied.

Jeremiah 51:61 "And Jeremiah said to Seraiah, When thou comest to Babylon, and shalt see, and shalt read all these words;" Jeremiah 51:62 "Then shalt thou say, O LORD, thou hast spoken against this place, to cut it off, that none shall remain in it, neither man nor beast, but that it shall be desolate for ever."

It appears, that Seraiah was like Baruch and carried the message of the destruction to Babylon. Jeremiah had recorded it, and Seraiah took it, and read it.

Jeremiah 51:63 "And it shall be, when thou hast made an end of reading this book, [that] thou shalt bind a stone to it, and cast it into the midst of Euphrates:"

He was to read the prophecy, and then cast it into the river, so it could not be burned. The wrath of God had been expressed in this book. The casting of it into the Euphrates is symbolic of God casting our sins into the depth of the sea. This shows the finality of the situation. God will not alter the words in the book. It is set and finished.

Jeremiah 51:64 And thou shalt say, Thus shall Babylon sink, and shall not rise from the evil that I will bring upon her: and they shall be weary. Thus far [are] the words of Jeremiah."

Babylon will never know its former greatness again. In fact, the city of Babylon will never be rebuilt. The wrath of God has fallen on them. Seraiah spoke this, but it was Jeremiah's words from God.

## Jeremiah 53 Questions

1. When was Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon?
2. Babylon and Nebuchadnezzar symbolize \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Who is the violence of verse 35 against?
4. Whose blood was on Chaldea?
5. What were the springs of verse 36?
6. What will Babylon become?
7. What had this mighty lion of war become?
8. What is the "perpetual sleep" speaking of?
9. What is "Sheshach" a symbol of?
10. What miraculous way did they attack the city of Babylon?
11. What is the "sea" in verse 42?
12. Who is taken besides the city of Babylon?
13. Who is "Bel"?
14. What will happen to the Israelite captives in the land of Babylon?
15. They will not only go home to their homeland, but to their \_\_\_\_\_ as well.
16. What is the key word in verse 45?
17. How long will the war last?
18. What will God defame, when He destroys the Babylonians?
19. Where did the Jewish people believe trouble came from?
20. What is their judgment?
21. They must get the evil world off their \_\_\_\_\_.
22. Remember the Lord afar off, and let \_\_\_\_\_ come into your mind.
23. Why had they covered their faces in shame?
24. Describe the graven images.
25. In verse 53, "mount up to heaven" is remembering what thing they had done in the past?
26. What happens to the bows of the mighty men of Babylon?
27. What does "recompences" mean?
28. What does "requite" mean?
29. Who is the King in verse 57?
30. How broad were the walls of Babylon?
31. Who was "Seraiah"?
32. How did Jeremiah record the prophecies?
33. How was Seraiah like Baruch?
34. After the book was read, what was he to do with it?
35. What happens to Babylon and the city of Babylon?

We will begin this lesson in Jeremiah 52:1 "Zedekiah [was] one and twenty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name [was] Hamutal the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah."

This is a recapping of the historical message of Jeremiah. We can understand a few of Zedekiah's problems better, when we realize that he was such a youth when he began to reign. Even after his eleven years reign, he was just 32 years old. We must not confuse the Jeremiah, grandfather of Zedekiah, with Jeremiah the penman of this book.

Jeremiah 52:2 "And he did [that which was] evil in the eyes of the LORD, according to all that Jehoiakim had done."

Notice the statement, according as Jehoiakim had done. It seems, Zedekiah patterned his actions on those of Jehoiachim. Perhaps this was because of his youth.

Jeremiah 52:3 "For through the anger of the LORD it came to pass in Jerusalem and Judah, till he had cast them out from his presence, that Zedekiah rebelled against the king of Babylon."

The one thing we must remember in this is that it was God's anger against Judah and Jerusalem, that caused the king of Babylon to be able to defeat Judah.

Jeremiah 52:4 "And it came to pass in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, in the tenth [day] of the month, [that] Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon came, he and all his army, against Jerusalem, and pitched against it, and built forts against it round about."

This is giving details about how all of this came about. There is an account of this very thing in 2 Kings chapter 24 verse 18 through chapter 25 verse 30.

Jeremiah 52:5 "So the city was besieged unto the eleventh year of king Zedekiah."

The city was in battle approximately 2 years. Actually 18 months would be closer.

Jeremiah 52:6 "And in the fourth month, in the ninth [day] of the month, the famine was sore in the city, so that there was no bread for the people of the land."

We see from this, the war was not the only punishment against them. God brought famine to them, to cause them to surrender. You cannot fight a war and plant a crop at the same time, so the famine partially came, because they could not plant. A hungry belly sometimes encourages a person to surrender.

Jeremiah 52:7 "Then the city was broken up, and all the men of war fled, and went forth out of the city by night by the way of the gate between

the two walls, which [was] by the king's garden; (now the Chaldeans [were] by the city round about:) and they went by the way of the plain." Jeremiah 52:8 "But the army of the Chaldeans pursued after the king, and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho; and all his army was scattered from him."

This is a detailed description of how the king tried to flee from the besieged city, and was caught.

Jeremiah 52:9 "Then they took the king, and carried him up unto the king of Babylon to Riblah in the land of Hamath; where he gave judgment upon him." Jeremiah 52:10 "And the king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes: he slew also all the princes of Judah in Riblah."

One of the saddest things for a parent to see, is the execution of their sons. This was the terrible punishment that Zedekiah had to endure. This would break his heart. Even those who are cruel to others, love their own flesh and blood. Nebuchadnezzar passed the judgment, himself.

Jeremiah 52:11 "Then he put out the eyes of Zedekiah; and the king of Babylon bound him in chains, and carried him to Babylon, and put him in prison till the day of his death."

Even more severe punishment than death is the loss of your eyes. He could not see, so they had to lead him. He was in chains and in prison, until he died in Babylon.

Jeremiah 52:12 "Now in the fifth month, in the tenth [day] of the month, which [was] the nineteenth year of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, came Nebuzar-adan, captain of the guard, [which] served the king of Babylon, into Jerusalem," Jeremiah 52:13 "And burned the house of the LORD, and the king's house; and all the houses of Jerusalem, and all the houses of the great [men], burned he with fire:"

The actual burning of the temple and the houses in Jerusalem were carried out by Nebuzar-adan. He burned all the important buildings. The city of Jerusalem was left in rubble.

Jeremiah 52:14 "And all the army of the Chaldeans, that [were] with the captain of the guard, brake down all the walls of Jerusalem round about."

They were not satisfied with just burning everything up. They destroyed the wall, as well. It would not burn, because it was made of stone.

Jeremiah 52:15 "Then Nebuzar-adan the captain of the guard carried away captive [certain] of the poor of the people, and the residue of the people that remained in the city, and those that fell away, that fell to the king of Babylon, and the rest of the multitude." Jeremiah 52:16 "But Nebuzar-adan the captain of the guard left [certain] of the poor of the land for vinedressers and for husbandmen."

A very few of the poor people were carried away captive, instead of being killed. Some were even left in the land of Judah to take care of the vineyards and fields. God will always save a remnant of His people.

Jeremiah 52:17 "Also the pillars of brass that [were] in the house of the LORD, and the bases, and the brasen sea that [was] in the house of the LORD, the Chaldeans brake, and carried all the brass of them to Babylon."

"Brass" symbolizes judgment, and God will not hold them blameless for desecrating the temple. They even broke the pieces of brass into smaller pieces to be able to carry it away. These beautiful things of the temple were no more.

Jeremiah 52:18 "The caldrons also, and the shovels, and the snuffers, and the bowls, and the spoons, and all the vessels of brass wherewith they ministered, took they away." Jeremiah 52:19 "And the basins, and the firepans, and the bowls, and the caldrons, and the candlesticks, and the spoons, and the cups; [that] which [was] of gold [in] gold, and [that] which [was] of silver [in] silver, took the captain of the guard away."

To spoil the people is terrible, but to spoil the temple of God is much worse. These are speaking of the things of the temple. Remember, gold was used in the most holy place where the presence of God was. "Gold" symbolizes the pureness of God. "Silver" symbolizes redemption.

Jeremiah 52:20 "The two pillars, one sea, and twelve brasen bulls that [were] under the bases, which king Solomon had made in the house of the LORD: the brass of all these vessels was without weight." Jeremiah 52:21 "And [concerning] the pillars, the height of one pillar [was] eighteen cubits; and a fillet of twelve cubits did compass it; and the thickness thereof [was] four fingers: [it was] hollow."

These pillars were 27 feet long, if a cubit is 18 inches long. I believe it is speaking of the thickness of the metal, as being as thick as 4 fingers. Even though it was hollow in the middle, it would be tremendously heavy. The brass would have been very valuable just for metal. The real value was the beautiful art work.

Jeremiah 52:22 "And a chapiter of brass [was] upon it; and the height of one chapiter [was] five cubits, with network and pomegranates upon the chapters round about, all [of] brass. The second pillar also and the pomegranates [were] like unto these."

"Chapiter", in the verse above, means capitol of a column. This decorative top was 7 and 1/2 feet high. These beautiful pillars would be taken away, also.

Jeremiah 52:23 "And there were ninety and six pomegranates on a side; [and] all the pomegranates upon the network [were] an hundred round about."

This verse just shows the beautiful designs that were on the pillars. Thousands of hours of work had gone into the making of these. Now, they are gone.

Jeremiah 52:24 "And the captain of the guard took Seraiah the chief priest, and Zephaniah the second priest, and the three keepers of the door:"

This is not the same Seraiah, as in the last lesson who was the brother of Baruch. Seraiah, the brother of Baruch, was secretary to Jeremiah, as was

Baruch. These two, Seraiah and Zephaniah, were actually in charge of the temple. They were high priest and priest.

Jeremiah 52:25 "He took also out of the city an eunuch, which had the charge of the men of war; and seven men of them that were near the king's person, which were found in the city; and the principal scribe of the host, who mustered the people of the land; and threescore men of the people of the land, that were found in the midst of the city."

All of these might have been able to get the people to follow them. They took them, because the people would surrender, if they did not have leaders.

Jeremiah 52:26 "So Nebuzar-adan the captain of the guard took them, and brought them to the king of Babylon to Riblah."

Riblah was the headquarters of the army of Babylon. This is where the king stayed and sent his men from to battle. The king of Babylon, spoken of here, is Nebuchadnezzar.

Jeremiah 52:27 "And the king of Babylon smote them, and put them to death in Riblah in the land of Hamath. Thus Judah was carried away captive out of his own land."

This means that he killed the priest, high priest, the eunuch, and the other men. He did not wait, until he got back to Babylon. He killed them at Riblah.

Jeremiah 52:28 "This [is] the people whom Nebuchadnezzar carried away captive: in the seventh year three thousand Jews and three and twenty:"

This, probably, is a misinterpretation and this should say the seventeenth year. That is an unimportant point. The fact is, Nebuchadnezzar took 3023 Jews captive. This would be classified as a remnant.

Jeremiah 52:29 "In the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar he carried away captive from Jerusalem eight hundred thirty and two persons:"

This is, probably, the very next year, when he took 832 more captives.

Jeremiah 52:30 "In the three and twentieth year of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuzar-adan the captain of the guard carried away captive of the Jews seven hundred forty and five persons: all the persons [were] four thousand and six hundred."

Five years later, the army of Nebuchadnezzar carried away an additional 745 persons captive. The total captives taken added up to 4600.

Jeremiah 52:31 "And it came to pass in the seven and thirtieth year of the captivity of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, in the five and twentieth [day] of the month, [that] Evil-merodach king of Babylon in the [first] year of his reign lifted up the head of Jehoiachin king of Judah, and brought him forth out of prison,"

Jehoiachin was in captivity 36 years. The 37th year of the captivity, he was released. "Evil-merodach" is a name that shows that this evil king of Babylon worshipped the false god Merodach. The statement, "lifted up the head", means they took him out of chains and bondage.

Jeremiah 52:32 "And spake kindly unto him, and set his throne above the throne of the kings that [were] with him in Babylon,"

This evil king sets up Jehoiachin as a subordinate ruler to him.

Jeremiah 52:33 "And changed his prison garments: and he did continually eat bread before him all the days of his life."

He is now like a prince in the house of this evil Babylonian king. He is no longer dressed like a captive, or fed like a captive.

Jeremiah 52:34 "And [for] his diet, there was a continual diet given him of the king of Babylon, every day a portion until the day of his death, all the days of his life."

This is just saying, that the king of Babylon fed Jehoiachin the same food he ate for the rest of his life. It is interesting that the total captivity of Judah by Babylon was 70 year. Jehoiachin was in captivity just 36 years.

Lamentations is actually a continuation of Jeremiah. The next lesson will pick up with Lamentations.

## Jeremiah 54 Questions

1. How old was Zedekiah when he began to reign?
2. How long did he reign?
3. What was his mother's name?
4. Was the Jeremiah, of verse 1, the penman of the book of Jeremiah?
5. Who did he pattern his reign after?
6. Who did Zedekiah rebel against?
7. What year of Zedekiah's reign did Nebuchadnezzar come against Jerusalem?
8. Where, in the Bible, is there another account of this very thing?
9. How long was the battle for Jerusalem fought?
10. Why was there famine?
11. How did Zedekiah try to escape?
12. Who took him?
13. Where did they take Zedekiah?
14. Who judged him?
15. What happened to his sons?
16. What did Nebuchadnezzar do to Zedekiah?
17. Who did the actual burning of the temple?
18. What happened to the walls of Jerusalem?
19. What happened to the poor, who did not die in battle?
20. What were the pillars of the temple made of?
21. What does "brass" symbolize?
22. Name some of the things taken from the temple.
23. What does "gold" symbolize?
24. What does "silver" symbolize?
25. How long were the pillars?
26. How thick was the metal used in the pillars?
27. What was a "chapiter"?
28. What was the decoration on the chapiter?
29. Who is Seraiah of verse 24?
30. Who else did they take, besides Seraiah?
31. What happened to them?
32. How many people did Nebuchadnezzar take captive the 17th year?
33. How many did he take captive the 18th year?
34. How many did he take captive the 23rd year?
35. How many years was Jehoiachin held captive?
36. What happened to him at the end of this time?
37. Why was the king named "Evil-merodach"?
38. Why is Lamentations our next lesson?

Lamentations is actually part of Jeremiah. It is written by Jeremiah, as well. We will find it to be like a funeral for the entire nation of Israel. It gives us a picture of the capture and destruction of Judah.

This book shows Jeremiah as the weeping prophet. He is intercessor for his people. His mourning for his homeland and his people is great. It appears, this happened after Jerusalem and Judah were carried away captive into Babylon. Jeremiah tries to repent before God for his people. This never works. They must repent for themselves.

We will begin this lesson in Lamentations 1:1 "How doth the city sit solitary, [that was] full of people! [how] is she become as a widow! she [that was] great among the nations, [and] princess among the provinces, [how] is she become tributary!"

Suddenly the greatness of Jerusalem is gone. Thousands are taken into captivity, and many times that many have died. Jeremiah remembers the greatness, and weeps for the desolation. He was there to see it all. He warned them ahead of time, but they did not listen. People from many nations had come to Jerusalem to worship in the temple. Now, there is no temple for anyone to worship in. New Jerusalem is described as a bride. Certainly, Jerusalem destroyed is like a widow.

Lamentations 1:2 "She weepeth sore in the night, and her tears [are] on her cheeks: among all her lovers she hath none to comfort [her]: all her friends have dealt treacherously with her, they are become her enemies."

The "lovers" mentioned in the verse above, are speaking of lands they had made alliances with, such as Egypt. When Babylon came, there was no one to help, mainly because it was a judgment from God. God was considered the husband of Israel. We will get into this teaching in more detail in the book of Hosea. It is as if God has divorced her, here.

Lamentations 1:3 "Judah is gone into captivity because of affliction, and because of great servitude: she dwelleth among the heathen, she findeth no rest: all her persecutors overtook her between the straits."

We remember, that many of the people fled into the other surrounding countries, when they knew Babylon was coming. This is speaking of them. It was not long after Judah was overthrown, that Babylon went to many of these countries where the Jews had fled, and overtook them. It seems, the people who fled took their problems with them. They did not end, when they fled to another country.

Lamentations 1:4 "The ways of Zion do mourn, because none come to the solemn feasts: all her gates are desolate: her priests sigh, her virgins are afflicted, and she [is] in bitterness."

The "ways of Zion" is, probably, speaking of the roads that people from other countries travelled on to worship at the temple in Jerusalem. It would be sad to see those roads empty now. There are no more priests. They are either dead, or in captivity, and there is no more temple to worship in.

Jerusalem had been the center of worship in this area, and now, this is no more.

Lamentations 1:5 "Her adversaries are the chief, her enemies prosper; for the LORD hath afflicted her for the multitude of her transgressions: her children are gone into captivity before the enemy."

In the past, they had been the head, and now they are the tail. Their enemy, Babylon, has become the head. The enemy prospers, because of the treasures they had taken from Jerusalem. They even took the temple treasures.

Lamentations 1:6 "And from the daughter of Zion all her beauty is departed: her princes are become like harts [that] find no pasture, and they are gone without strength before the pursuer."

The beauty of Jerusalem was in her temple. The beautiful gold, silver, and brass ornaments were unmatched anywhere. The city focused around the beauty of their worship. Zion is, also, the church. We know that the beauty of the church is in its relationship to God, as well. Throughout the Bible, we read about the beauty of holiness. This is, perhaps, what is spoken of here. "The princes like harts" means they are dissatisfied. They go, and find no place of pasture.

Lamentations 1:7 "Jerusalem remembered in the days of her affliction and of her miseries all her pleasant things that she had in the days of old, when her people fell into the hand of the enemy, and none did help her: the adversaries saw her, [and] did mock at her sabbaths."

One of the things that set Jerusalem and the Jews apart from everyone else, was her observance of Sabbaths. In the bad times of our lives, we look back at more pleasant times. They were no different. Sometimes, something has to be taken away from us, before we truly appreciate it. They had taken the temple for granted, until they had it no more. Now, those who had admired the Jews before and had feared her God, are making fun of her for believing in her God and keeping Sabbath.

Lamentations 1:8 "Jerusalem hath grievously sinned; therefore she is removed: all that honoured her despise her, because they have seen her nakedness: yea, she sigheth, and turneth backward."

The people had never feared the Jews. They had feared the Jew's God. When God took His protection away, they were even weaker than the nations around them. God blessed them, when they were obedient to Him. When they disobeyed Him, they were not protected from their enemy. Their protection was removed, because they were unfaithful to God.

Lamentations 1:9 "Her filthiness [is] in her skirts; she remembereth not her last end; therefore she came down wonderfully: she had no comforter. O LORD, behold my affliction: for the enemy hath magnified [himself]."

Her sin was spiritual adultery. Perhaps, that is what is meant here. The Spirit of God was far removed from her. She was an adulterous wife to God. The enemy found her unguarded, and took advantage of it.

Lamentations 1:10 "The adversary hath spread out his hand upon all her pleasant things: for she hath seen [that] the heathen entered into her sanctuary, whom thou didst command [that] they should not enter into thy congregation."

The temple was a holy place. The holy of holies was forbidden to all, but the high priest. The enemy came in, and ravaged the entire temple including the holy of holies. It meant nothing to them. The heathen had been forbidden even the holy place, now they have come in, and ravaged the entire temple.

Lamentations 1:11 "All her people sigh, they seek bread; they have given their pleasant things for meat to relieve the soul: see, O LORD, and consider; for I am become vile."

In a time of hunger, people will give all they have for a slice of bread. Their fine things had gone to pay for bread. These sighs are, probably, sadness for the past that was gone. "Vile", in this particular instance, means to shake, to quake, to be loose morally, or worthless. I believe all of these things are, perhaps, true here. They would do most anything to live.

Lamentations 1:12 "[Is it] nothing to you, all ye that pass by? behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is done unto me, wherewith the LORD hath afflicted [me] in the day of his fierce anger."

Their grief is so great, and it appears no one cares for their grief. Those who pass by are any who are not citizens. They look in amazement, but not with sympathy. The terrible despair was partly for the loss of the presence of God, who had dwelled with them. His presence had been over the mercy seat in the temple. There was no question that this problem was a punishment from God. The wrath of God had been poured out upon them. To be totally separated from God, is as near as anyone wants to be to hell.

Lamentations 1:13 "From above hath he sent fire into my bones, and it prevaileth against them: he hath spread a net for my feet, he hath turned me back: he hath made me desolate [and] faint all the day."

Trouble from God on His people is for a purpose. God wanted them to repent of their idolatry, and return to worship of the One True God. When we have troubles {if we are Christians}, God allows them for a learning process. We must grow in the process. It is hard to learn a lesson, when things are going great. We usually learn the most important lessons in the trials of our lives. Sin can feel like fire in our bones. When we are living in sin, it seems with every step, we stumble and fall. The best thing to do, is repent and let God handle it all.

Lamentations 1:14 "The yoke of my transgressions is bound by his hand: they are wreathed, [and] come up upon my neck: he hath made my strength to fall, the Lord hath delivered me into [their] hands, [from whom] I am not able to rise up."

Sin is like a yoke that weighs the person, who is sinning down. Sin is a burden. It is almost too heavy to bear. I love the Scripture that says, in I Peter 5:7 "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." Sin

seems to be like a heavy weight worn on the shoulders like a yoke. Nebuchadnezzar for them, or Satan for us, would be terrible hands to fall into.

Lamentations 1:15 "The Lord hath trodden under foot all my mighty [men] in the midst of me: he hath called an assembly against me to crush my young men: the Lord hath trodden the virgin, the daughter of Judah, [as] in a winepress."

We see another Scripture about the winepress of the wrath of God. Revelation 14:19 "And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast [it] into the great winepress of the wrath of God". God's people are spoken of many times as His vineyard. He is the husbandman. The cutting off of the young and old, is because they are ruined. They are spoiled grapes. What God intended for good, has gone bad. Judah is no longer a virgin, they have been unfaithful to God.

Lamentations 1:16 "For these [things] I weep; mine eye, mine eye runneth down with water, because the comforter that should relieve my soul is far from me: my children are desolate, because the enemy prevailed."

Jeremiah is, again, weeping for the people of God, and for the city of God which God caused to be destroyed. God is crying, too. Nothing makes a parent more sad than to have to severely punish their children for their sins.

Lamentations 1:17 "Zion spreadeth forth her hands, [and there is] none to comfort her: the LORD hath commanded concerning Jacob, [that] his adversaries [should be] round about him: Jerusalem is as a menstruous woman among them."

"Spreadeth forth her hands" is reaching out to God for help, but they waited too late to reach out. God has turned His back. Jerusalem is a spectacle before Her neighbors, she is helpless as a woman.

Lamentations 1:18 "The LORD is righteous; for I have rebelled against his commandment: hear, I pray you, all people, and behold my sorrow: my virgins and my young men are gone into captivity."

Jeremiah admits the judgment that God has spoken on Judah, and even on His beloved Jerusalem, is righteous judgment. Disobedience to God brings His wrath. Jeremiah cautions others to listen to their warnings, and not commit this sin. He continues to show them the punishment for disobeying God.

Lamentations 1:19 "I called for my lovers, [but] they deceived me: my priests and mine elders gave up the ghost in the city, while they sought their meat to relieve their souls."

We mentioned lovers, here, are those like Egypt who had an agreement to help them, and did not. The priests and the elders suffered from the famine, and then died {gave up the ghost}. They have no special privileges in war.

Lamentations 1:20 "Behold, O LORD; for I [am] in distress: my bowels are troubled; mine heart is turned within me; for I have grievously rebelled: abroad the sword bereaveth, at home [there is] as death."

The grief that Jeremiah is feeling is almost unbearable. The devastation is so great, that Jeremiah is sick to his stomach. His heart is about to break into. Death is everywhere.

Lamentations 1:21 "They have heard that I sigh: [there is] none to comfort me: all mine enemies have heard of my trouble; they are glad that thou hast done [it]: thou wilt bring the day [that] thou hast called, and they shall be like unto me."

In some of this, Jeremiah is grieving as if he were the city and its people. The enemy is glad of the downfall of Jerusalem. They are actually rejoicing in the calamity of others. All of the other countries had been jealous of Israel, because of Israel's God. The day will come, when God will take vengeance on the enemy for this very act.

Lamentations 1:22 "Let all their wickedness come before thee; and do unto them, as thou hast done unto me for all my transgressions: for my sighs [are] many, and my heart [is] faint."

Babylon was an evil country. They worshipped false gods and they were not innocent of sin. The prophet, here, asks for God to judge Babylon for their sins. It is not that he wants them to suffer for doing God's will in destroying Jerusalem. He just wants God to judge them equally for their sin. He is grieved greatly.

## Lamentations 1 Questions

1. Who is Lamentations a funeral for?
2. Who is Lamentations by?
3. This book shows Jeremiah as the \_\_\_\_\_ prophet.
4. What time does this cover?
5. Who does Jeremiah try to repent for?
6. What is the city compared to in verse 1?
7. New Jerusalem is described as a \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Who are the "lovers" of verse 2?
9. \_\_\_\_\_ was considered the husband of Israel.
10. What is the "ways of Zion" speaking of?
11. \_\_\_\_\_ had been the center of worship in this area.
12. They had been the head, and now they are the \_\_\_\_\_.
13. Who had become the head?
14. The beauty of Jerusalem was in her \_\_\_\_\_.
15. The beauty of the church is in its \_\_\_\_\_ with God.
16. What was one thing that set Jerusalem and the Jews apart from everyone else?
17. They had taken the temple for granted, until when?
18. Why was Jerusalem removed?
19. What was her sin?
20. What does verse 10 tell us was ravaged?
21. In a time of hunger, people will give all that they have for a \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
22. To be totally separated from God, is as near as anyone wants to be to \_\_\_\_\_.
23. Why does God allow troubles to come on the Christians?
24. What is sin compared to in verse 14?
25. Quote 1 Peter chapter 5 verse 7.
26. Quote Revelation chapter 14 verse 19.
27. What is Jeremiah weeping for in verse 16?
28. What does "spreadeth forth her hands" speak of?
29. What does Jeremiah admit about the judgment of God on Jerusalem?
30. What physical condition does all this bring on Jeremiah?
31. In verse 21, Jeremiah is grieving, as if he were the \_\_\_\_\_.
32. What is Jeremiah asking God for in verse 22?

We will begin this lesson in Lamentations 2:1 "How hath the Lord covered the daughter of Zion with a cloud in his anger, [and] cast down from heaven unto the earth the beauty of Israel, and remembered not his footstool in the day of his anger!"

This "cloud" is speaking of a darkness that prevents their prayers from reaching up to heaven. His anger for their sins has made His ear closed to their prayers at this time. There may be a dark cloud hovering overhead, but the sun shines above that black cloud. When the cloud is gone, we can see the sunshine. The trouble is from God. His judgment has come down on the beauty of Israel. The beauty, as we discussed in the previous lesson, was centered around the temple and the worship in the temple. The "footstool", in this particular instance, is, possibly, speaking of the temple in Jerusalem, and more specifically, the mercy seat in the holy of holies. God's presence had been over the mercy seat. His presence is withdrawn.

Lamentations 2:2 "The Lord hath swallowed up all the habitations of Jacob, and hath not pitied: he hath thrown down in his wrath the strong holds of the daughter of Judah; he hath brought [them] down to the ground: he hath polluted the kingdom and the princes thereof."

It is the Lord who brought judgment. Babylon was the instrument He used, but God really destroyed their countryside and their cities, even their strongholds.

Lamentations 2:3 "He hath cut off in [his] fierce anger all the horn of Israel: he hath drawn back his right hand from before the enemy, and he burned against Jacob like a flaming fire, [which] devoureth round about."

The "horn" symbolizes strength. Their strength, which came from God, is gone. He had stood between the enemy and Israel for all these years. Now, the right hand of spiritual blessings has been removed. He {the Right Hand} did not fight Babylon for them. God is a consuming fire. When sin and disobedience to God is great, that fire burns. God is holy, He cannot look upon sin. He burns it up.

Lamentations 2:4 "He hath bent his bow like an enemy: he stood with his right hand as an adversary, and slew all [that were] pleasant to the eye in the tabernacle of the daughter of Zion: he poured out his fury like fire."

God had helped Babylon destroy them. His anger was great. Even the temple was burned. Notice, "like an enemy". God is not the enemy of Israel, but is acting like one in this severe punishment of them.

Lamentations 2:5 "The Lord was as an enemy: he hath swallowed up Israel, he hath swallowed up all her palaces: he hath destroyed his strong holds, and hath increased in the daughter of Judah mourning and lamentation."

"Mourning and lamentations" have to do with repentance. The Lord has done this to cause them to repent. It is such a shame, they did not listen to the warnings they were given.

Lamentations 2:6 "And he hath violently taken away his tabernacle, as [if it were of] a garden: he hath destroyed his places of the assembly: the LORD hath caused the solemn feasts and sabbaths to be forgotten in Zion, and hath despised in the indignation of his anger the king and the priest."

It appears, the people were still going through the motion of worship in the temple, but their hearts were far from God. God allowed the temple, and everything in it to be destroyed, to show His utter rejection of anything they might offer. The king and the priest were, probably, even more guilty than the people. The priest should have seen that the worship was holy. They had been worshipping false gods, while at the same time going through rituals to Him. God will not allow the worship of any false god. It is better not to sacrifice at all, than to do it out of obligation and not love. God destroyed the temple. His heart was broken. His people had abandoned Him.

Lamentations 2:7 "The Lord hath cast off his altar, he hath abhorred his sanctuary, he hath given up into the hand of the enemy the walls of her palaces; they have made a noise in the house of the LORD, as in the day of a solemn feast."

God did this, because it reminded Him of His people gone astray. He had wanted to be their God, and for them to be His people. They had broken the covenant. God will not accept worship of Him that is not sincere.

Lamentations 2:8 "The LORD hath purposed to destroy the wall of the daughter of Zion: he hath stretched out a line, he hath not withdrawn his hand from destroying: therefore he made the rampart and the wall to lament; they languished together."

This line, that the LORD had stretched, is speaking of a separation of the people. Those who follow God are on one side, and those who have worldly lives and worship false gods on the other side. There is desolation in Jerusalem, because they were on the wrong side of the line. We need to carefully weigh everything that is going on here. Christians, awake! Do not straddle the line. Get over on God's side and stay there. God will examine our works and some will not pass the test. Read 1st Corinthians chapter 3, beginning with verse 12. Some of us will have our works burn up in the fire of God. All of these things that we read in Lamentations, and the rest of the Bible, are for us to learn from. We must not make the same mistakes they did here, or we will have the same problems they did.

Lamentations 2:9 "Her gates are sunk into the ground; he hath destroyed and broken her bars: her king and her princes [are] among the Gentiles: the law [is] no [more]; her prophets also find no vision from the LORD."

When the wall is gone, the gates fall. This is like the hedge of protection we Christians have around us. To anger our God as they have here, would remove our hedge of protection. We could not withstand the devil, if our hedge was gone. God has stopped sending them His messages through His prophets. Judgment day came. God has suspended His law and His prophecies. They did not keep the law, so He just took it away from them.

Lamentations 2:10 "The elders of the daughter of Zion sit upon the ground, [and] keep silence: they have cast up dust upon their heads; they

have girded themselves with sackcloth: the virgins of Jerusalem hang down their heads to the ground."

"Sackcloth and throwing of dust on their heads" show extreme mourning. They had been wrong about Jeremiah's prophecy, and now they are afraid to say anything for fear it, too, would be wrong. Perhaps, if they did speak, no one would listen, because they had misjudged Jeremiah. The elders had been held in great respect, because of their experience. They feel they have given terrible advice, and they have.

Lamentations 2:11 "Mine eyes do fail with tears, my bowels are troubled, my liver is poured upon the earth, for the destruction of the daughter of my people; because the children and the sucklings swoon in the streets of the city."

This is Jeremiah weeping, but in a sense, he is speaking of Jerusalem, as well. All of the prayers they can pray, will not stop the trouble, because God is not listening to them. "Swoon", in this case, would mean to pass out from weakness.

Lamentations 2:12 "They say to their mothers, Where [is] corn and wine? when they swooned as the wounded in the streets of the city, when their soul was poured out into their mothers' bosom."

The children are asking for food, but there is no food. They die from starvation in their mother's arms.

Lamentations 2:13 "What thing shall I take to witness for thee? what thing shall I liken to thee, O daughter of Jerusalem? what shall I equal to thee, that I may comfort thee, O virgin daughter of Zion? for thy breach [is] great like the sea: who can heal thee?"

Jeremiah was still praying for them. Jeremiah has forgotten how cruel they had been to him, even putting him in chains. "Breach" means fracture, or ruin. This break is from God, man cannot mend the break.

Lamentations 2:14 "Thy prophets have seen vain and foolish things for thee: and they have not discovered thine iniquity, to turn away thy captivity; but have seen for thee false burdens and causes of banishment.'

The prophets, in the verse above, are false prophets. The visions they said they had seen, were not of God. They were either from their imagination, or from the devil. A true prophet would have told them of their iniquity, and tried to get them to repent. They added to the reason for the banishment.

Lamentations 2:15 "All that pass by clap [their] hands at thee; they hiss and wag their head at the daughter of Jerusalem, [saying, Is] this the city that [men] call The perfection of beauty, The joy of the whole earth?"

The shame of Jerusalem was great. All of the countries had always thought of them as perfect in the sight of God. The beauty of their temple was well known throughout the lands. Jews from many countries came there to worship in the temple. At one time, the Queen of Sheba came to behold with her own eyes the magnificence of Jerusalem. As great as the blessings had been from God, now was the shame.

Lamentations 2:16 "All thine enemies have opened their mouth against thee: they hiss and gnash the teeth: they say, We have swallowed [her] up: certainly this [is] the day that we looked for; we have found, we have seen [it]."

It was as if they had waited, hoping the blessings of God would remove, so they could devour her. For such a great nation to be swallowed up, made them feel very important.

Lamentations 2:17 "The LORD hath done [that] which he had devised; he hath fulfilled his word that he had commanded in the days of old: he hath thrown down, and hath not pitied: and he hath caused [thine] enemy to rejoice over thee, he hath set up the horn of thine adversaries."

God had been patient and longsuffering toward these people He loved. He gave them prophets, like Jeremiah, to warn them over and over. They had been amply warned what would happen, if they did not repent. This is a fulfillment of His Word. It is God's strength that the Babylonians won with. God set up the horn {strength} of thine adversaries.

Lamentations 2:18 "Their heart cried unto the Lord, O wall of the daughter of Zion, let tears run down like a river day and night: give thyself no rest; let not the apple of thine eye cease."

The heart, here, is the heart of the people of Jerusalem. God had been that wall of protection for them. Now, the wall is gone. Tears like a river, just shows the abundance of tears shed. Jerusalem had been the apple of God's eye.

Lamentations 2:19 "Arise, cry out in the night: in the beginning of the watches pour out thine heart like water before the face of the Lord: lift up thy hands toward him for the life of thy young children, that faint for hunger in the top of every street."

Their hands were lifted up towards heaven to get help from God. They have forgotten the dark cloud between them and heaven. God is not hearing their prayers. The tears are in vain. Famine is in the land.

Lamentations 2:20 "Behold, O LORD, and consider to whom thou hast done this. Shall the women eat their fruit, [and] children of a span long? shall the priest and the prophet be slain in the sanctuary of the Lord?"

The innocent children and babies, just a few inches long, have suffered in this punishment, as well as the men. In fact, it seems they were even eating their children in some cases. That is what is intended by eating their fruit. The priest and the prophets were slain. Jeremiah was an exception to that.

Lamentations 2:21 "The young and the old lie on the ground in the streets: my virgins and my young men are fallen by the sword; thou hast slain [them] in the day of thine anger; thou hast killed, [and] not pitied."

There are dead bodies everywhere, not just from the war, but from the famine, as well.

Lamentations 2:22 "Thou hast called as in a solemn day my terrors round about, so that in the day of the LORD'S anger none escaped nor remained: those that I have swaddled and brought up hath mine enemy consumed."

At the command of God, even the Babylonian army had assembled at Jerusalem. This time the assembling was for the destruction of Jerusalem. The wrath of God was poured out through the Babylonians on God's people. They were killed, and carried away captive. God had brought them up as His children, but they had rebelled.

## Lamentations 2 Questions

1. What is the "cloud" of verse 1 speaking of?
2. What is the "footstool" of verse 1?
3. The Lord has swallowed up all the habitation of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. What does the "horn" symbolize?
5. The right hand of \_\_\_\_\_ has been removed.
6. What does God do, when He looks upon sin?
7. God is not the enemy of Israel, but is \_\_\_\_\_.
8. "Mourning and lamentations" have to do with \_\_\_\_\_.
9. He hath violently taken away what?
10. Why did God allow the temple to be destroyed?
11. In verse 7, the LORD hath cast off His \_\_\_\_\_.
12. What kind of worship will God not accept?
13. What is the line in verse 8?
14. How will our work be tested?
15. When the wall is gone, the gates \_\_\_\_\_.
16. What would happen to the Christian, if his hedge was gone?
17. Why did God suspend the law?
18. What do sack cloth and the throwing of ashes on the head show?
19. Why are the elders silent?
20. Describe Jeremiah's condition in verse 11.
21. What are the children asking their mothers for?
22. What happens to these children?
23. What does "breach" mean?
24. Who are the prophets in verse 14?
25. Where did their visions come from?
26. What did the people passing do, when they saw the destruction of Jerusalem?
27. How had God shown His patience to Jerusalem?
28. There were so many tears, they were like a \_\_\_\_\_.
29. Who had been the apple of God's eye?
30. Why had they lifted their hands toward heaven?
31. What terrible things were happening to the tiny babies?

We will begin this lesson in Lamentations 3:1 "I [am] the man [that] hath seen affliction by the rod of his wrath."

In this Jeremiah, is speaking as if he were the man upon whom this calamity has come. He is, possibly, showing the plight of all, through the feelings of this one man. The rod of correction has turned to wrath. He feels the affliction caused from that rod of correction.

Lamentations 3:2 "He hath led me, and brought [me into] darkness, but not [into] light."

God is the Light. This darkness is away from God.

Lamentations 3:3 "Surely against me is he turned; he turneth his hand [against me] all the day."

God has turned away, because of their terrible sin of worshipping false gods.

Lamentations 3:4 "My flesh and my skin hath he made old: he hath broken my bones."

The flesh and bones grow old as a natural thing. Perhaps this is speaking of the length of the punishment {70 years}.

Lamentations 3:5 "He hath builded against me, and compassed [me] with gall and travail."

This just speaks of the troubles, as being bitter in his mouth. Travail has to do with pain.

Lamentations 3:6 "He hath set me in dark places, as [they that be] dead of old."

The dark places, here, are speaking of Hades. This is just saying, that Jerusalem is like Hades.

Lamentations 3:7 "He hath hedged me about, that I cannot get out: he hath made my chain heavy."

Just as there was no way of escape during the battle, there is no way of escape from this trouble now. "Chain" speaks of captivity. The captivity was hard.

Lamentations 3:8 "Also when I cry and shout, he shutteth out my prayer."

God's wrath was so great, He shut His ears to the prayers of these people. All of the shouting and crying would be of no help. God is not listening.

Lamentations 3:9 "He hath enclosed my ways with hewn stone, he hath made my paths crooked."

The straight and narrow path leads to God. This person has chosen the crooked path. He cannot blame God for what he did himself. The stone speaks of the strength of his enclosure.

Lamentations 3:10 "He [was] unto me [as] a bear lying in wait, [and as] a lion in secret places."

The bear and the lion tear their prey apart, before they eat them.

Lamentations 3:11 "He hath turned aside my ways, and pulled me in pieces: he hath made me desolate."

God will not stop someone who is determined to live in sin. The ways, in the verse above, belong to the person Jeremiah is speaking for. They are not God's ways. This way leads to total destruction.

Lamentations 3:12 "He hath bent his bow, and set me as a mark for the arrow."

The target is the one who has sinned over and over. Once God has targeted, you there is no getting away.

Lamentations 3:13 "He hath caused the arrows of his quiver to enter into my reins."

"Reins" have to do with the heart of man. This, then, is speaking of the arrow going into the heart.

Lamentations 3:14 "I was a derision to all my people; [and] their song all the day."

"Derision" means a pond for swimming. God certainly had been a song to His people. Now, they are drowned in sorrow.

Lamentations 3:15 "He hath filled me with bitterness, he hath made me drunken with wormwood."

The "bitterness" is from punishment for their unrepented sin. "Wormwood" means bad water. Bad water could cause more than drunkenness. It could cause death.

Lamentations 3:16 "He hath also broken my teeth with gravel stones, he hath covered me with ashes."

It appears, this has to be connected to the scripture that says Matthew 7:9 "Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?" God has given him up as a son. He has broken his teeth with gravel. "Ashes" have to do with repentance and humiliation. It appears, He has disowned him.

Lamentations 3:17 "And thou hast removed my soul far off from peace: I forgat prosperity."

Obedience brought peace and prosperity. Disobedience brought a curse.

Lamentations 3:18 "And I said, My strength and my hope is perished from the LORD:"

God will not give strength, or hope, to those who rebel against Him.

Lamentations 3:19 "Remembering mine affliction and my misery, the wormwood and the gall." Lamentations 3:20 "My soul hath [them] still in remembrance, and is humbled in me." Lamentations 3:21 "This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope."

We see, in this, a reflective prayer. This is looking back with repentance knowing that God will receive his prayer. This is the only hope he has.

Lamentations 3:22 "[It is of] the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not."

Reflecting back has reminded him of the loving care of the LORD. He realizes the only reason he is not dead, is because of the mercies of God. God never stops loving. He just wants us to love Him in return.

Lamentations 3:23 "[They are] new every morning: great [is] thy faithfulness."

This is still speaking of the mercies of the LORD being sufficient for each day.

Lamentations 3:24 "The LORD [is] my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him."

Times may be terrible on the earth, but the LORD is the blessed hope of the believer. He is life eternal.

Lamentations 3:25 "The LORD [is] good unto them that wait for him, to the soul [that] seeketh him."

Seek, and you shall find. Of course, this is speaking of seeking God. To wait for the LORD shows that we believe He is, and that He rewards those who wait for Him.

Lamentations 3:26 "[It is] good that [a man] should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD."

Jesus is the hoped for Saviour, of all those who wait for Him.

Lamentations 3:27 "[It is] good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth."

Youth seem to bear up to troubles better, than those who are older.

Lamentations 3:28 "He sitteth alone and keepeth silence, because he hath borne [it] upon him."

This is speaking of not fighting the troubles that come. The best thing to do, is sit quietly, and soon it will pass. In this particular case, the

troubles came because of sin. The best thing to do, is take the punishment, and wait for better times.

Lamentations 3:29 "He putteth his mouth in the dust; if so be there may be hope."

This is expressing the same thing, as the slang statement we hear today of eating dirt. This is a way of submitting to the punishment. There is hope of forgiveness, if he submits to the punishment.

Lamentations 3:30 "He giveth [his] cheek to him that smiteth him: he is filled full with reproach."

To smite the cheek was a way of showing vent up anger. Jesus said, if someone smite you on the one cheek, turn the other to him, also. This is showing meekness to extreme.

Lamentations 3:31 "For the Lord will not cast off for ever:"  
Lamentations 3:32 "But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies."

Verse 31 is a glorious promise to those who have grieved God. God will forgive, if they continue to seek forgiveness. We do know, that after 70 years, God does just that.

Lamentations 3:33 "For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men."

God loves His children. He has no desire to punish them. He gave them every opportunity to repent, and turn from their sin. It was only after years of warning, that this trouble came upon them. II Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

### Lamentations 3 Questions

1. Whose plight is Jeremiah showing in this chapter?
2. \_\_\_\_\_ is the Light.
3. Why had God turned away?
4. Verse 5 is speaking of troubles, as being \_\_\_\_\_ in his mouth.
5. What are the dark places of verse 6?
6. The captivity was \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Why would all the shouting, crying, and praying not help?
8. The \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ path leads to God.
9. What is verse 10 saying about the bear and lion?
10. Whose ways are spoken of in verse 11?
11. Who is the target of God's arrow?
12. "Reins" have to do with the \_\_\_\_\_ of man.
13. What does "derision" mean?
14. What is the "bitterness" of verse 15?
15. What does "wormwood" mean?
16. Quote Matthew chapter 7 verse 9.
17. What do the "ashes" mean?
18. Obedience brought \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
19. What brings him hope?
20. Why were they not consumed?
21. The \_\_\_\_\_ is my portion.
22. What does it show, when we wait for the LORD?
23. \_\_\_\_\_ is the hoped for Saviour.
24. What does "putting his mouth in the dust" mean?
25. What promise is spoken in verse 31?
26. Quote 2nd Peter chapter 3 verse 9.

We will begin this lesson in Lamentations 3:34 "To crush under his feet all the prisoners of the earth," Lamentations 3:35 "To turn aside the right of a man before the face of the most High,"

In the last lesson, we began on this series. It seems Jeremiah is speaking as if he is the person this is happening to. This is either a representative person of Jerusalem, or Jerusalem. These verses are of the calamity that has come upon the people of Jerusalem. The man has lost his right to pray, because of his repeated sin of worshipping false gods.

Lamentations 3:36 "To subvert a man in his cause, the Lord approveth not."

It is as if this person is saying, that this cannot possibly be God, because God is not against man. He forgets that man caused this separation.

Lamentations 3:37 "Who [is] he [that] saith, and it cometh to pass, [when] the Lord commandeth [it] not?"

The truth is, not even a sparrow falls, except the Lord allow it. God is in control of His entire creation. We can say a thing all we want to, but unless God commands it, it will not happen.

Lamentations 3:38 "Out of the mouth of the most High proceedeth not evil and good?"

This is a question, not a statement. The same God that is love is, also, the Judge. God does love more than any man can understand, but each of us will be judged one at a time, and punished, or rewarded according to that judgment.

Lamentations 3:39 "Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins?"

What right does a man have to complain for punishment for the sins he committed? The answer is no right at all. God is just. We all want His grace, but we do not want His justice.

Lamentations 3:40 "Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD."

This is something that everyone living should do, and not just these Israelites. We should all examine ourselves, and see whether we be of God, or not. Just to say we are of God, is not enough. We must live the salvation that we have received everyday. Christianity is no good, unless it is an everyday affair. Turn to the Lord, while He can be found. He will help us stay on the narrow path, after we get there.

Lamentations 3:41 "Let us lift up our heart with [our] hands unto God in the heavens."

When we lift up our hands in praise to God in heaven, it is an outward expression of the submission to Him in our hearts. He will judge the condition of our hearts.

Lamentations 3:42 "We have transgressed and have rebelled: thou hast not pardoned."

To be pardoned, one must truly be sorry for the sins he committed. Rebellion is next to witchcraft. The way to be pardoned, is to have a total change of heart.

Lamentations 3:43 "Thou hast covered with anger, and persecuted us: thou hast slain, thou hast not pitied."

Pity is not what we need. Forgiveness and mercy is what we need. God's judgment is carried out. We must remember that there is a time, when God has lost patience with our sin. This is what had happened here. God's wrath had come up in His face, and He carried out the punishment for their sin.

Lamentations 3:44 "Thou hast covered thyself with a cloud, that [our] prayer should not pass through."

All the messages, that God sent them by the prophets, were rejected. Now, He rejects their prayers. He has closed His ears to their requests.

Lamentations 3:45 "Thou hast made us [as] the offscouring and refuse in the midst of the people."

The lands around them, that had treated them with such great respect, have no respect for them now. They are abandoned by their God. They have no friends.

Lamentations 3:46 "All our enemies have opened their mouths against us."

Their enemies are speaking badly of them, because of their obvious sin against their God.

Lamentations 3:47 "Fear and a snare is come upon us, desolation and destruction."

They had so many fears, now, it is hard to know where to start. They were afraid of starving, or being killed. They had never known fear, because of the protection God had provided. Now, He is not fighting for them. They have nothing. All is lost.

Lamentations 3:48 "Mine eye runneth down with rivers of water for the destruction of the daughter of my people." Lamentations 3:49 "Mine eye trickleth down, and ceaseth not, without any intermission," Lamentations 3:50 "Till the LORD look down, and behold from heaven."

The crying is at first like a river for the amount of tears shed. Then the tears begin to dry up, and began to be just a trickle. He has determined to cry out, until God looks from heaven, and hears the prayers.

Lamentations 3:51 "Mine eye affecteth mine heart because of all the daughters of my city."

The things he sees with his eye is breaking his heart.

Lamentations 3:52 "Mine enemies chased me sore, like a bird, without cause."

Sometimes birds are chased just for the sport. This is just saying that the cause was not the one's who was chasing. The cause was God's.

Lamentations 3:53 "They have cut off my life in the dungeon, and cast a stone upon me."

This is all intertwined with Jeremiah, and the city he loved so. He speaks as if he is that city, and that people, and yet as if part of this was things he suffered himself. Jeremiah was put into a cistern and left to die.

Lamentations 3:54 "Waters flowed over mine head; [then] I said, I am cut off."

Jeremiah had been cut off, when he was held prisoner, but this is, probably, speaking of Jerusalem. Jerusalem was cut off from God.

Lamentations 3:55 "I called upon thy name, O LORD, out of the low dungeon."

Jeremiah was held in the cistern, and they had to take ropes to pull him out of. Undoubtedly, he cried to God during this time.

Lamentations 3:56 "Thou hast heard my voice: hide not thine ear at my breathing, at my cry." Lamentations 3:57 "Thou drewest near in the day [that] I called upon thee: thou saidst, Fear not."

God heard Jeremiah, and answered him back, to fear not. Jeremiah is, now, crying out for the people of Jerusalem, and wants God to give him the same attention, as he did when he was in the cistern.

Lamentations 3:58 "O Lord, thou hast pleaded the causes of my soul; thou hast redeemed my life."

There is no doubt at all that God spared Jeremiah's life in this war with Babylon, and even when the people had turned against him, and imprisoned him. God saved Jeremiah's life.

Lamentations 3:59 "O LORD, thou hast seen my wrong: judge thou my cause."

He is pleading for Jerusalem. His cause is in behalf of the people of Jerusalem.

Lamentations 3:60 "Thou hast seen all their vengeance [and] all their imaginations against me." Lamentations 3:61 "Thou hast heard their reproach, O LORD, [and] all their imaginations against me;"

This is against Jerusalem. "Me" is Jerusalem, here. God sees all. He does not overlook anything. It is as if Jeremiah is pleading with God, that they have suffered enough.

Lamentations 3:62 "The lips of those that rose up against me, and their device against me all the day."

The lips are mentioned, because it pertains to words coming from their mouths.

Lamentations 3:63 "Behold their sitting down, and their rising up; I [am] their music."

Jeremiah, again, is pleading for God to be aware of their daily hardships. The only good they hear is from Jeremiah, and he is like music in their ear.

Lamentations 3:64 "Render unto them a recompence, O LORD, according to the work of their hands."

"Recompence" means to be safe in mind body or estate.

Lamentations 3:65 "Give them sorrow of heart, thy curse unto them."

This is asking for Babylon to be judged for their sins they committed against Jerusalem.

Lamentations 3:66 "Persecute and destroy them in anger from under the heavens of the LORD."

We are not to avenge ourselves. God will take vengeance on those who have sinned. He is the Judge. Jeremiah is speaking for Jerusalem here. They will not take vengeance, but want God to.

## Lamentations 4 Questions

1. Why has the man lost his right to pray?
2. Who caused the separation between God and man?
3. Who is in control of everything?
4. Wherefore doth a living man \_\_\_\_\_?
5. What is one thing that all living should do?
6. When we lift up our hands to God in heaven, it is what?
7. To be pardoned, one must be \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Pity is not what we need. We need \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Why does there seem to be a cloud between their prayers and God?
10. Who has lost respect for these Israelites?
11. What were some of their fears?
12. Why are the tears like a river, in verse 48, and just a trickle in verse 49?
13. What is breaking his heart in verse 51?
14. Who is verse 53 speaking of?
15. Where had he called upon the name of the LORD from?
16. God answered Jeremiah's prayer by telling him to \_\_\_\_\_.
17. Whose life is verse 58 speaking of?
18. Who is Jeremiah pleading for?
19. What does it seem Jeremiah is pleading about in verse 60 and 61?
20. What does lips indicate in verse 62?
21. Why does Jeremiah call himself their music?
22. What does "recompence" mean?
23. Who does Jeremiah ask God to judge?
24. Who is the only one to avenge?

We will begin this lesson in Lamentations 4:1 "How is the gold become dim! [how] is the most fine gold changed! the stones of the sanctuary are poured out in the top of every street."

Jeremiah is heartsick over the destruction of the temple. We know from our lessons in Jeremiah, that the temple was ravaged and burned. The precious metal, and everything they could take loose, they took to Babylon. This cry of Jeremiah may not be accurate in every detail, but is what has happened to the temple in his heart. The fullest statement is, "The precious temple with all of its beauty is gone"

Lamentations 4:2 "The precious sons of Zion, comparable to fine gold, how are they esteemed as earthen pitchers, the work of the hands of the potter!"

God's people are thought of as precious sons. This is speaking of not just the priests and high priest, but of all of God's children. This was the greatest loss of all. Those who are fit for God's kingdom are spoken of as being like fine gold, tried in the fire, and made pure. They have been poured out on the street here. There are dead everywhere. These children are God's creation. He is the potter, they are the clay. They had been a beautiful vessel to honor, now they are crushed by their terrible fall into spiritual adultery.

Lamentations 4:3 "Even the sea monsters draw out the breast, they give suck to their young ones: the daughter of my people [is become] cruel, like the ostriches in the wilderness."

This speaks vividly of the extent of the famine in the land. It is natural for a mother to feed a baby, whether it is a sea monster, or any other being. This is not a natural thing that is going on in Jerusalem. These had been God's children. We must remember that God did not cause this, their sin caused this calamity.

Lamentations 4:4 "The tongue of the sucking child cleaveth to the roof of his mouth for thirst: the young children ask bread, [and] no man breaketh [it] unto them."

Children suffer the most in a famine. Throughout history famine has been one way God has dealt with those who worship false gods. If there is no bread, there is no way to give the children bread.

Lamentations 4:5 "They that did feed delicately are desolate in the streets: they that were brought up in scarlet embrace dunghills."

The Israelites had lived prosperous lives, and had plenty of all the foodstuff to eat. They had eaten delicate food, because there was an abundance of food. Now, they are out in the street with no food at all. "Scarlet" was a very expensive material. This just shows that they lived above their neighbors. This was a land of plenty.

Lamentations 4:6 "For the punishment of the iniquity of the daughter of my people is greater than the punishment of the sin of Sodom, that was overthrown as in a moment, and no hands stayed on her."

There are worse things than instant death. Sodom had been destroyed with fire and brimstone falling from heaven. It was totally destroyed in one day. The punishment for Jerusalem and Judah went on for years. The actual fighting in Jerusalem took about 18 months. The famine was a slower death, which took the lives of even the innocent babies. Judah was in captivity 70 years. God's anger was not soon cooled. They had grieved Him greatly with their false gods.

Lamentations 4:7 "Her Nazarites were purer than snow, they were whiter than milk, they were more ruddy in body than rubies, their polishing [was] of sapphire:"

Nazarites were those who separated themselves out and prayed. They were supposed to be closer to the will of God because of these vows they took. They would let their hair grow long, until the vow was over, and then cut it and sacrifice it in the temple. White symbolizes righteousness. To be as white as this speaks of, would mean they were holy before the LORD. The "sapphire" is a brilliant stone and the "ruby" is, as well. This is, probably, speaking of the light of God that shone forth from them.

Lamentations 4:8 "Their visage is blacker than a coal; they are not known in the streets: their skin cleaveth to their bones; it is withered, it is become like a stick."

Visage, in this particular place, is speaking of their beauty, or figure of appearance. This just means their purity and beauty in God is gone. They are black. It appears, they are among the starving. They have become so thin, they look like a stick.

Lamentations 4:9 "[They that be] slain with the sword are better than [they that be] slain with hunger: for these pine away, stricken through for [want of] the fruits of the field."

At least, a death with the sword comes quickly. Those who die from lack of food suffer for months, before they finally die. The worst part of this famine is the fact that the fields had been so fruitful before. The memory is almost as bad as the actual starvation.

Lamentations 4:10 "The hands of the pitiful women have sodden their own children: they were their meat in the destruction of the daughter of my people."

The natural thing for a mother to do was to protect her children in the face of every danger. It is hard for me to understand them eating their own children, but this is what this verse says. This is morally wrong, as well as being so unnatural to the flesh.

Lamentations 4:11 "The LORD hath accomplished his fury; he hath poured out his fierce anger, and hath kindled a fire in Zion, and it hath devoured the foundations thereof."

This fierce anger of the LORD is much worse than an attack by the devil. When the devil attacks, you can call out for help from God. There is no one to cry out to for help in this. God has closed the door of communication with His people. The temple, the city, and the country have been totally destroyed by God. Zion was the foundation of the religion of the world. It is gone. Perhaps, making the way for the grace of God to take over.

Lamentations 4:12 "The kings of the earth, and all the inhabitants of the world, would not have believed that the adversary and the enemy should have entered into the gates of Jerusalem."

Jerusalem had been God's holy city. No one would ever have believed that God would have allowed the destruction of Jerusalem.

Lamentations 4:13 "For the sins of her prophets, [and] the iniquities of her priests, that have shed the blood of the just in the midst of her,"

The greatest blame for all of this must be laid at the feet of the false prophets and the priests. Instead of them being above sin and bringing the people out of false worship, they were involved in it themselves. They were the leaders. When the leaders are blind, the whole country falls into the ditch with them. We must carefully choose who we will follow. Christians need to learn the Word of God for themselves, so they can try the spirits, and see whether they be of God, or not. There are many false prophets in our land today. Those who do not lead wholesome lives, should not be leading others.

Lamentations 4:14 "They have wandered [as] blind [men] in the streets, they have polluted themselves with blood, so that men could not touch their garments."

I believe this is speaking of the prophets and the priests being spiritually blind. To know the Word of God, as they should have, and still be blind, is hard to understand. The truth is that many times leaders, such as these, get too involved in the technical side of ministry, and do not spend enough time in God's Word. These priests and prophets had shed innocent blood. That is why they are polluted with it. They had abused the office of priest and prophet.

Lamentations 4:15 "They cried unto them, Depart ye; [it is] unclean; depart, depart, touch not: when they fled away and wandered, they said among the heathen, They shall no more sojourn [there]."

The people are crying out of the uncleanness of these prophets and priests. They had prophesied lies. Their sins were like leprosy. The person, who touched them, might be infected with their sins. This is why the cry went out. They were no more welcome in Jerusalem.

Lamentations 4:16 "The anger of the LORD hath divided them; he will no more regard them: they respected not the persons of the priests, they favoured not the elders."

This is speaking of some being killed, some taken captive to Babylon, and some remaining behind. Showing no respect has to do with a rebellious people.

Lamentations 4:17 "As for us, our eyes as yet failed for our vain help: in our watching we have watched for a nation [that] could not save [us]."

God had warned His people not to look for the world {Egypt} for help. Their help was in the Lord. The arm of flesh is not a help. The Right Hand of God is their very present help. They had abandoned God for the world.

Lamentations 4:18 "They hunt our steps, that we cannot go in our streets: our end is near, our days are fulfilled; for our end is come."

This is explaining that there is no way to hide from this destruction. All hope is gone. They believe death is near.

Lamentations 4:19 "Our persecutors are swifter than the eagles of the heaven: they pursued us upon the mountains, they laid wait for us in the wilderness."

It did not help to run, as the king found out. The enemy pursued, and caught them in the open field, and on the mountains. {Be sure your sin will find you out}. You cannot run from sin. You must repent, and be cleansed from it. The one thing all of this happened for, was to get them to repent.

Lamentations 4:20 "The breath of our nostrils, the anointed of the LORD, was taken in their pits, of whom we said, Under his shadow we shall live among the heathen."

Breath and life are interchangeable. They mean the same thing. They are speaking of God's family, when they speak of the anointed of the LORD. It could, also, be meaning their king, Zedekiah. They thought, perhaps, the king of Babylon would let them have one of their own leaders in Babylon.

Lamentations 4:21 "Rejoice and be glad, O daughter of Edom, that dwellest in the land of Uz; the cup also shall pass through unto thee: thou shalt be drunken, and shalt make thyself naked."

This is a sarcastic remark to Edom. They better enjoy the defeat of Judah while they can. Soon they will be attacked too, and left naked.

Lamentations 4:22 "The punishment of thine iniquity is accomplished, O daughter of Zion; he will no more carry thee away into captivity: he will visit thine iniquity, O daughter of Edom; he will discover thy sins."

It appears from this, the punishment of Judah and Jerusalem is over. God will no longer carry her into captivity. Edom will soon be judged of God for her iniquities, and will suffer as did their neighbor, Judah. We said before, that Judgment begins at the house of God, but it does not overlook the sins of others. They will feel the judgment of God, as did God's own people.

Our world today is guilty of many of the sins mentioned here. Church, God begins with us. We must repent and turn to God today, while we still can. Just as God's wrath came down on the people here, there is a day of wrath waiting in the wings now. We must open our ear of our spirit, and learn from these people's mistakes. God is love, but He is, also, Judge.

## Lamentations 5 Questions

1. What was Jeremiah heartsick about?
2. What happened to the temple?
3. Who are the precious sons of Zion?
4. Those who are fit for God's kingdom are spoken of, as being like \_\_\_\_\_.
5. They had been a beautiful vessel of \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Now, they are crushed by their terrible \_\_\_\_\_.
7. What is verse 3 speaking vividly of?
8. Who caused this calamity?
9. Who suffer the most in a famine?
10. How had the Israelites eaten before this famine started?
11. What does the "scarlet" show us?
12. The punishment of Jerusalem was greater, than the punishment of \_\_\_\_\_.
13. What was the difference?
14. How many years was Judah in captivity?
15. Who were Nazarites?
16. What do the "sapphire" and "ruby" mentioned in verse 7, mean?
17. What does "visage" mean?
18. They have become so thin, they look like a \_\_\_\_\_.
19. They that be slain with the sword are better, than they that be slain with \_\_\_\_\_.
20. What terrible thing is verse 10 telling of?
21. Why is an attack from God worse than an attack from the devil?
22. Who should bear the greatest blame?
23. The priests and prophets were called as \_\_\_\_\_ men in verse 14.
24. What had divided them?
25. Who had Judah looked to for help, instead of God?
26. Breath and \_\_\_\_\_ are interchangeable.
27. Who rejoiced in Judah's destruction?
28. What lesson can we receive from this?

We will begin this lesson in Lamentations 5:1 "Remember, O LORD, what is come upon us: consider, and behold our reproach."

This is a cry from the people in captivity to God. This prayer continues through this chapter. God had shut His ears to their prayers in the past, but a great deal of time has passed, perhaps God will hear them now. It begins by asking God to take a look at their situation.

Lamentations 5:2 "Our inheritance is turned to strangers, our houses to aliens."

The strangers, of course, are their Babylonian captors. The houses that had not been burned, now belonged to their captors.

Lamentations 5:3 "We are orphans and fatherless, our mothers [are] as widows."

They were orphaned of their physical fathers during the war, and the famine that followed. Their worst plight is that they were abandoned by their Father, which is in heaven.

Lamentations 5:4 "We have drunken our water for money; our wood is sold unto us."

In this land of captivity, they must pay for everything they get like water and wood. When they lived in Judah, God had provided these natural things for them in abundance.

Lamentations 5:5 "Our necks [are] under persecution: we labour, [and] have no rest."

They were like slave laborers. Their captors persecuted them. There was no 8 hour work day. They worked as long as there was light to see by.

Lamentations 5:6 "We have given the hand [to] the Egyptians, [and to] the Assyrians, to be satisfied with bread."

These were natural foes of the Jews, but they would do most anything to feed their starving bodies.

Lamentations 5:7 "Our fathers have sinned, [and are] not; and we have borne their iniquities."

This prayer is from the generation, who were babies when the captivity began. They are pleading with God that they were paying for the sins of their fathers. In the Old Testament, it was thought that the children should pay for the sins of their fathers. Exodus 20:5 "Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God [am] a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth [generation] of them that hate me;"

Lamentations 5:8 "Servants have ruled over us: [there is] none that doth deliver [us] out of their hand."

They had no deliverer, like Moses, to take them out of this captivity. It is as if they are saying, send us a deliverer. The great Deliverer of all mankind is Jesus.

Lamentations 5:9 "We gat our bread with [the peril of] our lives because of the sword of the wilderness."

The Ismaelites attacked them many times, when they went to gather their food, perhaps, this is speaking of their attacks.

Lamentations 5:10 "Our skin was black like an oven because of the terrible famine."

The blackness, here, is speaking of their bodies being burned up with fever from this terrible famine.

Lamentations 5:11 "They ravished the women in Zion, [and] the maids in the cities of Judah."

Women fall prey many times to the unwanted advances of the conquerors. As in any war, the women were raped. The age of the woman did not seem to matter. The young and the mature fell to the same fate.

Lamentations 5:12 "Princes are hanged up by their hand: the faces of elders were not honoured."

The princes were killed, and then hung up for everyone to see, like a hunter might hang up a deer. The young leaders on display like this would, probably, cause fear to rise up, and many would surrender because of it. These heathen people had no regard for elders, not even their own.

Lamentations 5:13 "They took the young men to grind, and the children fell under the wood."

They used the young men, as you would a horse to pull the grist mill around. It appears, that even the small children worked bringing in the wood. These were all captives, and they had to do exactly as they were told to do.

Lamentations 5:14 "The elders have ceased from the gate, the young men from their music." Lamentations 5:15 "The joy of our heart is ceased; our dance is turned into mourning."

There was no time left for the pleasant things, they had enjoyed before the siege. The elders would sit by the gate and greet the passers by. Now, they had to work. The young men loved the music, and dancing, and making merriment. There was no merriment now. They were too sad, and too tired from heavy work, to enjoy music and dancing.

Lamentations 5:16 "The crown is fallen [from] our head: woe unto us, that we have sinned!"

These people had been the chosen of God. They had been crowned with all the good things God bestowed on His family. They were God's peculiar people. They ruined all of that, when they worshipped false gods. God brought the siege against them in punishment, and their crown has fallen and broken.

Lamentations 5:17 "For this our heart is faint; for these [things] our eyes are dim."

This is a statement of total despair. Jeremiah is even touched deeply by these things that have come upon his people.

Lamentations 5:18 "Because of the mountain of Zion, which is desolate, the foxes walk upon it."

The people are gone, and wild animals roam on the mountain of Zion.

Lamentations 5:19 "Thou, O LORD, remainest for ever; thy throne from generation to generation."

This statement by Jeremiah is recognizing for himself, and for these people, that there is no other God. Their God is God. The LORD is His name. He is Eternal God. The Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End.

Lamentations 5:20 "Wherefore dost thou forget us for ever, [and] forsake us so long time?"

The question is why, why, why? But they know the reason why. The family of Jacob was in Egypt 400 years. This is a short time compared to that.

Lamentations 5:21 "Turn thou us unto thee, O LORD, and we shall be turned; renew our days as of old."

Now, we see an urgent plea for God to look favorably upon them again. Repentance is turning away from the old life, and turning toward the new. There is something about repentance that God helps in. We have the desire to turn, but God must help us turn. This is the statement, here.

Lamentations 5:22 "But thou hast utterly rejected us; thou art very wroth against us."

God does not need to be reminded of the fact that He had rejected them. That is what this is saying. It is as if the person speaking is trying to remind God of His covenant relationship with Israel. His anger was justified, but He will forgive and start them again. Behind every dark cloud, the sun is shining.



## Lamentations 6 Questions

1. Verse 1 is a cry from the people in \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The strangers are whom?
3. Why were they orphans?
4. What natural things were they having to pay for?
5. What were their working hours?
6. Why had they given their hand to the Assyrians and Egyptians?
7. Why were they not killed in the siege of Babylon?
8. For how many generations would the iniquities of the fathers continue?
9. Who is the great Deliverer of all mankind?
10. Why were they black?
11. What happens to the women in verse 11?
12. Explain what they did with the princes of the land?
13. They took the young men to \_\_\_\_\_.
14. What work did the children do?
15. What had turned into mourning for the young men?
16. Why did they not enjoy the pleasant things anymore?
17. What happened to their crowns?
18. Verse 17 is a statement of total \_\_\_\_\_.
19. Give some of the names that describe God's eternity?
20. What is the question of verse 20?
21. What is the answer?
22. Verse 21 is speaking of what?
23. What lesson did you learn from this Bible study?

*Thank you for taking the time for me to share  
with you the things the  
Lord has shown me about Jeremiah and Lamentations.  
We must always be able to find a message in each book that will  
help our growth in the LORD.*

*Your Friend in Christ,*

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