

What Seest Thou, Jeremiah?

INTRODUCTION: JEREMIAH'S CALL AND CONSECRATION (ch. 1).

- A. THE PERIOD OF JEREMIAH'S CAREER (vs. 1-3).
- B. JEREMIAH'S CALL TO THE PROPHETIC OFFICE (vs. 4-10).
 - 1. The call (vs. 4-8).
 - 2. The consecration (vs. 9-10).
- C. SIGNS OF ASSURANCE (vs. 11-19).
 - 1. The almond rod – Jehovah's vigilance (vs. 11-12).
 - 2. The boiling caldron – disaster and ruin to Judah (vs. 13-19).

I. PROPHECIES CONCERNING JUDAH AND JERUSALEM – THE TIME OF JOSIAH (ch. 2-20).

- A. THE LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS OF JEHOVAH – ISRAEL'S DISLOYALTY AND IDOLATRY (2:1 – 3:5).
 - 1. God's lovingkindness and Israel's sin (2:1-8).
 - 2. God's threat of judgment upon the ungrateful nation (2:9-19).
 - 3. Israel's idol worship (2:20-37).
 - a. Its universality and incurableness (vs. 20-25).
 - b. Its folly and disgrace (vs. 26-28).
 - c. Judah's refusal to hear; therefore, punishment (vs. 29-37).
 - 4. Conclusion: God's call to repentance (3:1-5).
- B. THE REJECTION OF IMPENITENT ISRAEL (3:6 – 6:30).
 - 1. The rejection and restoration of Israel (the 10 tribes) (3:6-4:2).
 - a. Israel's backsliding and rejection a warning to Judah (3:6-10).
 - b. Pardon offered to penitent Israel and Judah (3:11-18).
 - God will bring them to Zion (vs. 14).
 - Will give them shepherds (vs. 15).
 - No more interest in the ark of the covenant (vs. 16).
 - Jerusalem what be called the throne of God (vs. 17a).
 - All the nations shall be gathered unto it (vs. 17b).
 - They shall not walk in stubbornness of heart (vs. 17c).
 - Judah and Israel shall walk together (vs. 18).
 - c. The Return of Israel to its God (3:19-25).
 - The cry from the heights and call to return (vs. 19-22).
 - Response to the call (vs. 22-25).
 - d. The answer of the Lord (4:1-2).
 - 2. Threatening of judgment upon Jerusalem and Judah (4:3-31).
 - a. Wrath if repentance is not genuine (vs. 3-4).
 - b. The terrible foe from the north (vs. 5-10).
 - Not Scythian, but Babylonian (see Isa. 39:6).
 - c. Description of the impending ruin, from which nothing can save them but a speedy repentance (vs. 11-18).
 - d. Grief at the desolation of the land and infatuation of the people (vs. 19-26).
 - e. Devastation of Judah, tho not utter annihilation (vs. 27-31).
 - 3. Causes of judgement: Total Corruption of the People (ch. 5).

- a. Indifference to correction (**vs. 1-3**).
- b. Rejection of the divine law (**vs. 4-6**).
- c. Immorality (**vs. 7-9**).
- d. Infidelity – unbelief (**vs. 10-13**).
- Therefore judgment and overthrow (**vs. 14-19**).
- e. Social sins, in the face of God’s greatness and goodness (**vs. 20-29**).

THE PEOPLE LOVE IT THAT WAY! (vs. 30-31)

- 4. The decree of irrevocable judgment (**ch. 6**).
- a. The judgment breaking over Jerusalem.
 - Prepare for war! Be instructed! Flee from Jerusalem (**vs. 1-8**).
- b. Because they refused to hear (**vs. 9-15**).
- Judah shall be gleaned thoroughly, therefore he shall speak to those in the street for all shall be affected.
- c. Look for the ancient paths and walk in them – the judgment cannot be turned aside by mere sacrifice without a change of heart (**vs. 16-21**).
- d. Destruction from the north, fierce and terrible (**vs. 22-30**).

C. WHICH WAY TO SALVATION? (ch. 7 – 10).

- 1. Warning against a false trust in the temple and the sacrificial service (**7:1 – 8:3**).
- a. The vanity of trusting in the temple – it can’t save the wicked nation (**vs. 1-15**).
- The exhortation and promise (**vs. 1-7**).
- What the prophet (and God) finds among them (**vs. 8-11**).
- The temple shall go the way of Shiloh (**vs. 12-15**).
- b. Neither intercession or sacrifice will turn aside punishment (**vs. 16-28**).
- Prayer will not avail because of idolatry (**vs. 16-20**).
- Sacrifices are futile without obedience (**vs. 21-26**).
- Useless to speak further (**vs. 27-28**).
- c. Therefore the Lord has rejected the backsliding people: they shall perish shamefully (**7:29 – 8:3**).
- 2. Judah’s obstinacy in wickedness, and the dreadfulness of the judgment (**8:4-22**).
- a. Judah’s unreasonable stubbornness (**vs. 4-13**).
- b. The horror of inevitable ruin (**vs. 14-17**).
- c. The prophet’s commiseration with his people (**vs. 18-22**).
- 3. Lament for the faithlessness and folly of the people (**9:1-22**).
- a. Lament for the ruin of the kingdom (**vs. 1-9**).
- The prophet turns from punishment to the sins of the people.
- b. The land laid waste; the people scattered among the heathen (**vs. 10-16**).
- c. Zion laid waste – the death song (**vs. 17-22**).
- 4. The true wisdom (**9:23 – 10:25**).
- a. The way of safety (**vs. 23-26**).
- “It is not a reliance on one’s own wisdom and strength that brings his well-being, but the knowledge of the Lord and his dealings in grace and justice.” – Keil.
- b. Idols or Jehovah, which will you choose? (**ch. 10**).
- The nothingness of false gods (**vs. 1-5**).
- The almighty power of Jehovah, the living God (**vs. 6-11**).
- Expressions of his mighty power (**vs. 12-16**).
- Captivity and lamentation of the people (**vs. 17-25**).

D. JUDAH’S FAITHLESSNESS TO THE COVENANT – CONSEQUENCE (ch. 11 – 13).

- 1. Judah’s disloyalty to the covenant (**11:1-17**).
- a. Short summary of the covenant made with the fathers (**vs. 1-8**).

- b. The people's breach of the covenant, and the consequences (**vs. 9-13**).
 - c. Neither entreaty on their behalf nor their hypocritical worship will avert the judgment (**vs. 14-17**).
2. Evidence that Judah is unreclaimable and that the sore judgments threatened cannot be averted (**11:18 – 12:17**).
 - a. Plot against the prophet (**vs. 18-23**).
 - b. The prophet's despondency at the prosperity of the wicked (**12:1-6**).
 - c. The execution of the judgment on Judah and its enemies (**vs. 7-17**).
 3. The humiliation of Judah's pride (**ch. 13**).
 - a. Two symbols of God's impending judgment (**vs. 1-14**).
 - The spoiled or rotted girdle (**vs. 1-11**).
 - The broken bottles (**vs. 12-14**).
 - b. A last plea (**vs. 15-17**).
 - c. A final threat (**vs. 18-27**).
- E. JUDAH'S PUNISHMENT IS DETERMINED BY GOD –DROUGHT (**ch. 14 – 17**).
1. Prayer and intercession for the people forbidden (**14:1 – 15:9**).
 - a. A severe drought, the occasion of the revelation (**vs. 1-6**).
 - b. The prophet's prayer and the Lord's answer (**vs. 7-18**).
 - c. Renewed supplication and repeated rejection (**14:19 – 15:9**).
 2. Complaint of the prophet, and soothing answer of the Lord (**15:10-21**).
 - a. Sorrow at rejection, and divine encouragement (**vs. 10-14**).
 - b. Jeremiah continues his complaint (**vs. 15-18**).
 - c. The Lord's reply: impatience reprimanded, renewed assurance of protection and rescue (**vs. 19-21**).
 3. The impending judgment and overthrow of Judah (**ch. 16**).
 - a. The course to be pursued by the prophet in reference to the approaching overthrow of Judah (**vs. 1-9**).
 - b. The cause: Sin! (**vs. 10-18**).
 - c. God's name must be vindicated (**vs. 19-21**).
 4. Sin deceives and destroys. Faith in the Lord gives life and salvation (**ch. 17**).
 - a. Judah's deep-seated and manifest idolatry and its punishment (**vs. 1-4**).
 - b. The roots of wickedness and destruction (**vs. 5-11**).
 - The lack of trust in God (**vs. 5-8**).
 - The wicked, deceitful heart of man (**vs. 9-11**).
 - c. The prophet's prayer for rescue from his enemies (**vs. 12-18**).
 - d. The way of safety: keep the law (**vs. 19-27**).
- F. THE POTTER'S CLAY AND THE EARTHEN PITCHER (**ch. 18 – 20**).
1. The symbol of the clay and the potter (**ch. 18**).
 - a. The symbol and its interpretation (**vs. 1-10**).
 - b. Application of the symbol to Judah (**vs. 11-17**).
 - c. The people's reaction and the prophet's prayer (**vs. 18-23**).
 2. The broken pitcher (**19:1-13**).
 - a. The sermon to the elders and the priests (**vs. 1-9**).
 - b. The breaking of the pitcher and its symbolic meaning (**vs. 10-13**).
 3. The prophet Jeremiah and the temple warden – Pashur (**19:14 – 20:6**).
 - a. Jeremiah repeats his message in the Temple (**19:14-15**).

- b. Pronounces God's judgment upon Pashur (20:1-6).
- 4. The prophet's complaints as to the sufferings met with in his calling (20:7-18)
 - a. Complaint addressed to the Lord (vs. 7-10).
 - b. A cry of hope (vs. 7-13).
 - c. Deepest despondency (vs. 14-18).