

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 04 Jun 2023 Jeremiah 01 Prepares
- 2) 11 Jun Jeremiah 02-06 Judges**
- 3) 18 Jun Jeremiah 07-10 Personal
- 4) 25 Jun Jeremiah 11-15 Exclusive
- 5) 02 Jul Jeremiah 16-18 Shapes
- 6) 09 Jul Jeremiah 19-25 Rules
- 7) 16 Jul Jeremiah 26-29 Present
- 8) 23 Jul Jeremiah 30-33 Redeems
- 9) 30 Jul Jeremiah 34-35 Worthy
- 10) 06 Aug Jeremiah 36-39 Speaks
- 11) 13 Aug Jeremiah 40-45 Trustworthy
- 12) 20 Aug Jeremiah 46-52 Just
- 13) 27 Aug Lamentations 01-05 Good

INTRODUCTION

- Judah is in bad shape. Sin is rampant, the weak are abused, there is no fear of God, and they refuse to repent and fix things.
- Yet God is willing to forgive and forget their sins if they would only repent

Passage	Comments
Jer 2:1-37	<p>God Calls the Baby Ugly!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v3. Evil came upon them • v8. The preachers and leaders were clueless • v9. God will contend with their grandchildren – it's a generational thing • v13. Israel committed 2 evils: 1) they forsook God; and 2) they chased after false gods (i.e., materialism & lust) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Hasn't America done the same? • vv15-17. All of Israel's woes (war, economic collapse, destruction, slavery) – were self-inflicted - "Have you not done this to yourself for forsaking God?" • v19. It's time to wake up – "your own wickedness will correct you" – "Know and See!" • v23. Self-denial – "How can you say, 'I am not defiled?' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Americans say, "There's nothing wrong with my lifestyle" • v27. Foxhole Christianity – "But in the time of trouble they will seek me" • v32. "My people have forgotten me days without number" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ How long do people, even Christians, go without prayer or reading God's word? • v33. People put their energy into seeking after their sexual appetite – "How well you prepare your way to seek love" • v37. End Result: You will not prosper because of your sins
3:1-25	<p>God's Love Still Yearns for His People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-2. Quoting Deut 24:4 – It is an abomination for a Jewish divorced woman who has remarried to go back to her 1st husband. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ This creates a "who's your daddy" syndrome, and it somehow curses the land ♦ God's main directive was to preserve the lineage of His people till the coming of Christ and beyond ♦ Yet God was still willing to show His love by fully accepting His adulterous bride • v3. But God's people refused to be ashamed of their sins, so "showers have been withheld" → economic failure on a national scale • vv13-14. "Only Repent".... "and I will take you 1 from a city and 2 from a family" – in other words, God was willing to save, but there wouldn't be many (1 or 2) who would want to repent • v15. But even if a few repent, God can give them godly leaders/shepherds to help turn a nation around • vv16-18. In a future day the people will not be concerned about not having the ARK, because God will be directly and visibly in their midst, and Judah and Israel will be restored • vv19-21. God's desire is to bless His people, but they have perverted their way • vv22-24. Only "return" and "obey" then God can bless

Passage	Comments
4:1-31	<p>3 Key Words → Truth, Justice, Righteousness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-3. If Israel honestly repents and returns to God, then all nations will follow suit – WOW ! • vv3-4. Our Responsibilities: "Break up your fallow ground" → IOW, fix what's broke <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ ...and "circumcise yourself" → in other words, be willing to change/repent/cut off sin – or else ♦ v14. ...and "wash your heart from evil that you may be saved" – Does this mean salvation depends on us and what we must do? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We will see next week God has done everything there is to do to coax Judah (& us) away from sin, but God expects Judah (& us) to willingly chose Him and obey Him • v27-28. God's mercy prevails – "Yet I will not execute a complete destruction" and "I will not change my mind nor turn from [destroying you]"
5:1-31	<p>Judah and Israel Refused to Repent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v3. Even after receiving harsh discipline & witnessing Israel fall, Judah remained stubborn and refused to repent herself • v25. "...and your sins have withheld good things from you" → God would rather bless than curse • v28. Social injustice reigns – poor are mistreated (Today's social care services does more harm than good) • v31. "The prophets speak lies ...and my people love it so." What lies do people enjoy today? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → There is no absolute truth ← → All ways lead to God ← → God wouldn't want me to be unhappy ←
6:1-30	<p>Repent or Perish</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v10. God's word is loathsome to people • v13. "Everyone is greedy for gain" or "the love of money is the root of all evil" 1Timothy 6:10 • v14. "They have healed the brokenness of My people (the weak, poor, downtrodden) superficially". In other words, social care was either a band aid fix or it did more harm than good • v15. "They did not know how to blush" → Their sins were blatantly obvious with no remorse, no shame → How similar is this to our "free and open" society? • v16. The remedy for such social ills? Seek the "ancient paths" or turn back the clock to the 'good ole days' when Truth, Justice, and Righteousness prevailed → But Judah refused → No society has ever succeeded in reversing a moral decline without near total or total collapse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ King Josiah's reforms came close cf 2Kings 23 • v19, 23. God's remedy if no repentance → "I will bring disaster on you because you would not listen to my word, and it will be cruel and merciless"

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- We need to ask, 'do we see ourselves or our nation in Judah's situation?' If, so, then how do we fix it?..... REPENT! RETURN!

NEXT WEEK: Jeremiah 7-10. What is left for God to do to get Judah to repent and follow after things He delights in, such things as Love, Truth, Justice, & Righteousness? But they refused to turn from their evil ways!

