

**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**

- How many times have we asked our kids pointed questions with the intent to shake them out of their stupor? Examples:
  - ✓ "What in the world were you thinking?"
  - ✓ "How hard is it for you to take out the garbage?"
  - ✓ "If your friends jumped off a bridge, would you do it too?"
  - ✓ "Would you like your face slapped off into the middle of next week?"
- By the time we get to Jeremiah chapter 15, 99 questions have been asked, and God asked more than 60 of them.
- Some of God's questions to His wayward children included:
  - ✓ How have I wronged you? ..... 2:5
  - ✓ Why do you harm yourself? ..... 2:17
  - ✓ Where are your gods when you need them? ..... 2:28
  - ✓ Why do you always try to please yourself? ..... 2:33
  - ✓ Why do you work so hard to change yourself? ..... 2:36
  - ✓ Why do you keep dwelling on vain thoughts? ..... 4:14
  - ✓ What are your plans if things go from bad to worse? ..... 4:30
  - ✓ How can I forgive you for such atrocities? ..... 5:7
  - ✓ Why do you see my house as a den of thieves? IOW, why do you make excuses for not going to church? ..... 7:11
  - ✓ Why don't you get back up after you fall down? ..... 8:4
  - ✓ If you can't run with footmen, how can you run with horses? IOW, what are you going to do when Life gets Rough? ..... 12:5
  - ✓ Can the leopard change his spots? IOW, can the wicked really change for the better? NOPE! They refuse ..... 13:23
- We can only get a sense of gloom & doom is on the horizon

Passage	Comments
13:1-27	<p><b>Parable of the Soiled Underwear</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv1-11. Judah is compared to a brand-new pair of underwear whose sole purpose is to cling closely to its owner in a fresh and clean way</li> <li>• Instead, Judah becomes soiled underwear – which is good for nothing but to be tossed away and replaced</li> </ul>
14:1-22	<p><b>Again, Do Not pray for Those who Love to Wander</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v10. Judah "loved to wander" and refused to control herself – 'hold her feet in check' – She was accountable</li> <li>• v11. THEREFORE, DO NOT PRAY FOR THEM!                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ God only answers prayers that are in His will</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Praying for Judah's prosperity when God's will for them was near-total destruction would be futile</li> </ul>
15:1-21	<p><b>Four Kinds of Doom Pronounced on Judah</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v2. Fate of some: Death, Sword, Famine, and Captivity</li> <li>• v3. War is Hell. For those not going into captivity they would be slain and eaten by scavengers</li> <li>• v4. King Manasseh is blamed for Israel's woe, and he lived 100 years earlier. Manasseh was not the root cause, but his idolatrous actions sealed Israel's fate even though he repented later ..... <a href="#">2Chronicles 33:1-20</a></li> <li>• v6. God grew "weary of relenting" – IOW, Israel's continuous backsliding provoked God into taking action</li> <li>• v16. God's word should be a source of JOY for us</li> <li>• v19. Israel needed to honestly "Return" for God to bless</li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS**

- Key to understanding Judah's & Israel's harsh treatment by God is their neglect and disdain for Him and His word
- God stayed faithful to His word – "If you obey, I will bless, if you disobey, I will bring calamity"
- Is God's word something we look forward to reading & digesting or is it a chore? Our attitude toward God's word is a strong indicator of our spiritual vitality.

**NEXT WEEK: Jeremiah 16-18.** There is a promise to the Jews of near-total destruction, and then another promise of total restoration sometime in the future

Passage	Comments
Jeremiah 11:1-23	<p><b>Don't Pray for the Wicked Who Don't Listen</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v3. God says, "cursed is the man who does not heed the words of this covenant." How is a man cursed?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Possibly receiving self-inflicted damage, such as those who choose to take on debt – 'a borrower is servant to a lender', ..... <a href="#">Pr 22:7</a></li> <li>♦ v11. Possibly receiving direct discipline</li> <li>♦ v11. Possibly being ignored by God</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v7. God persistently warned His people</li> <li>• What more can God do but pronounce disaster on them as prophesied in His word ..... <a href="#">Deut 11:26-28</a></li> </ul>
12:1-17	<p><b>It Pays to be Wicked</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv1-2. Jeremiah credits God with prospering the wicked</li> <li>• Why does God seemingly bless the wicked and curse the righteous? ..... <a href="#">Ecc 7:15; 8:14</a></li> <li>• v4. Man's impact on nature is devastating – The land suffers (habitat destruction and depleted nutrients); animal extinctions – and man does not consider that God sees man's misuse and abuse of the earth</li> <li>• v15. Better days are coming when Judah and Israel will be restored to her land, but today is not that day...</li> </ul>

