LESSONS THIS QUARTER
1) 05 June ................. Jeremiah 1 ............... Accept Your Commission
2) 12 June ..................... Jeremiah 2:6 ............... Get Back on Track
3) 19 June ................. Jeremiah 7-10 ............... Live Above Board
4) 26 June ....................... Jeremiah 11-15 ......... Rise above the Tide
5) 03 July ................. Jeremiah 16-18 ............... Never Say it is Hopeless
6) 10 July ...................... Jeremiah 19:21 ......... Submit to Divine Discipline
7) 17 July ...................... Jeremiah 22-25 ......... Keep Your Behavior in Line
8) 24 July ...................... Jeremiah 26-29 ......... Settle Down
9) 31 July ...................... Jeremiah 30-33 ......... Check Your Direction
10) 07 Aug ...................... Jeremiah 34-39 .......... Stay True
11) 14 Aug ...................... Jeremiah 40-45 ......... Follow Orders
12) 21 Aug ...................... Jeremiah -52 ......... Recognize the Lord’s Authority
13) 28 Aug ...................... Lamentations 1-5 ......... Rely on the Lord’s Love

INTRODUCTION
• Should we pray for the Hitler’s and bin Laden’s of the world to meet untimely & gruesome deaths, or should we pray they would warm up to the Gospel – or both?

Passage | Comments
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Jer 16:1-9 | **“You Must Not Marry”**
- vv1-4. God commanded Jeremiah not to marry as an example to the Jews of how their women and children would die horribly in a war-torn country
- Do we have a contradiction in Scripture? Didn’t God command man to be fruitful and multiply?... Gen 1:28 So why this austere command to a beloved prophet? - Genesis 1:28 is a general command. God’s specific command can override or negate a general command
- Other times where God uniquely directed marriages:
  - Hosea 1-3. God told Hosea to marry a prostitute to illustrate Israel’s unfaithfulness to God
  - Ezek 24. God told Ezekiel his wife would die as an illustration of Israel’s soon- demise as a nation
- vv5-7. ‘Do not show compassion!’ WOW! Would Jesus do this? HE DOES IN REVELATIONS

16:10-13 | **What Wrong Have We Done?**
- God blames Israel’s forefathers for forsaking Him as the reason for bringing calamity on Israel
- Yet the Jews of Jeremiah’s day were noted for being more wicked than their forefathers – Hence the reason for bringing the calamity on their generation
- Sin causes God to withhold blessings....................Jer 5:25

16:14-21 | **Better Days are Coming – But Not Today**
- vv14-15. Again we see a promise of Israel being fully restored within their promised land
- God says He will repay them double for their sins!
  - How can God be fair and just if He delivers twice the amount of discipline required? Or is this a colloquialism for rendering complete justice?
  - Yes to both. God will render complete justice and He will not be accused of being unjust..... Deut 32:4
- God will teach His people through catastrophes that He is God and He is their God
- Oh, that Israel and the rest of us would wake up to God’s holiness before He needs to invoke discipline

17:1-18 | **Prosperity Lost Due to Sin**
- v3. God will give their treasures to someone else
- v4. Through their own fault they will lose their wealth
- v5. Cursed is the one who trusts in Man
- vv7-8. Blessed is the one who trusts in God – he will not be afraid when economic drought comes – he will still be fruitful
- ARE THESE DECREES MEANT FOR ALL BELIEVERS OR SPECIFIC TO ISRAEL ONLY? - ANSWER: These decrees are specific to Israel since they are tied to the Promised Land, but, there is a

Passage | Comments
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17:19-27 | **Keep the Sabbath Holy**
- vv9-10. Only God knows the real heart of a person – and He judges all words, thoughts & deeds justly

18:1-17 | **We Are But Clay in the Potter’s Hand**
- v6. Israel is nothing but clay in God’s hands; BUT they are not robots, & they are accountable for their sinful actions
- vv7-10. God sets up & destroys nations as He sees fit
- vv11-12. REPENT or PERISH - One more warning to no avail

NOTE
God is so omniscient & so sovereign He can accomplish His will on earth no matter what paths we choose to take in life, along with billions of other

18:18-23 | **Jeremiah Prays for His Enemies to Perish**
- King David prayed similar prayers for his enemies to perish – Is such praying proper for us today?
- It is quite biblical and within the will of God to pray for people to “reap what they sow”
- If they live by the sword, they shall die by the sword.................................................Matthew 26:52
- Let the wicked fall into their own devices..... Ps 10:2

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS
• God reached His limit of patience with Israel. Warnings of Repent or Perish went out loud & clear, but were unheeded
• There will come another day when God will exhaust His patience with the world (Revelations). In the mean time, we should be spreading the message to REPENT or PERISH

NEXT WEEK: Jeremiah 19-21. Jeremiah laments being deceived by God for higher purposes only God knows – but Jeremiah dutifully accepts his position in life knowing full well God is using him and the wicked will be disgraced

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson