

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

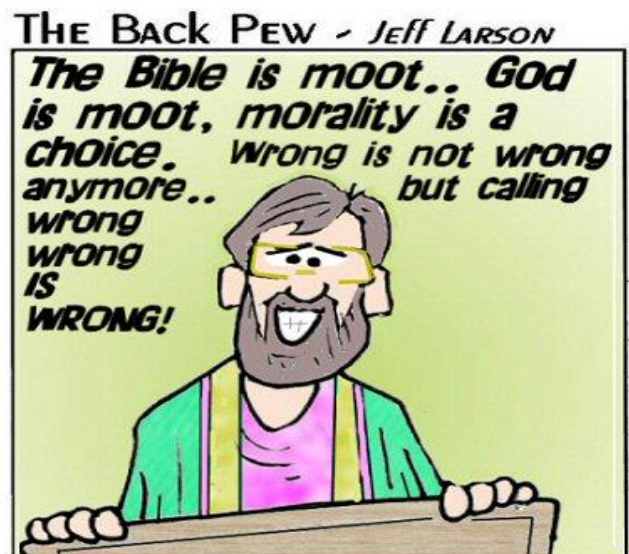
- 1) 04 Jun 2023 Jeremiah 01 Prepares
- 2) 11 Jun Jeremiah 02-06 Judges
- 3) 18 Jun Jeremiah 07-10 Personal
- 4) 25 Jun Jeremiah 11-15 Exclusive
- 5) 02 Jul Jeremiah 16-18 Shapes
- 6) 09 Jul Jeremiah 19-25 Rules**
- 7) 16 Jul Jeremiah 26-29 Present
- 8) 23 Jul Jeremiah 30-33 Redeems
- 9) 30 Jul Jeremiah 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

- The Jews thought they were not subject to the common lot of men because they had been chosen as a peculiar people; but there was a condition to meet → "Walk before Me and be perfect." (**Gen 17:2**)
- When they had become apostates, they broke God's covenant
- To really know God, we need to promote justice and righteousness, protect the weak, and deliver the falsely accused

Passage	Comments
Jeremiah 19:1-15	<p>Judah to be Broken and Will Not Be Repairable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v1. God has Jeremiah use an illustration of broken pottery to emphasis Judah's fate; and he invites the "ancients" – the elders of the people to witness the breaking of the pottery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ If anybody had the best opportunity to turn a society around it would not be the youngest generation (20-year-olds), it would not be the up & coming generation (30 year-olds), but the more mature generations (40+) ♦ Scripture says, Woe to a nation (or even a church) with young or inexperienced leaders..... Ecc 10:16 • vv3-5. God reiterates the sins of Judah for why He is about to destroy them <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They forsook God 2. They profaned God's holy place 3. They burned incense to other gods 4. They murdered innocents 5. They burned their sons to Baal • v9. Cannibalism – War-induced famine will cause the Jews to feast on their children and each other - Yet God's warning of this went unheeded v15. WHY such calamity? "...because they have stiffened their necks so as not to heed My words"
Note:	<p>Has America Stiffened Her Neck to God?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 1962, school prayer was ruled unconstitutional • In 1963, Bible reading in public schools was ruled unconstitutional • In 1973, abortion restrictions were lifted, and abortion clinics began to permeate the nation (Roe vs. Wade) • In 1985, nativity scenes in public places were ruled to violate the so-called "separation of church and state" • In 2003, laws against homosexual sodomy were ruled unconstitutional • In 2004, a federal court held it was unconstitutional for a school to teach intelligent design theory as an alternative to evolution • In 2011, New York became the 7th state to legalize "gay" marriage—it joined DC, CT, NH, IA, VT, MA • In 2021, Planned Parenthood stated 80% of Americans want abortion to be legal

Passage	Comments
20:1-18	<p>Does God Deceive His Saints?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v7. Jeremiah accused God of deceiving him <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ God does put His saints in very tough situations with seemingly little information to go on ♦ BUT God does no wrong in the process ♦ His ways are not our ways..... Isaiah 55:8-9 • v12. Jeremiah acknowledged God does test the righteous <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Jeremiah even asked to see God's vengeance on the wicked • v13. ...and God does deliver the needy from the wicked (Is this an absolute or a general truth?) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ We can say eventually, the righteous are delivered from the wicked (in the new Heavens), but now, and in Jeremiah's time, the needy often suffer horrendously..... Jer 21:12 • v14. Jeremiah cursed the day he was born. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Jeremiah continued to pour out his heart to God, and God allowed it to be recorded in His word – the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly – all for our admonition and learning ♦ From our standpoint of having limited knowledge and understanding, we could wrongfully surmise God is not always honest, just, and benevolent even with His own people ♦ But if we look at things from His perspective, He is more than fair, just, and loving in all His doings to all people – no one has an excuse
21:1-14	<p>If God is Against Us, Who Can Be for Us?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv4-6, 10. God set His face against Jerusalem "for harm and not for good" • vv8-9. The only relief from God's wrath would be if His people willingly surrendered to the enemy to live <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Yes, they would be replanted/exiled elsewhere ♦ And they were to seek the welfare of the city where they were sent into exile, and pray for their welfare for them to enjoy welfare Jer 29:7 • v12. God offered another remedy for the Jews – They were to administer justice and deliver the weak from the wicked – BUT they still did not listen
Note:	<p>REMEMBER – Righteousness and Justice are the foundation of God's throne Psalms 89:14; 97:2</p>



Passage	Comments
Jeremiah 22:1-30	<p>Righteousness and justice are the foundation of God's thronePsalms 89:14; 97:2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-4. God is a defender of the defenseless. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ God holds nations accountable for how they treat the weak members in society (elderly, women, children, orphans, widows, handicapped, and even the unborn) ♦ America excels in many regards – except for protecting the unborn (as of 2020, more than 2,500 infants are aborted every day in America; 115,000 a day worldwide) • v5. God's word has higher priority than even the King's palace. He warned Judah if they would not obey His word, He would desolate His house • vv11-22. King Josiah was held up in high esteem – all things went well as he protected the weak.....vv15-16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ But his progeny was more concerned about wealth (clothing themselves in finery).....vv13-15a, 17 • GREED. Recall God puts greed in the same category as idolatry, immorality, & blasphemy..... 1Cor 6:9-10
23:1-40	<p>Truth about False Prophets</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They seek to destroy and scatter the sheepv01 2. They fail to attend or take care of the Lord's flockv02 3. They agitate the good prophets (Jeremiah)v09 4. They allow immorality to flourishv10 5. Their ways are evil/wickedv02; v11 6. Their fate will be disastrous.....v12 7. They lead God's people astrayv13 8. They encourage wickedness.....v14 9. They speak of their own imagination.....v16 10. They are of no benefit to their listeners.....v32 11. They twist God's truth and hold their word higher.....v36
<p>MORE PASSAGES ON BAD SHEPHERDS AND FALSE PROPHETS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isaiah 56:10-11. What does God call shepherds who lack knowledge? BLIND WATCHMEN and DUMB DOGS. • Jer 10:21. What does God call shepherds who have not grown their flock? STUPID. The shepherds have become stupid and have not sought/obeyed the LORD; Therefore, they have not prospered or grown, and all their flock is scattered • Jer 23:2. What does God call shepherds who drive sheep away? EVIL. God will judge their evil deeds for scattering His flock. • Eze 34:1-11. What does God call shepherds who don't care for the sheep? JOBLESS. You have not strengthened the sickly, you have not healed the diseased, you have not bound up the broken, you have not brought back the scattered, nor have you sought for the lost; but you have dominated them with force and severity (v4)... [therefore], I will make you cease from feeding My sheep. (v10) • Zech 11:17. What does God call a shepherd who deserts His flock? WORTHLESS. Woe to the worthless shepherd who leaves. • Mat 24:24. In the last days, False Prophets will be around to deceive, if it were possible, the elect. 	

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we discern False Prophets from mis-guided Christians who tout miracles, visions, and new revelations on TV and radio? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ In many cases, we will not be able to tell the difference until bad fruit becomes evident. Even the Apostles were duped by Judas, and Paul was duped by Demas
24:1-10	<p>The Remnant have God's Attention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv4-7. The remnant taken into exile would fall under God's ever-watching eye to be brought back again (after 70 years) • vv8-10. The remnant left in Jerusalem would receive more evil
Note:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is sad to think the purpose of some is only to serve as a warning to others.....1Cor 10:11
25:1-38	<p>Back to the Future Again</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeremiah is not written chronologically • Here in Chapter 25, we jump back about 7 years to talk about the future state of Judah & Babylon • v3. Repeated warnings – “I have spoken to you again and again, but you have failed to listen” • vv6-7. God had a few simple requests for His people: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stop provoking me to anger by following other gods - Obey Me and no harm will come – Yet they refused to listen • vv8-11. THEREFORE – Destruction is coming • v17. Jeremiah took God's cup of wrath and made all nations to drink from it. How was this done? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ This was a visionary emblem • v23. “...all who cut the corners of their hair” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Some commentaries state God is emphasizing all nations in all corners of the world will receive the wrath of God for harming His people, the Jews ♦ Other commentaries reference Lev 19:27 where Jews were not to adopt or conform to heathen practices, which they so often did. “Do not cut the hair at the sides of your head or clip off the edges of your beard”Lev 19:27

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- God's love for His people is constantly echoed in His repeated attempts to persuade Judah to return to Him
- BUT, they don't want to return to their God – they would rather wallow in their own muck
- God's patience is long, but it is not forever
- Lesson to be learned – To avoid dire consequences return to God on His first warning and not on His last warning
- Learn to discern the spirits (false prophets); be sensitive to the needs around us; avoid greed or materialism; and seek to deliver those heading for slaughter Prov 24:11

NEXT WEEK: Jeremiah 26-29. It's OK to pray for things not to get worse, and to pray for ungodly leaders and neighbors who may have an influence on the godly

The Last Kings of Judah before deportation to Babylon	The Last Kingdom Prophets	Brief History of this Time Period
<p>Josiah (very good King but had wicked sons & grandson)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Jehoahaz (aka. Shallum, Joahaz) – ruled 3 months — Jehoiakim (aka. Eliakim) – ruled 11 years — Jehoiachin (aka. Jeconiah, Coniah) – ruled 3 months — Zedekiah (aka. Mattaniah) – ruled 11 years 	<p>Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah</p> <p>Jeremiah</p> <p>Uriah Daniel Ezekiel</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 609 B.C. – Pharaoh Neco of Egypt killed Josiah at the Battle of Megiddo • Pharaoh Neco made Josiah's son, Jehoahaz, King, who ruled Judah for 3 months • Pharaoh Neco then made Josiah's other son, Jehoiakim king, and changed his name to Eliakim • Jehoiakim ruled 11 years • 605 B.C. – Babylon defeated Egypt and the remnant of the Assyrian army at the Battle of Carchemish • Babylon King Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem • Jehoiakim died, and his son Jehoiachin became king • Jehoiachin surrendered to Nebuchadnezzar, was deported to Babylon, and replaced by Zedekiah, Josiah's 3rd son, as King. Jesus came down the line of Jehoiachin (Mt 1:12-15).