

HOW DO YOU MEND A BROKEN HEART?

sifting for answers in the book of Jeremiah

The Broken Heart of God

The word of the LORD came to me: “Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem: “‘I remember the devotion of your youth, how as a bride you loved me and followed me through the desert, through a land not sown. Israel was holy to the LORD, the firstfruits of his harvest; all who devoured her were held guilty, and disaster overtook them,’” declares the LORD. Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, all you clans of the house of Israel. This is what the LORD says: “What fault did your fathers find in me, that they strayed so far from me? They followed worthless idols and became worthless themselves.”

JEREMIAH 2:1-5

“My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.”

JEREMIAH 2:13

“As a thief is disgraced when he is caught, so the house of Israel is disgraced — they, their kings and their officials, their priests and their prophets. They say to wood, ‘You are my father,’ and to stone, ‘You gave me birth.’ They have turned their backs to me and not their faces; yet when they are in trouble, they say, ‘Come and save us!’”

JEREMIAH 2:26-27

“Your own conduct and actions have brought this upon you. This is your punishment. How bitter it is! How it pierces to the heart!” Oh, my anguish, my anguish! I writhe in pain. Oh, the agony of my heart! My heart pounds within me, I cannot keep silent.”

JEREMIAH 4:18-19

“The Broken Heart of God”

If there is anything that is abundantly clear from Jeremiah’s passionate, relentless, graphic, and piercingly accurate denunciation of the kingdom of Judah in coming judgment, it is that God has taken His people’s rejection and refusal personally. In the language and emotion of a betrayed spouse, a disregarded father, and an abandoned friend, Jeremiah’s forecast of the cataclysm of Jerusalem’s fall and Judah’s destruction is not seen as just another geopolitical event – the rise and fall of nations in the ancient near eastern world – it is viewed as the tragic outcome of a people’s historic unfaithfulness in their covenant connection with God. The real anguish of broken-heartedness lies on every page of Jeremiah’s prophetic diatribe. The ultimate repair of that brokenness, for them and for us, is only possible if we:

1. _____ respond to hard truth
2. _____ recapture a bigger history
3. _____ reject worthlessness