

Jeremiah 17 Mountain in the Field

Jesus

I. Do not Trust in Man

1 **"The sin of Judah** is written with a pen of iron; With the point of a diamond it is engraved On the tablet of their heart, And on the horns of your altars, 2 While their children remember Their altars and their wooden images By the green trees on the high hills.

Numbers 32:23 ... be sure your sin will find you out.

Judah's Sin now Clearly Exposed

- **You See/Know it:** Engraved on your heart though you hide it
- **Your Kids See it:** Asherah, Canaanite deities/Hypocrisy of parents
- **I the LORD See it:** Everyone sees it

You Sin is Like a Mountain in the Field

3 **O My mountain in the field**, I will give as plunder your wealth, all your treasures, And your high places of sin within all your borders 4 And you, even yourself, Shall let go of **your heritage** which I gave you; And I will cause you to serve your enemies In the land which you do not know..."

▪ Mountain in the Field

1. **Judah:** We are a high stronghold
2. **LORD:** Your sin clearly seen by all

Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

As sure as sin is eventually exposed
So the consequences of sin will follow...Loss

- Wealth/Treasures
- Your Personal Autonomy
- Your Children/Land
- Your Freedom

4b "...For you have kindled a fire in My anger which shall burn forever."

- For those who do not personally repent? Everlasting Fire

Don't die trusting in that which cannot save!

5 Thus says the LORD: **"Cursed is the man who trusts in man** And makes flesh his strength, Whose heart departs from the LORD.

Cursed is the man who trusts in man

- What does it look like to depart from God? To go back the Egypt?
 1. Trusting in man-made idols
 2. Trusting in man-made religion
 3. Trusting in man-made philosophies of the world

Isaiah 30:1 "Woe to the rebellious children," says the LORD, "Who **take counsel, but not of Me**, And who **devise plans, but not of My Spirit**, That they may add sin to sin; 2 Who walk to go down to Egypt, And have **not asked My advice**, To strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh, And to trust in the shadow of Egypt!"

4. Trusting in man-made governments/armies of the world

Isaiah 31:1 Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, And rely on horses, Who trust in chariots because they are many, And in horsemen because they are very strong, But who do not look to the Holy One of Israel, Nor seek the LORD! ...**3** Now the **Egyptians are men, and not God**; And their **horses are flesh, and not spirit**. When the LORD stretches out His hand, Both he who helps will fall, And he who is helped will fall down; They all will perish together.

Departing from the LORD?
Trusting in Our own Wisdom, Strength, Protection and Provision

- **Cursed is that man...**

6 For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, And shall not see when good comes, But shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, **In a salt land** which is not inhabited.

Proverbs 14:27: The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, To turn one away from the snares of death.

Proverbs 29:25 The fear of man brings a snare But whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.

Departing from the Fountain of Life to the Salt Land?
Cursed is the man who trusts in man

7 "**Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD**, And **whose hope is the LORD**. 8 For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear [lit. see] when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit.

Incredible Benefits in Trusting the LORD in All Things

Psalms 34:8 Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!

Psalms 125:1 Those who trust in the LORD Are like Mount Zion, Which **cannot be moved**, but abides forever.

Psalms 146:5 Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, **Whose hope is in the LORD his God...**

Proverbs 16:20 He who heeds the word wisely will find good, And whoever trusts in the LORD, **happy is he.**

Isaiah 30:18b ... Blessed are all those who wait for Him.

Psalms 1:3 He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, That **brings forth its fruit** in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And **whatever he does shall prosper.**

You Followed Your Selfish Heart...Now Self-Deceived
The deceived don't know they are deceived

9 "The **heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who** can know it?

Seat of Feelings/Adamic Motivations/Desperate Wickedness
Unknowable/Able to Deceive

Ecclesiastes 9:3b ...Truly the hearts of the sons of men are full of evil; madness is in their hearts while they live, and after that they go to the dead.

Mark 7:21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22 thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness.

Deceitful. Lit. Incurably Sick.
IOWs It Must be Replaced

10 **I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind,** Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings. c.f. Rom 2:6

1 Chronicles 28:9b ...the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever.

Psalms 7:9b ...the righteous God tests the hearts and minds.

Proverbs 17:3 The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, But **the LORD tests the hearts.**

- Jesus knows us experientially

John 5:26 ...as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, 27 and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because **He is the Son of Man.**

Romans 8:27 Now **He who searches the hearts knows...**

Even New Hearts must be Kept/Tested

Proverbs 4:23 Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.

Psalms 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; 24 And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

I the LORD search the Heart/Test the Mind
My Judgment will be shown as Perfect no Matter what you feel

11 "As a partridge that broods but does not hatch, So is he who gets riches, but not by right; It will leave him in the midst of his days, And at his end he will be a fool." 12 A glorious high throne from the beginning Is the place of our sanctuary. 13 O LORD, the hope of Israel, All who forsake You shall be ashamed. "Those who depart from Me Shall be written in the earth, Because they have forsaken the LORD, The fountain of living waters."

V 11 Living Bible: Like a bird that fills her nest with young she has not hatched and which will soon desert her and fly away, so is the man who gets his wealth by unjust means. Sooner or later he will lose his riches and at the end of his life become a poor old fool.

Luke 12:20 But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'

We had everything/Watched it slip away/We were fools
We have forsaken the Fountain of Living Water

II. Jeremiah Prays for Deliverance

14 Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; Save me, and I shall be saved, For You are my praise. 15 Indeed they say to me, "Where is the word of the LORD? Let it come now!"

Mocking Jeremiah for Prophesying Judgment

2 Peter 3:4 ...and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."

16 As for me, I have not hurried away from being a shepherd who follows You, Nor have I desired the woeful day; You know what came out of my lips; It was right there before You. 17 Do not be a terror to me; You are my hope in the day of doom. 18 Let them be ashamed who persecute me, But do not let me be put to shame; Let them be dismayed, But do not let me be dismayed. Bring on them the day of doom, And destroy [lit. crush] them with double destruction!

Psalms 25:2 O my God, I trust in You; Let me not be ashamed; Let not my enemies triumph over me.

III. Mountain in the Field

19 Thus the LORD said to me: "Go and stand in the gate of the children of the people, by which the kings of Judah come in and by which they go out, and in all the gates of Jerusalem; 20 and say to them, 'Hear the word of the LORD, you kings of Judah, and all Judah, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, who enter by these gates. 21 Thus says the LORD: "Take heed to yourselves, and bear no burden on the Sabbath day, nor bring it in by the gates of Jerusalem; 22 nor carry a burden out of your houses on the Sabbath day, nor do any work, but hallow the Sabbath day, as I commanded your fathers.

Stand in the Gate/Command them to keep the Sabbath

23 But they did not obey nor incline their ear, but **made their neck stiff**, that they might not hear nor receive instruction. 24 "And it shall be, if you heed [had heeded] Me carefully," says the LORD, "to bring no burden through the gates of this city on the Sabbath day, but hallow the Sabbath day, to do no work in it, 25 then shall enter the gates of this city kings and princes sitting on the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, they and their princes, accompanied by the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and this city shall remain forever. 26 And they shall come from the cities of Judah and from the places around Jerusalem, from the land of Benjamin and from the lowland, from the mountains and from the South, bringing burnt offerings and sacrifices, grain offerings and incense, bringing sacrifices of praise to the house of the LORD. 27 "But if you will not heed Me to hallow the Sabbath day, such as not carrying a burden when entering the gates of Jerusalem on the Sabbath day, then **I will kindle a fire in its gates, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it shall not be quenched.**" ' "

- **God's Simple Test** to Reveal Sin: Will they keep the Sabbath or Disobey
- **People's Response:** Stiffened their Necks/Refused Instruction

Their Sin was as Clear as Mountain in the Field
From Land of Milk/Honey and Living Water to Salt Land

As for Judah: I will kindle a fire in its gates

Jeremiah 39:8 And the Chaldeans burned the king's house and the houses of the people with fire, and broke down the walls of Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 52:13 He burned the house of the LORD and the king's house; all the houses of Jerusalem, that is, all the houses of the great, he burned with fire.

Jeremiah 18

Jesus

I. Potter and Clay

1 The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying: 2 "Arise and go down to the **potter's house**, and there I will cause you to **hear My words.**"

3 Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something at the wheel. 4 And the vessel that he made of clay was marred [ruined] in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make.

Go to the Potter/Listen for My Word
Took off the marred vessel/Created a better one

5 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: 6 "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?" says the LORD. "Look, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel! 7 The instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, to pull down, and to destroy it, 8 if that nation against whom I have spoken **turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster** that I thought to bring upon it. 9 And the instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it, 10 **if it does evil** in My sight so that it does not obey My voice, then **I will relent concerning the good** with which I said I would benefit it.

The LORD as Creator and Sovereign
Who does man think he is?

Isaiah 45:9 "Woe to him who strives with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth! Shall the clay say to him who forms it, 'What are you making?' Or shall your handiwork say, 'He has no hands'?"

Isaiah 64:8 But now, O LORD, You are our Father; **We are the clay, and You our potter;** And all we are the work of Your hand.

Who does man think he is?
What is man that God should even pay attention?

Psalms 8:4 [David] **What is man that You are mindful of him,** And the son of man that You visit him?

Psalms 144:3 [David] Lord, **what is man, that You take knowledge of him?** Or the son of man, that You are mindful of him?

- I can and do as I please w/My creation
 - As per My Character/Nature of Truth/Righteousness/Love/Justice
1. **If I proclaim disaster** and the repent I can relent and cause good
 2. **If I proclaim good** and the do evil I can relent and cause disaster

Psalms 115:3 But our God is in heaven; **He does whatever He pleases.**

Psalms 135:6 **Whatever the Lord pleases He does,** In heaven and in earth, In the seas and in all deep places.

Daniel 4:34 And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him

who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation. 35 All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. **No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?"**

Romans 12:3 I say...to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to **think soberly...**

Proverbs 25:27b ...So to seek one's own glory **is not glory.**

Luke 14:11 ...whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he **who humbles himself will be exalted.**

The LORD is Creator and Sovereign

11 "Now therefore, speak to the men of Judah and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, 'Thus says the LORD: "Behold, **I am fashioning a disaster and devising a plan against you. Return now every one from his evil way, and make your ways and your doings good.**" ' "

As a Potter Creates/Keeps...Creates/Destroys
I am Fashioning you for Disaster. Turn/Do Good that I may relent

Ezekiel 33:11 Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord God, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! **For why should you die?**

Deuteronomy 30:14 But the **word is very near you**, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it. 15 "See, I have **set before you** today **life and good, death and evil**, 16 in that I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the Lord your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess.

Jeremiah 4:1b ..."Return to Me; And if you will put away your abominations out of My sight, **Then you shall not be moved.**

Choice is Near. Good is Near. Soundness is Near. Stability is Near. Beauty is Near
Turn and Live: No brainer?

Q. Did they say, "I can't believe God is giving us another chance?" **A.** No

II. Salvation Rejected

12 And they said, "**That is hopeless!** So we will walk according to our own plans, and we will every one **obey the dictates of his evil heart.**"

Trying to Please You is Hopeless
We will follow our Plan/Stubbornly Obey our Evil Imaginations

Judah: Those who refused to cry uncle and paid for it. Fools

Isaiah 57:10 You are wearied in the length of your way; Yet you did not say, 'There is no hope.' You have found the life of your hand; Therefore you were not grieved.

Those who walk by the warmth of their own fire will be burned

Proverbs 6:27 Can a man take fire to his bosom, And his clothes not be burned? 28 Can one walk on hot coals, And his feet not be seared?

Isaiah 50:11 Look, all you who kindle a fire, Who encircle yourselves with sparks: Walk in the light of your fire and in the sparks you have kindled— This you shall have from My hand: You shall lie down in torment.

Cursed is the man who trusts in man
Trying to Please You is Hopeless. We will do as we please

13 Therefore thus says the LORD: "Ask now among the Gentiles, Who has heard such things? The virgin of Israel has **done a very horrible thing**. 14 Will a man leave the snow water of Lebanon, Which comes from the rock of the field? Will the cold flowing waters be forsaken for strange waters?

- Disrespect to Me not even heard among Pagans: Do what we want

Very Horrible Thing? To Sin Against Love
Reject the Offer of Living Water for Water that is Stinky Stagnant Dead

15 "Because My people have forgotten Me, They have burned incense to worthless idols. And they have caused themselves to stumble in their ways, **From the ancient paths**, To walk in **pathways and not on a highway**, 16 To make their land desolate and a **perpetual hissing**; Everyone who passes by it will be astonished And shake his head. 17 I will scatter them as with an east wind before the enemy; I will show [lit. look them in] them the back and not the face In the day of their calamity."

- **Turned** to Idols: Cause of stumbling
- **Strayed**: Tried-and-true proven Word

Salvation Rejected/Prophecy Fulfilled

Lamentations 2:15 All who pass by clap their hands at you; They hiss and shake their heads At the daughter of Jerusalem: "Is this the city that is called 'The perfection of beauty, The joy of the whole earth?'"

Choose to Turn to Idols/Stray from the right Path?
Choosing to Become the Object of Hissing

When a nation or individual rejects the Light/Revelation of God they will in turn seek to discredit the light bearer and refute the Word of Truth with satanic wisdom. When that fails they will then seek to snuff out both the Light and Light bearer. [NJC]

First Step: Discredit the Light Bearer by Repudiating the Light
IOWs Cause doubt. "Has God really said..."

III. Jeremiah Disparaged

18 Then they said, "**Come and let us devise plans** against Jeremiah; for the law shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet. Come and **let us attack him with the tongue**, and let us **not give heed to any of his words.**"

Plan: Convince prominent guys [so and so said] to contradict Jeremiah

Expectation: The people will stop listening to him

- Our Priests/Wise men/Prophets will say what we want

John 7:48 Have any of the rulers or the Pharisees believed in Him?

Satan seeks "experts" to deny God's Word

Tactic of Humiliation: *Don't you believe in Science?*

19 Give heed to me, O LORD, And listen to the voice of those who contend with me! 20 Shall evil be repaid for good? For they have dug a pit for my life. Remember that I stood before You To speak good for them, To turn away Your wrath from them. 21 Therefore deliver up their children to the famine, And pour out their blood By the force of the sword; Let their wives become widows And bereaved of their children. Let their men be put to death, Their young men be slain By the sword in battle. 22 Let a cry be heard from their houses, When You bring a troop suddenly upon them; For they have dug a pit to take me, And hidden snares for my feet. 23 Yet, LORD, You know all their counsel Which is against me, to slay me. Provide no atonement for their iniquity, Nor blot out their sin from Your sight; But let them be overthrown before You. Deal thus with them In the time of Your anger.

By their words they succeed in knocking Jeremiah off his game for now
The all-out slanderous attack against Jeremiah has wounded him

Proverbs 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue...

Sticks/Stones break bones but words can never hurt me?
Quite possibly the stupidest saying all of human history?

Matthew 12:37 For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.

God will judge the heart of the people as revealed by their words against Jeremiah
What follows in Ch 19 are some of the most terrifying words Judah will ever hear

Mountain in a Field: Judah's Sin now Clearly in View