

Jeremiah 8

Jesus

- Abandonment Judgment for Apathy toward Sanctity of Human Life

I. Vision of Judgment

1 "At that time," says the Lord...

This connects with the severe judgment announced in the closing verses of Jeremiah 7. The prophet saw the Valley of Hinnom filled with rotting corpses, food for scavenging birds. [Guzik]

- **After False Prophets** promised Peace/Safety
- **After True Prophets** rose every morning to warn

At that Time: When it all comes down...

1b ... "they shall bring out the bones of the kings of Judah, and the bones of its princes, and the bones of the priests, and the bones of the prophets, and the bones of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, out of their graves. 2 They shall spread them before the sun and the moon and all the host of heaven, which they have loved and which they have served and after which they have walked, which they have sought and which they have worshiped. They shall not be gathered nor buried; they shall be like refuse on the face of the earth.

Scene in God's City

Bones of idolaters laid bare under the Sun/Moon/Stars like refuse

- Royalty/Religious/All People of Jerusalem
 1. They have Loved: Enticed
 2. They have Served: Enslaved
 3. They have Walked: Engrossed. Lifestyle

Humiliated/Let down by that which they trusted in apart from God/Truth
The Fate of All who choose to Trust in Lies

3 Then **death shall be chosen** rather than life by all the residue of those who remain of this **evil family**, who remain in all the places where I have driven them," says the Lord of hosts.

Revelation 9:6 [Desperation] In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will **desire to die, and death will flee from them.**

Death shall be chosen; i.e. mass suicide rather than Babylonian torture. Death will be preferred rather than the stench of death, rather than acknowledging they brought all of this upon themselves by sinning against the God of love who reached out to them every morning offering His salvation. [NJC]

2 Chronicles 36:15 ...the Lord God of their fathers **sent warnings to them by His messengers, rising up early** and sending them, **because He had compassion** on His

people and **on His dwelling place**. 16 But they mocked the messengers of God, despised His words, and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against His people, **till there was no remedy**.

Matthew 21:37 [Killed messengers of hope] Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' 38 But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' 39 So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. Trying to quench the Light.

II. Consequences of Lies

4 "Moreover you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord: "Will they fall and not rise? Will one turn away and not return? 5 **Why has this people slid back, Jerusalem, in a perpetual backsliding? They hold fast to deceit, They refuse to return.** 6 I listened and heard, But they do not speak aright. No man repented of his wickedness, Saying, '**What have I done?**' Everyone turned to his **own course**, As the horse rushes into the battle.

Judah is determined to go their own way...Digging in no matter the pain

Revelation 9:20 [1/3 mankind dead] ... the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, **did not repent of the works of their hands**, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk.

Why is Mankind So Stubborn/Rebellious against His Creator?

7 "**Even the stork** in the heavens Knows her appointed times; And the turtledove, the swift, and the swallow Observe the time of their coming. But **My people do not know the judgment of the Lord.**

Even Animals Instinctively Recognize Seasons/Coming danger

Matthew 16:2b [We demand a sign] ... "When it is evening you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red'; 3 and in the morning, 'It will be foul weather today, for the sky is red and threatening.' **Hypocrites! You know how to discern the face of the sky, but you cannot discern the signs of the times.**

The only Sign given Afterward: Sign of Jonah
Death/Resurrection of Jesus: Sign of Coming Judgment

If you have rejected Jesus Christ as your Savior then God sent His Son to die in vain and the death of Jesus Christ is in vain as far as you are concerned. [Smith]

We feel it in our bones? Something about to happen. Winding up/Winding down
God's people are called to know/Make known coming Judgment to the world

Lord, do not allow any of us to be blind to the heavenly signs, — thy cross, thy resurrection, thy Word, thy Spirit, and thy work of grace, Teach us carefully to **"discern " these things as being in the abiding "signs of the times.** " Even in the growing coldness of the church, and the abounding iniquity of the world, let us see the tokens of thine [coming], and stand waiting and watching for thy long-promised appearing. [Spurgeon]

The Religious Leaders were Wiser than God

8 "How can you say, '**We are wise**, And the law of the Lord is with us'? Look, the false pen of the **scribe certainly works falsehood**. 9 The wise men are ashamed, They are dismayed and taken. Behold, they have **rejected the word of the Lord; So what wisdom do they have?**

If you reject the Word of God
What counsel could you possibly share w/others?

1 Corinthians 3:18 Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool [Bowing before the Word of God] that he may become wise.

James 3:13 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. 15 **This wisdom** does not descend from above, but **is earthly, sensual, demonic**. 16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. 17 But the **wisdom that is from above** is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

▪ Earthly Wisdom

1. **Motivation:** Bitterness/Envy/Self-seeking
2. **Derivation:** Earthly/Feeling Based/Demonic as per motivation
 - Envyng others/Self-exaltation
 - Goal: To win/be right rather than yield/righteous
3. **Cultivation/Fruit:** Confusion/Every Evil thing

▪ Heavenly Wisdom

1. Good Works in Meekness
2. Pure/Peaceable
3. Gentle/Yielding
4. Merciful/Fruit Bearing
5. Impartial/Genuine

James 3:18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

God offers His Wisdom to all who genuinely seek it
IOWs Those who Pray for Wisdom w/the Expectation of Receiving Wisdom

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting...

Religious Leaders: We are Wise?

10 Therefore I will give their wives to others, And their fields to those who will inherit them; Because from the least even to the greatest **Everyone is given**

to covetousness; From the prophet even to the priest **Everyone deals falsely**. 11 For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of **My people slightly**, Saying, '**Peace, peace!**' When there is no peace. 12 **Were they ashamed** when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed, Nor **did they know how to blush**.

- **Vv 10-12** repetition of Jer. 6:13-15

This was not accidental. It was done on purpose, because Judah needed to hear this message, and delivering it one time was simply not enough. [Guzik] No bold or highlighting but repetition.

To the False-Prophets who reject God's Word and lie to God's people for personal gain: If you will not humble yourselves I will allow you to be humiliated. [NJC]

They were not at all ashamed of leading God's people astray...

12b ...Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; In the time of their punishment They shall be cast down," says the Lord. 13 "I will surely consume them," says the Lord. "No grapes shall be on the vine, Nor figs on the fig tree, And the leaf shall fade; And the things I have given them shall pass away from them." ' ' "

vv 14-16 Jeremiah sees another vision

Hears the very words that *will be spoken* in the midst of future judgment...

14 "Why do we sit still? Assemble yourselves, And let us enter the fortified cities, And let us be silent there. For the Lord our God has put us to silence And given us water of gall to drink, Because we have sinned against the Lord. 15 "**We looked for peace, but no good came**; And for **a time of health**, and **there was trouble!** 16 The snorting of His [God's] horses was heard from Dan. The whole land trembled at the sound of the neighing of His strong ones; For they have come and devoured the land and all that is in it, The city and those who dwell in it."

We looked for the Promised Peace/Coming Good/Future Healing
But it never came...Because we believed a lie

17 "For behold, **I will send serpents among you**, Vipers which **cannot be charmed**, And **they shall bite you**," says the Lord.

Psalms 58:4b ...like the deaf cobra that stops its ear, 5 [They] will not heed the voice of charmers, Charming ever so skillfully.

To the False Teachers who charmed the People with lies
God will send snakes [Cruel Babylonians] that cannot be charmed to bite them

III. Remedy Rejected

18 I would **comfort myself in sorrow**; My **heart is faint** in me. 19 Listen! The voice, The cry of the daughter of my people From a far country: "**Is not the Lord in Zion? Is not her King in her?**" "Why have they provoked Me to anger With their carved images— With foreign idols?" 20 "The harvest is past, The summer is ended, And we are not saved!"

Jeremiah Sees/Hears the video from the future
His people sobbing from Babylon in Babylonian Captivity

Jeremiah's Question: Wasn't the LORD and King in Zion?
God's Answer: Since I was there, Why did they provoke Me?

The harvest of souls is past... the summer ended and no salvation

We thought that God would help us in the days of harvest; but the harvest is past. We dreamed that he would chase away our enemies when the summer months had come; but the summer is ended, and still Chaldea has her foot upon Judea's neck, still we drink the wormwood and the gall, and our enemies open their mouths at us. The harvest is past, and the summer is ended, and we are not saved. [Spurgeon]

Day of Harvest is Almost Over
God's Program is Winding up/Winding down

Romans 13:11 [Know...] the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our **salvation is nearer than when we first believed.**

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord **will come** as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.

Let's run Harder/Faster as the Finish Line Approaches

Hebrews 10: 37 For yet a little while, And He who is coming will **come and will not tarry.** 38 Now **the just shall live by faith**; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.

Jeremiah cries because his people refuse to be healed. Refuse the remedy...

21 For the **hurt of the daughter** of my people **I am hurt.** I am mourning; Astonishment has taken hold of me. 22 **Is there no balm in Gilead, Is there no physician there?** Why then is there no recovery For the health of the daughter of my people?

Jeremiah: Since there is Medicine/Since there is a Physician
IOWs Since there is healing available...Why are my people not healed?

John 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and **men loved darkness rather than light ...21 But he who does the truth comes to the light,** that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

They did not acknowledge just how sick they had become

Mark 2:17 ... Those who are well have no need of a physician, but **those who are sick.** I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.

We are all born spiritually sick and need to be healed
Most refuse to acknowledge their need/Thus most will not be healed

Jeremiah realizes this about his own people...He hurts [e.g. family/friends]
Remedy is right here [Repentance/Salvation] Why won't they take it?

Jeremiah 9

Jesus

I. They Do Not Know Me

1 Oh, that my head were waters, And my eyes a **fountain of tears**, That I **might weep day and night** For the **slain of the daughter** of my people! 2 Oh, that I had in the wilderness A lodging place for travelers; That I might leave my people, And go from them! For they are all adulterers, An assembly of treacherous men.

Tortured Mind: Vision of his people now alive he sees as slain
May I go to my vacation home? Jeremiah growing weary

- **God answers in Ch 12:** You haven't even started...

Jeremiah 12:5 If you have run with the footmen, and **they have wearied you**, Then how can you contend with horses? And if in the land of peace, In which you trusted, they wearied you, Then **how will you do in the floodplain of the Jordan?**

Are we tired? Is it possible we haven't yet started? Gird your loins!

- **Concedes his people are evil:** Adulterers/Assembly of Treacherous men
- The LORD ups the ante...

3 "And like their bow they have **bent their tongues for lies**. They are **not valiant for the truth** on the earth. For they proceed from **evil to evil**, And they **do not know Me**," says the Lord.

- Tongues like a bow shooting out lies
- No willingness/courage to seek/speak truth
- They Increase in evil exponentially. Greater and greater perversity. Fruit is rotten!

They do not know Me...I will not know them

Matthew 7:21 [Known by fruit] "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me

in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, '**I never knew you**; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

4 "Everyone take heed to his neighbor, And do not trust any brother; For every brother will utterly supplant, And every neighbor will walk with slanderers. 5 Everyone will deceive his neighbor, And will not speak the truth; They have taught their tongue to speak lies; They **weary themselves** to commit iniquity. 6 Your dwelling place is in the midst of deceit; **Through deceit they refuse to know Me," says the Lord.**

They were creating a substitute world for themselves
A world as if God did not Exist: Tower of Babel

- Creating an Unsustainable World as today:
 1. **Rejecting** the Word
 2. **Competing** for Status
 3. **Embracing** Lies
 4. **Speaking** Slander
 5. **Chasing** next sin/greater evil. Wearying themselves...

What a drudgery is sin! And how much work must a man take in order to get to hell! [Clarke]

Through Deceit/Deceiving themselves...They Refuse to Know Me
IOWs They cover themselves w/lies to Protect themselves from the Truth

When the Word of Healing is regarded as the Disease...that individual or nation is finished [NJC]

Psalms 36:3 The words of his mouth are **wickedness and deceit**; He has **ceased to be wise and to do good**. 4 He **devises wickedness** on his bed; He sets himself in a way that is not good; He does not abhor evil.

Fear of the LORD is the Beginning of Wisdom
Psalm 36 para: He who ceases to be wise ceases to do good

7 Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts: "Behold, **I will refine** [melt/refine] **them** and **try them**; For how shall I deal with the daughter of My people? 8 Their tongue is an arrow shot out; It speaks deceit; One speaks peaceably to his neighbor with his mouth, But in his heart he lies in wait. 9 Shall I not punish them for these things?" says the Lord. "**Shall I not avenge Myself on such a nation as this?**" 10 I will take up a weeping and wailing **for the mountains**, And for the **dwelling places of the wilderness** a lamentation, Because they are burned up, So that no one can pass through; Nor can men hear the voice of the cattle. Both the birds of the heavens and the beasts have fled; They are gone. 11 "I will make Jerusalem a **heap of ruins**, a den of jackals. I will make the cities of Judah desolate, without an inhabitant."

Jeremiah Sees. Jeremiah Weeps.
Jeremiah Speaks to the LORD...

12 **Who is the wise man** who may understand this? And who is he to whom the mouth of the Lord has spoken, that he may declare it? **Why does the land perish** and burn up like a wilderness, so that no one can pass through? 13 And the Lord said, "Because **they have forsaken My law** which I set before them, and have not obeyed My voice, nor walked according to it, 14 but they have walked according to the **dictates of their own hearts** and after the Baals, which their fathers taught them,"

The moment we forsake the Word of God
Is the moment we begin to Follow our Heart

Jeremiah 17:9 The **heart is deceitful** above all things/**desperately wicked**; Who can know it?

- **Dictates of their own hearts:** lit. stubbornness and/or imagination

Forsaking the Word of God leads to Following the Heart
Following our Heart [feelings/emotions] leads to exponential deprivation

Romans 1:21 ...because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became **futile in their thoughts**, and their foolish **hearts were darkened**. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools ...**24** Therefore **God also gave them up** [abandonment judgment] to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves...

Tried to be wise w/out God/His Word...Hearts became darker
God gave Judah up to the Worship of Baal/Satan

15 therefore thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: "Behold, I will feed them, this people, with wormwood, and give them water of **gall to drink**. 16 I will **scatter** them also among the Gentiles, whom neither they nor their fathers have known. And I will send a sword after them until I have consumed them."

Why do we press on in our own ways like war horses and miss God's best?

- Wormwood to eat rather than sweet Manna
- Gall to drink rather than pure Water from the Rock

Why are we still saying/doing/looking at those things, etc.?
Beauty is set before us. Remedy. Repentance. Restoration. Refreshment

II. Mourning Practice

17 Thus says the Lord of hosts: "Consider and **call for the mourning women**, That they may come; And send for skillful wailing women, That they may come. 18 Let them make haste And take up a wailing for us, That our

eyes may run with tears, And our eyelids gush with water. 19 For a voice of wailing is heard from Zion: 'How we are plundered! We are greatly ashamed, Because we have forsaken the land, Because we have been cast out of our dwellings.'

Since they refused to sorrow for sin/Coming judgment
God says: Hire professionals to *practice mourning*. IOWs This is what it will sound like

20 Yet **hear the word of the Lord, O women**, And let your ear **receive the word of His mouth**; Teach your daughters wailing, And everyone her neighbor a lamentation. 21 For **death has come through our windows**, Has entered our palaces, To **kill off the children**—no longer to be outside! And the **young men**—no longer on the streets! 22 Speak, "Thus says the Lord: 'Even the **carcasses of men** shall **fall as refuse** on the open field, Like cuttings after the harvester, And no one shall gather them.' "

- **Prideful women** usurping husbands as sign of near judgment

Amos 4:1 [Northern Kingdom before Judgment] Hear this word, **you cows of Bashan**, who are on the mountain of Samaria, Who oppress the poor, Who crush the needy, Who say to your husbands, "Bring wine, let us drink!"

Jeremiah's Vivid Detail: The mourning you hear today will one day be your own
Death coming through your beautifully adorned windows: Killing off Children/Young men

God Most Precious Possession: Fearfully/Wonderfully made?
Now scattered Carcasses like Refuse/Dung in the Street. Pride's end

23 Thus says the Lord: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches

- **3 Things** people glory in for **Temporal Advantage**:

1. Wisdom
2. Strength
3. Wealth

Don't Glory in your Smartness/Strongness/Richness
These Have No Eternal Advantage...

24 But let him who glories glory in this, That **he understands and knows Me**, That I am the Lord, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For **in these I delight**," says the Lord.

- **3 Things** to glory in for **Eternal Advantage**. I know God as...

1. Lovingly Kind
2. Perfectly Just
3. Sovereignly Righteous

I delight in those who think of Me like this

Psalm 37:3 Trust in the Lord, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.
4 Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.
5 Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.

A.W. Tozer Famously stated in his book The Knowledge of the Holy that "**what comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us**". He argued that our deepest concept of God shapes our worship, our spiritual future, and our very character.

25 "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord, "that I will **punish** all who are **circumcised** with the **uncircumcised**— 26 Egypt, Judah, Edom, the people of Ammon, Moab, and all who are in the farthest corners, who dwell in the wilderness. For all these nations are uncircumcised, **and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised in the heart.**"

- **Circumcision** is meaningless w/out a corresponding work of the heart
- **Baptism** is meaningless w/out a corresponding work in the heart
- **Revival** is meaningless w/out a corresponding work of the heart

Josiah sought a true life-giving revival/Heart change
The people pressed through w/their own ways/To their own hurt