

Jeremiah 4

Jesus

God called Jeremiah

Psalm 139:16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.

- **Calling:** A Prophet to Judah/Nations
- **Message:** Judah/Jerusalem/Temple destroyed. People exiled
- **Charge:** Spiritual Adultery; i.e. Abandoning the LORD for idols

I. Remove Repent Return

1 **"If you will return, O Israel,"** says the LORD, **"Return to Me;** And if you will put away your abominations out of My sight, **Then you shall not be moved.** 2 And you shall swear, **'The LORD lives,'** In **truth,** in **judgment,** and in **righteousness;** The **nations shall bless themselves in Him,** And **in Him they shall glory."**

Returning means Repenting/Repenting means Removing

- **Then you shall not be moved**
 1. Not be moved to Babylon
 2. Not be moved meaning stability/consistency

Psalm 16:8 I have set the LORD always before me; Because He is at my right hand **I shall not be moved.**

Psalm 62:6 He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; **I shall not be moved.**

Remove/Repent/Return

Then you will say *The LORD lives* in Truth/Judgment/Righteousness

Jeremiah 5:2 [At this point] ...they say, 'As the LORD lives,' **Surely they swear falsely."**

Return to Me/Then you shall be My witness to the Nations

IOWs Others will want to know our God when the see change in our lives

3 For thus says the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem: **"Break up your fallow ground,** And do not sow among thorns. 4 **Circumcise yourselves** to the LORD, And take away the foreskins of your hearts, You men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, Lest My fury come forth like fire, And burn so that no one can quench it, Because of the evil of your doings."

Break up the Fallow Useless Ground

Lives left Unattended/Unmaintained/Unconcerned. IOWs X Box Generation

- Remove the Thorns/Barbs of this world to allow growth...

Matthew 13:7 Some [seed] fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them ...**22** Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the **cares of this world** and the **deceitfulness of riches choke the word**, and he becomes **unfruitful**.

- **Circumcise your heart:** Remove the unnecessary Flesh to live a life dedicated to Christ

Romans 2:29b ...**circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit**, not in the letter; [to these] **praise is not from men but from God**.

Colossians 2:11 In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by **putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ...**

Remove/Repent/Return or...
My Fury will Come upon You as an Unquenchable Fire

II. An Imminent Invasion

5 Declare in Judah and proclaim in Jerusalem, and say: "Blow the trumpet in the land; Cry, 'Gather together,' And say, 'Assemble yourselves, And let us go into the fortified cities.' 6 **Set up the standard toward Zion**. Take refuge! Do not delay! For I will bring disaster from the north, And great destruction." 7 The lion has come up from his thicket, And the **destroyer of nations** is on his way. He has gone forth from his place To make your land desolate. Your cities will be laid waste, Without inhabitant. 8 For this, **clothe yourself with sackcloth, Lament and wail**. For the fierce anger of the LORD Has not turned back from us. 9 "And it shall come to pass in that day," says the LORD, "That the **heart of the king shall perish**, And the **heart of the princes**; The **priests** shall be astonished, And the **prophets** shall wonder."

- **Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon**

1. **King** of Babylon
2. **Lion** up from the Thicket
3. **Destroyer** of Nations is coming

Command: Be Ready being Clothed in Humility
v9 Royalty and Religiosity will reject God's Word/Be Taken by Surprise

10 Then I said, "Ah, LORD God! Surely You have **greatly deceived** this people and Jerusalem, Saying, '**You shall have peace**,' Whereas the sword reaches to the heart."

- Jeremiah prophesied coming judgment
- False-Prophets prophesied Peace/Safety. A lie. One day The Lie will swallow up the world

2 Thessalonians 2:9 The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, 10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they **did not receive the love of the truth**, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them **strong delusion**, that they **should believe the**

lie, 12 that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

To those who hate Truth...God will give them over to a lie
Drop that X Box...Open your eyes

1 Thessalonians 5:6 ...let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.

Titus 2:6 ...exhort the young men to be sober-minded...

11 At that time it will be said To this people and to Jerusalem, "A dry wind of the desolate heights blows in the wilderness Toward the daughter of My people— Not to fan or to cleanse— 12 A wind too strong for these will come for Me [IOWs I am sending this judgment]; Now I will also speak judgment against them." 13 "Behold, **he shall come up like clouds**, And his chariots like a whirlwind. His horses are swifter than eagles. Woe to us, for we are plundered!"

Jeremiah Envisions 40 years later: Clouds of dust followed by Chariots/Horses charging
People screaming: We're Finished!

14 O Jerusalem, **wash your heart from wickedness, That you may be saved.** How long shall your evil thoughts lodge within you?

- Judah had a *superficial revival through Josiah*. God saw what was lodged in their hearts...

Evil thoughts were like bad renters or lodgers in a property: Now, the LORD says, 'How long shall thy vain thoughts lodge within thee?' for they are all vain — these delays, these false promises, these self-deceptions. How long shall it be that they shall throng the avenues of your soul and curse your spirit? [Spurgeon]

Wash your Hearts from Wickedness
Dislodge your Evil Thoughts and be Saved.

James 4:7 ...submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 **Draw near to God** and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and **purify your hearts**, you double-minded. 9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.

Time for Action/Self-Reflection/Repentance

1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to **cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

Our Hearts are Washed through Repentance
Repenting means Removing every Idol/That which we lift higher/love more than Jesus

15 For a voice declares from Dan And proclaims affliction from Mount Ephraim: 16 "Make mention to the nations, Yes, proclaim against Jerusalem, That watchers [invaders] come from a far country And raise their voice against the cities of Judah. 17 Like keepers of a field they are against her all around, Because she has been rebellious against Me," says the LORD.

God declares from the Northern Kingdom [now slaves in Assyria] to Judah/Nations
The same will happen to every nation/individual who rebels against Me

18b "Your ways and your doings Have procured these things for you. This is your wickedness, Because it is bitter, Because it reaches to your heart."

Your Ways/Your Wickedness are the cause Your Pain
When you realize it was your own doing...it will be Bitter/Heartfelt/Too late

When it happens you will remember how many opportunities I gave you
How I offered you My Mercy/My Love/My Peace/Myself to you...but you knew better

III. Sorrow for the Doomed Nation

19 [Jeremiah speaks] **O my soul**, my soul! I am **pained in my very heart!** My heart makes a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, Because you have heard, O my soul, The sound of the trumpet, The alarm of war. 20 Destruction upon destruction is cried, For the whole land is plundered. Suddenly **my tents** are plundered, And **my curtains** in a moment. 21 How long will I see the standard, And hear the sound of the trumpet? 22 "For **My people are foolish** [childish], They have not known Me. They are **silly children**, And they have no understanding. They are wise to do evil, But to do good they have no knowledge."

The Weeping Prophet sees all too clearly
Homes Plundered/Special Curtains Torn. Enemy Flags flying/Trumpets Sounding

- **Pained:** Lit. Sick to his stomach

Psalms 42:7 Deep calls unto deep at the noise of Your waterfalls; All Your waves and billows have gone over me.

Majority of population of Judah/USA: Wise in evil but no knowledge if how to do good
Experts in hurting one another

Romans 16:19b ...I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil.

1 Corinthians 14:20 ... do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature.

- **How long:** Nebuchadnezzar came in 3 invasions for **20 years**
- Jeremiah sinks lower...

23 I beheld the earth, and indeed it was **without form**, and **void**; And the heavens, they **had no light**. 24 I beheld the mountains, and indeed they trembled, And all the hills moved back and forth. 25 I beheld, and indeed there was no man, And all the birds of the heavens had fled. 26 I beheld, and indeed the fruitful land was a wilderness, And all its cities were broken down **At the presence of the LORD, By His fierce anger**. 27 For thus says the LORD: "The whole land shall be desolate; Yet **I will not make a full end**."

It was as if the earth had been 'uncreated' and reverted back to its erstwhile primeval chaos. Order seemed to return to confusion. [Thompson]

Devastation of Judah: Precursor to Day of the LORD
I will not make a full end. Hope for the Remnant

2 Peter 3:10 ...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. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, **what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness**, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, **look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells**.

For now Jeremiah plows through a difficult message
Death/Autopsy of his own Nation

28 For this shall the earth mourn, And the heavens above be black, Because I have spoken. **I have purposed and will not relent**, Nor will I turn back from it. 29 The whole city shall flee from the noise of the horsemen and bowmen. They shall go into thickets and climb up on the rocks. Every city shall be forsaken, And not a man shall dwell in it. 30 "And when you are plundered, What will you do? Though you clothe yourself with crimson, Though you adorn yourself with ornaments of gold, Though you enlarge your eyes with paint, In vain you will make yourself fair; Your lovers will despise you; They will seek your life. 31 "**For I have heard a voice as of a woman in labor, The anguish as of her who brings forth her first child**, The voice of the daughter of Zion bewailing herself; She spreads her hands, saying, 'Woe is me now, for my soul is weary Because of murderers!'

God called Jeremiah to a difficult work as He does us
As Jesus, Jeremiah purposed in his heart not to turn back no matter the pain/difficulty

Isaiah 50:6 I gave My back to those who struck Me, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting. 7 "For **the LORD God will help Me**; Therefore I will not be disgraced; Therefore I have **set My face like a flint**, And I know that I will not be ashamed. 8 He is near who justifies Me; Who will contend with Me? Let us stand together. Who is My adversary? Let him come near Me.

When you receive your mission then purpose in your heart
There is no Plan B

Jeremiah 5

Jesus

I. The Justice of God's Judgment

1 "Run to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem; See now and know; And seek in her open places If you can find a man, If there is **anyone who executes judgment, Who seeks the truth, And I will pardon her.** 2 Though they say, 'As the LORD lives,' Surely they swear falsely."

Challenge: Find just one honest man
A Lover of Justice/A Seeker of Truth

3 O LORD, are not Your **eyes on the truth?** You have stricken them, But they have not grieved; You have consumed them, But they have refused to receive correction. They have made their faces harder than rock; They have refused to return.

- Ezekiel was told to put a mark on all those who grieved over their sin

Jeremiah looked but found no one grieving over sin

4 Therefore I said, "Surely these are **poor.** They are **foolish;** For they **do not know the way of the LORD,** The **judgment of their God.** 5 I will go to the great men and speak to them, For they have **known the way of the LORD,** The **judgment of their God.**

I tried going to the untaught in the ways of the LORD...
Now I will go to the Religious men

5b ... "But these have **altogether broken the yoke And burst the bonds.** 6 Therefore a lion from the forest shall slay them, A wolf of the deserts shall destroy them; A leopard will watch over their cities. Everyone who goes out from there shall be torn in pieces, Because their transgressions are many; Their backslidings have increased.

Amos 8:11 "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD God, "That I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine of bread, Nor a thirst for water, But of hearing the words of the LORD.

What happens when those who are supposed to know the Word don't know the Word?

Cities become Spiritually Desolate. Seekers leave Ravaged/Torn to pieces

Why? Churches have broken away from the protective Yoke of the Word of God
Unanointed Unappointed Women/Perverts calling themselves Pastors

7 "How shall I pardon you for this? Your children have forsaken Me And **sworn by those that are not gods**. When I had fed them to the full, Then they committed adultery And assembled themselves by troops in the harlots' houses. 8 They were like well-fed lusty stallions; Every one neighed after his neighbor's wife. 9 Shall I not punish them for these things?" says the LORD. "And shall I not avenge Myself on such a nation as this?"

The more kindhearted Judah's Husband treated her the more she sought others
Not wanting to forsake Him completely...but wanting both
Jesus said: You can't serve two gods w/out coming to hate one of them

10 "Go up on her walls and **destroy**, But **do not make a complete end**. **Take away her branches, For they are not the LORD's**.

When we stop Fearing God
1) We will not bear fruit and 2) The Walls of God's spiritual protection will be removed

Psalm 34:7 The angel of the Lord encamps all around **those who fear Him**, And delivers them.

Fear: To Obey God. Fear of God is proved by our Obedience to God which demonstrates our Love for God.

John 14:15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments. And you will be safe

1 John 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments.

- God's instruction to His servant/Hammer/Weapon of War; i.e. of Babylon?

Destroy her walls of Protection/Remove her Fruitless branches [Vain endeavors]
Yet for Abraham/David/My sake...Do not make a complete end

11 For the house of Israel and the house of Judah Have dealt very treacherously with Me," says the LORD. 12 They have **lied about the LORD**, And said, "**It is not He**. Neither will evil come upon us, Nor shall we see sword or famine. 13 And the **prophets become wind**, For the **word is not in them**. Thus shall it be done to them."

Word to the False-Prophets leading God's People Astray
I.e. Those claiming Jeremiah was not speaking for God as their descendants said of Jesus
God say: My Word is not in them. What is being preached today?

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have **itching ears**, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears **away from the truth**, and be turned **aside to fables**.

Those who break away from the protective Yoke of the Word of God?

1) Tell people what they want to hear. 2) Begin to tell fables...

Once upon a time there was a God of ooey gooey love who allowed men to follow the selfish dictates of their own wicked hearts at the expense of others w/no consequences/no final judgment. And everyone lived happily ever after. Not.

The Word is not in Them
But My Word is in you Jeremiah...

14 Therefore thus says the LORD God of hosts: "Because you speak this word, Behold, I will make **My words in your mouth fire**, And this **people wood**, And **it shall devour them**. 15 Behold, I will bring a nation against you from afar, O house of Israel," says the LORD. "It is a **mighty nation**, It is an **ancient nation**, A nation whose language you do not know, Nor can you understand what they say. 16 Their quiver is like an open tomb; They are all mighty men. 17 And they shall eat up your harvest and your bread, Which your sons and daughters should eat. They shall eat up your flocks and your herds; They shall eat up your vines and your fig trees; They shall destroy your fortified cities, In which you trust, with the sword.

Babylon: From the Tower of Babel to Modern Day Iraq
A Mighty Nation/Ancient Nation is coming to destroy all you [Judah] trust in...

18 "Nevertheless in those days," says the LORD, "**I will not make a complete end of you**. 19 And it will be when you say, 'Why does the LORD our God **do all these things to us?**' then you shall answer them, 'Just as you have forsaken Me and served foreign gods in your land, so you shall serve aliens in a land that is not yours.'

God said no you said yes and here you are
God said yes and you said no and here you are

Abandonment Judgment
Given over to that which we forsook the LORD for...Our idols now our Masters

- **Romans 1:** Reject God's Revelation/Light/Glaring Truth? USA
- **We are the Masters of our own destinies.** No. Your not...

24b ...God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts...

26b ...God gave them up to vile passions...

28b ...God gave them over to a debased mind...

Romans 1:22 Professing to be wise, *they became fools*

20 "Declare this in the house of Jacob And proclaim it in Judah, saying, 21 'Hear this now, O **foolish people, Without understanding**, Who have **eyes and see not**, And who have **ears and hear not**:

Fool: Person whom the LORD has revealed Himself to/Yet still chooses to deny Him
IOWs Acting as if there is no God thus utterly deceiving themselves

Psalms 14:1 The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good.

Eyes to see yet choose to be blind. Ears to hear yet choose to be deaf
Convincing themselves they will live happily ever after?

- Limited times a person can deny the Revelation/Light/Truth of God
- They will be locked out of their account... forever

Romans 11:8 Just as it is written: "God has **given them** a spirit of stupor, Eyes that they should not see And ears that they should not hear, To this very day."

God reveals Himself to every man through the Light of His Creation. Rom 1
Creation should instill Awe...

22 Do you not fear Me? says the LORD. 'Will you not tremble at My presence, Who have placed the sand as the bound of the sea, By a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass beyond it? And though its waves toss to and fro, Yet they cannot prevail; Though they roar, yet they cannot pass over it.

- Alice in C: Deny your Maker: 2 band members dead from accidental OD 2002 and 2011

Denying our Creator: Sin against Love

Acts 14:17 [God] did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave **us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.**"

23 But this people has a **defiant and rebellious heart**; They have **revolted and departed**. **24** They **do not say in their heart**, "Let us now fear the LORD our God, Who gives rain, both the former and the latter, in its season. He reserves for us the appointed weeks of the harvest." **25** Your iniquities have turned these things away, And your sins have withheld good from you.

- Judgments in Rev are for denying God as Creator
- Audacity of the creation to deny our Creator

Self-Deception

I will convince my heart there is no God so I can sin w/no accountability

26 'For among My people are found wicked men; They lie in wait as one who sets snares; They set a trap; They catch men. **27** As a cage is full of birds, So their houses are full of deceit. Therefore they have become great and grown rich. **28** They have grown fat, they are sleek; Yes, they surpass the deeds of the wicked; They do not plead the cause, The cause of the fatherless; Yet they prosper, And the right of the needy they do not defend. **29** Shall I not punish them for these things?' says the LORD. 'Shall I not avenge Myself on such a

nation as this?' 30 "An astonishing and horrible thing Has been committed in the land: 31 The **prophets prophesy falsely**, And the **priests rule by their own power**; And **My people love to have it so. But what will you do in the end?**

God's Autopsy of a Nation: Spiritual Leaders are Fake/My people Love It
But what will you do *in the end*?

Jesus to the farmer stockpiling for the future yet not attending to his soul
Fool! This night your soul is required of you. No happy ending