

Jeremiah 11 and 12 Running with Horses

Jesus

Ch.10: Message at the Temple gate

Ch.11: New message re. Broken Covenant with God

1406 BC When you Enter the Promised Land after conquering Jericho and Ai
Go to the Two Mountains and Valley near Shechem

- Send Men from 6 Tribes to Mt Gerizim to pronounce Blessings for Obedience. Amen!
- Send Men from 6 Tribes to Mt Ebal to pronounce Cursing for Disobedience. Amen!

I. Reminder of the Broken Covenant

Jeremiah 11:1 [Holding the Books of Moses in his hand?] The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, 2 "Hear the words of this covenant, and speak to the men of Judah and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem; 3 and say to them, 'Thus says the LORD God of Israel: "**Cursed is the man who does not obey the words of this covenant** 4 which I commanded your fathers in the day I brought them out of the land of Egypt, from the iron furnace, saying, '**Obey** My voice, and **do** according to all that I command you; **so shall you be** My people, and I will be your God,' 5 that I may establish the oath which I have sworn to your fathers, to give them 'a land flowing with milk and honey,' as it is this day." ' " And I answered and said, "**So be it, LORD.**"

- **I brought you** from the **Iron Furnace** of the World 3X [Here, Deut. 4:20, 1 Kings 8:51]
- **I gave you** My Law that it might go well with you

Having the Law is not Keeping the Law

Hear/Do the Words of the Covenant: Receive My Promise
The deal Israel said amen to 700 yrs. earlier

- **Jeremiah: Yes LORD** that is what was agreed on. So be it LORD: lit. Amen

Deuteronomy 27:26 'Cursed is the one who does not confirm **all the words of this law** by observing them.' "**And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'** "

Confirm the Law: IOWs Keeping the Law meant they agree the Law is good
Problem: Promise was for keeping the Law *perfectly*

Galatians 3:10b .."Cursed is everyone who **does not continue in all things which are written** in the book of the law, **to do them.**"

- **Attempting to Keep the Law:** 1/3 outcomes
 1. Self-Righteousness
 2. Self-Pity
 3. Self- Awareness of our need for a Savior

The Law is not a Cleanser
But a Mirror Revealing the Need of a Cleanser

Romans 3:19 ... whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law [those trying by their own effort to keep the law] , that every mouth may be stopped, and **all the world may become guilty before God**. 20 Therefore by the deeds of the law **no flesh will be justified in His sight**, for by the law is **the knowledge of sin**.

Galatians 3:23 ...before faith came, we were **kept under guard** by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. 24 Therefore the law was our tutor **to bring us to Christ**, that we might be justified by faith.

God is calling out Judah as idolatrous law breakers about to forsake the promise of the land by their disobedience. Yet even a desire to obey God would have displayed a Fear of God even as they would fail in their attempt to keep the Law of God. Fear of God would lead to the wisdom of God demonstrated in renouncing self-righteousness and crying out to God to save them. They decided they knew what was best and would follow their deceitful hearts to their own destruction. [NJC]

6 Then the LORD said to me, "Proclaim all these words in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, saying: 'Hear the words of this covenant **and do them**. 7 For I earnestly exhorted your fathers in the day I brought them up out of the land of Egypt, until this day, **rising early and exhorting**, saying, "Obey My voice." 8 Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but everyone followed the **dictates of his evil heart**...

I Exhorted you w/Truth/Life: Sent My Prophets to you every morning
You Chose Lies/Death instead: Dictates of your Evil Hearts. Deceitful Feelings

- Lit. Stubbornness and Imaginations...

8b ...therefore I will bring upon them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded them to do, but which they have not done.' "

You broke your promise to obey when you received the land
I'll keep My promise to curse by removing you from the land

9 And the LORD said to me, "**A conspiracy has been found** among the men of Judah and among the inhabitants of Jerusalem. 10 They have turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers who refused to hear My words, and they have gone after other gods to serve them; the **house of Israel** and the **house of Judah** have **broken My covenant** which I made with their fathers."

- **Conspiracy:** Unlawful Alliance for the purpose of treason/betrayal
 1. **Breaking the Covenant** of God/Refusing warnings of God. How?
 2. **Worship of Idols:** Conspiracy against God/Disobedience to God. Lack of fear of God

House of Israel now captives in Assyria
House of Judah will soon be captives in Babylon

11 Therefore thus says the LORD: "Behold, I will surely bring calamity on them which they **will not be able to escape**; and though they **cry out to Me**, I will not listen to them. 12 Then the cities of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem will go and **cry**

out to the gods to whom they offer incense, but they will not save them at all in the time of their trouble.

To those who remain in Judah I will bring calamity. Cannibalism/Horror
You will cry to Me and I will not hear. You will cry to idols who can't hear

- **Wisdom**

1. **Came through** the Prophets/Did not listen
2. **Will be sought by you** in the day of calamity but I will ignore you...

Proverbs 1:28 Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but **they will not find me.**

13 For according to the number of your cities were your gods, O Judah; and according to the number of the streets of Jerusalem you have set up altars to **that shameful thing**, altars to burn incense to Baal.

As many gods as cities; i.e. 150 [2:28/11:13]
Now as many gods as **cities and streets**

- God has been patient

Exodus 22:20 He who sacrifices to any god, except to the LORD only, he shall be utterly destroyed.

14 "So **do not pray for this people**, or lift up a cry or prayer for them; for **I will not hear them** in the time that they cry out to Me because of their trouble.

- **Do not pray for this people:** 2/3 X in Jeremiah. [7:16,11:14,14:11]

Curse for Disobeying: Silence of God
Did God Hate His People?

15 "What has **My beloved to do in My house**, Having done **lewd deeds** with many? And the holy flesh has passed from you. **When you do evil, then you rejoice.** 16 The LORD called your name, **Green Olive Tree, Lovely and of Good Fruit.**

The LORD asks Judah His Unfaithful Wife
What exactly are you still doing in My house? Cake/Eat it too?

Yet God's Desire for His Beloved Wife?
Green Olive Tree bearing Lovely/Good Fruit for both He/them to Enjoy

Now My beloved performs lewd acts w/many in My own House
Knowing I see...You in rebellion rejoice even more

This is the description of a sin-sick society. Not only do they sin; they openly rejoice in their evil. [Guzik]

16b ...With the noise of a **great tumult He has kindled** fire on it [Olive Tree], And its **branches are broken.** 17 "For the LORD of hosts, who planted you, has

pronounced doom against you for the evil of the house of Israel and of the house of Judah

I who planted you now must uproot you
Picture: An Olive Tree on Fire/Branches Broken Off

16c ... [Evil] ...which they have done against themselves to provoke Me to anger in offering incense to Baal."

1 Corinthians 6:18 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality **sins against his own body.**

- **Sexual Rituals:** Baal/Asherah

Offering Incense to Baal
Baal: Lord. rt. lit. Owner/Husband/Lord

Romans 6:16 Do you not know that **to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves** whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?

II. Death Threats

18 Now the **LORD gave me knowledge of it**, and I know it; for You showed me their doings.

The LORD revealed the people's secret sins/Jeremiah proclaimed them

19 But I was like a **docile lamb brought to the slaughter**; and I did not know that **they had devised schemes** against me, saying, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, and let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name may be remembered no more."

- I was like a docile lamb brought to the slaughter

20 But, O LORD of hosts, You who judge righteously, **Testing the mind and the heart**, Let me see **Your vengeance on them**, For to You I have revealed my cause.

- The LORD answers immediately...

21 "Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the men of **Anathoth** who seek your life, saying, '**Do not prophesy in the name of the LORD**, lest you die by our hand'— 22 therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: '**Behold, I will punish them.** The young men shall die by the sword, their sons and their daughters shall die by famine; 23 and there shall be no remnant of them, for I will bring catastrophe on the men of Anathoth, even the year of their punishment.' "

Persecution begins from those in Jeremiah's hometown of Anathoth...

Jeremiah 1:17 "Therefore prepare yourself and arise, And speak to them all that I command you. **Do not be dismayed before their faces**, Lest I dismay you before them. 18 For behold, I have made you this day A fortified city and an iron pillar, And bronze walls against the whole land— Against the kings of Judah, Against its princes, Against its priests, And against the

people of the land. 19 **They will fight against you, But they shall not prevail against you. For I am with you," says the Lord, "to deliver you."**

Mark 6:4 A prophet is not without honor **except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house.**

John 4:44 Jesus Himself testified that **a prophet has no honor in his own country.**

God warned Paul what to Expect in Acts

Acts 9:15 Go, for Paul is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. 16 For I will **show him how many things he must suffer** for My name's sake." C.f. 2 Cor 11:23-28 for Paul's suffering

Those who live for Jesus *will be* persecuted

2 Timothy 3:12 ...and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

Psalms 34:19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous But the Lord delivers him out of them all.

Luke 21:16 You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; and they **will put some of you to death.** 17 And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. 18 **But not a hair of your head shall be lost.** 19 By your patience possess your souls.

Be patient Jeremiah. In your patience you possess your soul
I will bring catastrophe on Anathoth for trying to shut you up

Romans 12:19 [Don't jump the gun] Beloved, **do not avenge yourselves**, but rather **give place to wrath**; for it is written, "**Vengeance is Mine, I will repay**," says the Lord.

2 Thessalonians 1:4b [We rejoice in] **...your patience and faith in all your persecutions** and tribulations that you endure, 5 which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, **for which you also suffer**; 6 since it is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, 7 and to **give you who are troubled rest** with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, 8 in flaming fire **taking vengeance** on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power...

Jeremiah 1:5 **Before I formed you** in the womb I knew you; **Before you were born** I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."

Press on. Press in. Press through the Promised Personal Persecution
God will deal with your enemies. Finish what God started/Do you were born to do.

Jeremiah 12

Jesus

I will bring catastrophe on the men of Anathoth

I. Jeremiah's Question

1 Righteous are You, O LORD, when I plead with You; Yet let me talk with You about Your judgments.

- The LORD had answered Jeremiah quickly ending Ch. 11
- Jeremiah wants to fully utilize the open line of communication

I want to ask You about Your judgments
Heb. *mišpāt* i.e. How You make decisions...

1b ... Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why are those happy who deal so treacherously? 2 You have planted them, yes, they have taken root; They grow, yes, they bear fruit. You are near in their mouth But far from their mind.

- Josiah now dead/Jehoahaz his 4th and youngest son in power/Evil

Why do you allow the wicked to prosper?
Not Challenging or Questioning God's love... Just Asking

Careful about asking God why? Why equals weakness.
Why equals weakness. **What**...equals go time

3 But You, **O LORD, know me; You have seen me, And You have tested my heart** toward You.

- You know me/You have seen me/You have tested me

Has God Tested You? Examined/Proved your Faith?

Psalm 17:3 You have tested my heart; You have visited me in the night; You have tried me and have found nothing; I have purposed that my mouth shall not transgress.

3b ...Pull them out like sheep for the slaughter, And prepare them for the day of slaughter. 4 How long will the land mourn, And the herbs of every field wither? The beasts and birds are consumed, For the wickedness of those who dwell there, Because they said, "He will not see our final end."

The LORD will not see our final end? Really?
This godless Attitude was Effecting/Infection even the Land

Jeremiah: Pull them out like Sheep for the Slaughter...

Psalm 139:21 [David] Do I not hate them, O Lord, who hate You? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You? 22 I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies. 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'm So Tired LORD...

II. The LORD's Answer

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?

Why does the way of the Wicked Prosper?

A. We haven't even started My boy!

Gird up your Loins/Magnify Me/Get moving

Romans 13:12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.

Trials don't make us ready they simply reveal *if we were ready*. Daniel did not get ready when he arrived in Babylon but *became ready* when he was in Jerusalem. IOWs God trains us today for the tomorrow He already sees. [NJC]

Blessed be the LORD my Rock! He trains my hands for War and my fingers for Battle [Psalm 144]
We know we're getting soft when we start complaining about everything. Soft is weak

If Jeremiah found it difficult in Anathoth, how would he fare in Jerusalem? Later on, Jeremiah would have to spend a night in the stocks, confinement in a cistern, and imprisonment in the court of the guard. "The troubles he was having in Anathoth were nothing compared to the troubles he would have later in Jerusalem, Babylon, or Egypt." [Ryken]

When things are easy it is time rev it up. Training for today should have happened yesterday. Training for tomorrow takes place today, but are we taking advantage of it? God knows what is around every corner and how to prepare us for it! [NJC] ...

Gird up your Loins/Magnify Me and Ge Moving...

6 For **even your brothers**, the house of your father, Even they have dealt treacherously with you; Yes, they have called a multitude after you. Do not believe them, **Even though they speak smooth words to you.**

Jeremiah 9:4 "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.

Your own brothers are betraying you as Judas calling a multitude. Honor killing?
God's warning through Jeremiah gets personal: Don't be deceived by a kiss

Luke 14:26 If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. 27 And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.

Even your brothers will betray you
Okay. What do I get for pressing on?

- By very definition **The LORD** does not have to answer that question but He does

Matthew 19:27 [Peter] "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?" 28 So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the

Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. 29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life.

God Speaks to Jeremiah's Q. re. the Wicked
If I deal with the wicked now...Your family will perish now

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.

7 "I have forsaken My house, **I have left My heritage**; I have given the **dearly beloved of My soul** into the hand of her enemies.

Mark 10:20 And he answered and said to Him, "Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth." 21 Then Jesus, **looking at him, loved him**, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me." 22 But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

Jesus looked at him/Loved Him/Said goodbye to him/Both went away sad
I have given the dearly beloved of My soul into the hand of her enemies

8 My heritage is to Me like a lion in the forest; It cries out against Me; Therefore **I have hated it.**

- **Judah was to be** God's Lion [Gen 49:9 Jacob]
- **Judah now is** a Lion roaring against God. Not who they were meant to be...

9 My heritage is to Me like a **speckled vulture**; The vultures all around are against her.

Judah has become a strange looking bird ready to be attacked

9b... Come, assemble all the beasts of the field, Bring them to devour!

- **Beasts of the Field:** Babylonian Army/Commanders...

10 "Many rulers have destroyed **My vineyard**, They have trodden **My portion** underfoot; They have made **My pleasant portion** a desolate wilderness. 11 They have made it desolate; Desolate, it mourns to Me; The whole land is made desolate, Because **no one takes it to heart.**

The Land will Mourn for lack of Caretakers

12 The plunderers have come On all the desolate heights in the wilderness, For the sword of the LORD shall devour From one end of the land to the other end of the land; **No flesh shall have peace.** 13 They have sown wheat but **reaped thorns**; They have **put themselves to pain** but do not profit. But be ashamed of your harvest Because of the fierce anger of the LORD."

The LORD left His Heritage/His Inheritance
Jeremiah Hurts. God Hurts. Sin Hurts

14 Thus says the LORD: "Against all My evil neighbors who **touch the inheritance** which I have caused My people Israel to inherit—behold, I will **pluck them out of their land and pluck out the house of Judah from among them.**

To My evil neighbors: Nations God used to punish/take away His people
I will bring My people back to Israel from you land

15 Then it shall be, after I have plucked them out, that **I will return and have compassion on them and bring them back**, everyone to **his heritage** and everyone to **his land.**

After I bring My people back to My land then I will return
When I return I will call all other Nations to Myself

16 And it shall be, if they [pagan nations of the Millennial Kingdom] will **learn carefully the ways of My people**, to **swear by My name, 'As the LORD lives,'** as they taught My people to swear by Baal, then **they shall be established in the midst of My people.**

- **Learn** the ways of My people
- **Swear** that I Am the Living God
- **Denounce** dead gods used to deceive My people

Then you shall be established in the midst of My people
IOWs To the Heathen Nations: Assimilate, Then you will become My people

17 But if they do not obey, I will utterly pluck up and destroy that nation," says the LORD.