

Jeremiah 15 Non-Negotiable

Jesus

Jeremiah 14:19 Have You utterly rejected Judah?

I. Non-Negotiable

1 Then the LORD said to me, "Even if **Moses and Samuel** stood before Me, My mind would **not be favorable** toward this people.

Moses/Samuel: Known as Interceders/Having the Ear of God
Even if these men asked Me to relent I would not

- This no longer has to do with praying in faith. It's done. God speaks...

1b ...Cast them out of My sight, and let them go forth. 2 And it shall be, if they say to you, '**Where should we go?**'

Where will we go since God casts us away?

2b ...then you shall tell them, 'Thus says the LORD: "Such as are **for death, to death**; And such as are for the **sword, to the sword**; And such as are for the **famine, to the famine**; And such as are for the **captivity, to the captivity**.'" ' 3 "And I will appoint over them four forms of destruction," says the LORD: "the **sword** to slay, the **dogs** to drag, the **birds** of the heavens and the **beasts** of the earth **to devour and destroy**."

Frozen in State. Die is Cast
Bound for the Destination they Bought/Paid for

Romans 6:23 For the **wages of sin is death...**

- **4 Appointed Destinations for Judah:** Death/Sword/Famine/Captivity
- **4 Desecrations of bodies by Babylon:** Sword to Slay/Dogs to Drag/Birds to Devour/Beasts to Destroy

4 I will hand them over to trouble, to all kingdoms of the earth, **because of Manasseh** the son of Hezekiah, king of Judah, for **what he did in Jerusalem**.

60 yrs. earlier King Manasseh *sealed the deal* for God to Judge
Embodiment of Judah's wickedness. Most Evil King

- Son of Hezekiah a good King
- Installed as King at 12 for 55 yrs [longest reign in Judah]
- Seduced Judah to more evil than pagan nations
- Astrology and Occultic Practices
- Human Sacrifice/Killed his own people. C.f. 2 Kings 21:16

Josiah his grandson attempted to undo
All Manasseh had done to Jerusalem...

2 Kings 23:12 The altars that were on the roof, the upper chamber of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the **altars which Manasseh had made in the two courts** of the house of the LORD, the king **[Josiah] broke down and pulverized** there, and threw their dust into the Brook Kidron ...**26** Nevertheless the LORD did not turn from the fierceness of His great wrath, with which **His anger was aroused against Judah**, because of all the provocations with which Manasseh had provoked Him.

- Manasseh: Carried away by the Assyrians [yes] w/hooks to Babylon
- Manasseh: Restored to the throne of Judah after humbling himself

2 Chronicles 33:12 Now **when he was in affliction**, he implored **the LORD his God**, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers, 13 and prayed to Him; and **He received his entreaty**, heard his supplication, and brought him back to Jerusalem into his kingdom. **Then Manasseh knew that the LORD was God.**

During national judgment individual Forgiveness/Salvation is still available to those who can still humble themselves, yet being forgiven does not fix all we broke by our sin. So? So don't do it in the first place. [NJC]

IOWs What Manasseh did could not be undone
It was too late for Judah. God had cast them away

Because of Manasseh God said...
God will hand Judah over to trouble/To all kingdoms of the earth

Clarke writing in 1830 before Israel was restored as a Nation: The Jews are scattered through every nation, and yet are not a nation; nor do they form even a colony on any part of the face of the earth. Behold the truth and the justice of God!

5 "For **who will have pity on you**, O Jerusalem? Or who will **bemoan you**? Or who will turn aside to **ask how you are doing**? 6 You have forsaken Me," says the LORD, "You have **gone backward**. Therefore I will stretch out My hand against you and destroy you; **I am weary of relenting!**

If I don't have pity on you...who will?
Relenting is over/Scattering begins

7 And I will **winnow** [fan] **them** with a winnowing fan in the gates of the land; I will bereave them of children; I will destroy My people, Since they do not return from their ways. 8 Their widows will be **increased to Me** more than the sand of the seas; I will bring against them, Against the mother of the young men, A plunderer at noonday; I will cause anguish and terror to fall on them suddenly. 9 "She languishes who has borne seven; She has breathed her last; **Her sun has gone down While it was yet day**; She has been ashamed and confounded. And the remnant of them I will deliver to the sword Before their enemies," says the LORD.

God desired to Gather. Now He must Scatter

Seven children once considered a blessing now a become a curse as seven born will be seven dead before their time. The scene depicts a childless widow languishing, ashamed and confounded. Why has her sun gone down before its time? [NJC]

II. Lonely

10 **Woe is me, my mother**, That you have borne me, A man of strife and a man of contention to the whole earth! I have neither lent for interest, Nor have men lent to me for interest. Every one of them curses me.

I Am a Man Causing Strife/Contention to the Whole Earth

All who desire to live Godly will suffer persecution
Suppressing truth to avoid conflict is cowardly. Stand for Truth

[Everyone curses me?] This is the world's wages to godly ministers ...But God be thanked, saith he with Jerome, that I am worthy whom the world should hate. [Trapp]

God's Word brings strife/contention from sinners
What else would we expect? Jeremiah feels alone...

11 The LORD said: "Surely **it will be well with your remnant**; Surely I will cause the enemy to intercede with you In the time of adversity and in the time of affliction.

IOWs I will cause Nebuchadnezzar to treat you well

Jeremiah 39:11 Now Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon gave charge concerning Jeremiah to Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard, saying, 12 "**Take him and look after him, and do him no harm**; but do to him just as he says to you."

12 Can anyone break iron, The northern iron and the bronze? 13 **Your wealth and your treasures I will give as plunder without price**, Because of all your sins, Throughout your territories. 14 And I will make you cross over with your enemies Into a land which you do not know; For a fire is kindled in My anger, Which shall burn upon you."

- **The LORD to the people:** You will not win if you fight

The finest quality iron ore in the 7th century BC came from the Black Sea region. Clearly the armaments of Judah would be insufficient to repel the Babylonian armies. [Harrison]

Nebuchadnezzar will take You/Your Family/Your wealth
You will have a 540 Mile walk through the Desert to Babylon

- Jeremiah Speaks...

15 O LORD, You know; **Remember me and visit me**, And take vengeance for me on my persecutors. In Your enduring patience, do not take me away. Know that **for Your sake I have suffered rebuke**.

Remember Me. Visit Me. Loneliness

Acts 23:10 Now when there arose a great dissension, the commander, fearing lest Paul might be **pulled to pieces by them**, commanded the soldiers to go down and take him by force from among them, and bring him into the barracks 11 But the following night **the LORD stood by him and said, "Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome."**

Jeremiah: I am suffering for Your sake. Can we say the same?
IOWs Is my suffering due to my sin or God's Truth/His Word...

1 Peter 4:19 ...let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

16 Your **words were found, and I ate them**, And Your word was to me the **joy and rejoicing of my heart**; For I am called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts. 17 I did not sit in the assembly of the mockers, Nor did I rejoice; I sat alone because of Your hand, For **You have filled me with indignation**. 18 Why is my pain perpetual And **my wound incurable**, Which **refuses to be healed?** Will You surely be to me like an **unreliable stream, As waters that fail?**

I found Your Word/I Ingested Your Words. I Rejoiced in Your Word
Yet Your Word has caused Separation/Loneliness?

- Don't be dismayed at their faces?
 - Jeremiah Unloads on God w/why's
1. **Why am I** filled with Indignation: Anger/Rage toward their sin/my plight?
 2. **Why am I** in Perpetual Pain/Bearing seemingly incurable/endsless wound

Wrong Q. Has the Fountain of Living Water now dried up?
Right Q. Are we ready to stand alone for the sake of the Word of God

Psalms 69:7 [Of David/Jesus/All who desire to live godly] Because for Your sake **I have borne reproach**; Shame has covered my face. 8 I have become a stranger to my brothers, And an alien to my mother's children; 9 Because **zeal for Your house has eaten me up**, And the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me.

Is the unfailing One now failing me?

III. Grip of the Terrible Self-Pity

19 Therefore thus says the LORD: "If you return, Then I will bring you back; You shall stand before Me; **If you take out the precious from the vile, You shall be as My mouth**. Let them return to you, But you must not return to them.

Revelation 2:4 [Ephesus: You have done many things well] Nevertheless I have this against you, that **you have left your first love**. 5 **Remember** therefore from where you have fallen; **repent** and **do** the first works...

- Have we left our first love?
- IOWs have we lost sight of the beauty of the LORD? Three steps.
 1. **Remember:** I am Good
 2. **Repent:** Your false view of My character
 3. **Re-do** what we did when we started

Get back to Removing the Precious from the Vile from yourself/others
Then you may continue the privilege of speaking My Word

In Jeremiah's heart there were unworthy thoughts of God, and these had found expression in his utterances. Let him purge his heart of such alloy [take out the precious from the vile], and devote himself only to the true gold of truth concerning God. [Morgan]

Let them return to you but not you to them
IOWs don't change the message due to persecution but hit it 100X harder

Don't stop speaking truth
Don't Concede/Compromise/Move/Wince. Let them come to you

20 And **I will make you** to this people a **fortified bronze wall**; And they will fight against you, But they shall not prevail against you; For **I am with you** to save you And **deliver you**," says the LORD. 21 "I will **deliver you** from the hand of the wicked, And **I will redeem you** from the **grip of the terrible.**"

Remember/Repent/Re-Do

Jeremiah 1:4 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: 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." 6 Then said I: "Ah, LORD God! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth." 7 But the LORD said to me: "**Do not say, 'I am a youth,'** For you shall go to all to whom I send you ...**9** Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me: "Behold, **I have put My words in your mouth ...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."**

This is Terrible! Self-pity is Terrible
I will redeem you from the Grip of the Terrible

Jeremiah 16

Jesus

I. Jeremiah's Life Message

1 The word of the LORD also came to me, saying, 2 "**You shall not take a wife, nor shall you have sons or daughters in this place.**"

No wife/family in this place

Unusual and thus a Curiosity to Judah

3 For thus says the LORD concerning the sons and daughters who are born in this place, and concerning their mothers who bore them and their fathers who begot them in this land: 4 **"They shall die gruesome deaths; they shall not be lamented nor shall they be buried, but they shall be like refuse on the face of the earth. They shall be consumed by the sword and by famine, and their corpses shall be meat for the birds of heaven and for the beasts of the earth."**

- Manifold Grace/Wisdom/Work
- One situation for multiple purposes: Why no family
 1. Get the people's attention
 2. Families at this time will die gruesome deaths as in Tribulation

Luke 21:23 ...woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! For there will be great distress in those days and wrath upon this people.

- **Q.** Why are you celibate? **A.** It will not be well for families soon
- Paul saw persecution coming/Encouraged singleness...1 Cor 7:25-27

Generally Scripture Promotes Marriage/Children

- **Genesis 2:18-24:** It is not good for the man to be alone/Become one flesh
- **Proverbs 18:22:** He who finds a wife finds what is good and receives favor from the LORD
- **Ecclesiastes 4:9-12:** Two are better than one/A cord of three strands is not quickly broken
- **Ephesians 5:25, 31-32:** Husbands love wives as Christ loved the church
- **Psalms 127:4:** Happy the man with quiver full of children/Standing in the gate
- **Psalms 128:3:** Wife will be like a fruitful vine/Children like olive shoots around your table

Prophets Personal Lives used as Signs to the people

- **Hosea:** Take an unfaithful wife
- **Ezekiel:** Your wife will die
- **Isaiah:** Children's names will have prophetic significance
- **Jeremiah:** No Wife/No children: Sign? Its going to be bad...

5 For thus says the LORD: **"Do not enter the house of mourning, nor go to lament or bemoan them; for I have taken away My peace from this people,"** says the LORD, **"lovingkindness and mercies."**

As a Prophet you Represent Me/My Unchanging Word

- **I took** My Peace/My Loving-kindness/My Mercy from this People
- **Don't you give** the impression that I made a mistake

6 Both the great and the small shall die in this land. They shall not be buried; neither shall men lament for them, cut themselves, nor make themselves bald for them. 7 Nor shall men break bread in mourning for them, to comfort them for the dead; nor shall men give them the cup of consolation to drink for their

father or their mother. 8 Also you shall not go into the house of feasting to sit with them, to eat and drink.”

No Mourning/No Feasting

What this meant to a heart as exquisitely tender as Jeremiah’s can only be imagined. In the tight-knit community of Judah it was tantamount to a self-imposed excommunication. [Cundall]

9 For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: “Behold, I will cause to cease from this place, before your eyes and in your days, the **voice of mirth** and the **voice of gladness**, the **voice of the bridegroom** and the **voice of the bride**.”

The Author of joy will cause Joy to cease; a sure sign the judgment of God has arrived. [NJC]

Revelation 18:23 The **light of a lamp shall not shine** in you anymore, and the **voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard** in you anymore.

10 “And it shall be, when you show this people **all these words**, and they say to you, ‘**Why has the LORD** pronounced all this great disaster against us? Or **what is our iniquity?** Or **what is our sin** that we have committed against the LORD our God?’

When they notice you having No Family. No Emotion.
They will ask what’s wrong...

11 then you shall say to them, ‘Because your fathers have forsaken Me,’ says the LORD; ‘they have walked after other gods and have served them and worshiped them, and have forsaken Me and not kept My law. 12 And **you have done worse than your fathers**, for behold, each one follows the dictates of his own evil heart, so that no one listens to Me. 13 Therefore I will cast you out of this land into a land that you do not know, neither you nor your fathers; and there you shall serve other gods day and night, where I will not show you favor.’

You always follow the dictates of your own evil heart
You always do what is right in your own eyes...Yet we have a King

Judges 17:6 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was **right in his own eyes**.

Proverbs 12:15 The way of a fool is **right in his own eyes** But he who heeds counsel is wise.

Proverbs 21:2 Every way of a man is **right in his own eyes**, But the LORD weighs the hearts.

II. God Will Restore Israel

14 "Therefore behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "that it shall no more be said, 'The LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,' 15 but, '**The LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north and from all the lands where He had driven them.**' For I will bring them back into their land which I gave to their fathers.

First Exodus: Egypt to the Promised Land
Coming Exodus: Nations to the Promised Land

16 "Behold, I will send for **many fishermen**," says the LORD, "and **they shall fish them**; and afterward I will send for many **hunters**, and they shall **hunt them** from every mountain and every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks. 17 For My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from My face, nor is their iniquity hidden from My eyes.

Fisherman/Hunters: Drawing God's people to Himself/His Land
Before Restoration *He must Deal w/Their Sin*

18 And first I will **repay double** for their iniquity and their sin, because they have defiled My land; they have filled My inheritance with the carcasses of their detestable and abominable idols."

First Phase of Restoration: Judgement
God will Judge Israel during the affliction of the Tribulation

19 **O LORD, my strength and my fortress, My refuge in the day of affliction...**

First Phase of Restoration: Judgement
Second Phase of Restoration: Repentance/Forgiveness

19b The Gentiles shall come to You From the ends of the earth and say, "Surely our fathers have inherited lies, Worthlessness and unprofitable things." 20 Will a man make gods for himself, Which are not gods? 21 "Therefore behold, I will this once **cause them to know**, I will cause them to know **My hand** and **My might**; And they shall know that **My name is the LORD.**

Gentiles will forsake their idols for the God of Israel

1 Thessalonians 1:9 ...you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

All the Earth Bowing before the King.

Knowing His Hand/His Might/His Name

Psalm 83:18 ...whose name alone is the LORD ...Most High over all the earth.

Amos 5:8 He made the Pleiades and Orion; He turns the shadow of death into morning And makes the day dark as night; He calls for the waters of the sea And pours them out on the face of the earth; **The LORD is His name.**

Doing what is Right in the LORD's eyes
Serving the King of Kings whose Name is the LORD and of whom there is One