



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sermon Series: Dark Prophet Part 4

Sermon Title: The Crucible

Speaker/ Date: Armin Sommer/ February 10, 2019

Jeremiah 7-10

Josiah dies young at the age of 39. When we get to Jeremiah 7, his son Jehoiakim has taken over. Jehoiakim reestablishes the worship of demon-gods once again and it overwhelms the land. Not only are they worshipping idols again, but they have resumed the detestable practice of infanticide to appease Molech, the infanticide demon.

Big idea: When we refuse to turn back we leave God no choice but to place us into the crucible.

God says, “You’ve left me no alternative.” God turns up the heat. Not to destroy, but to purify (**Jeremiah 7:32–34**). Before we go any further, we need to identify the sources of suffering.

Source 1. Life on a fallen planet **Genesis 1:26**

We can largely trace disease and environmental mayhem to the Fall of Gen 3.

Source 2. Our Own Sins **Galatians 6:7**

Personal decisions have consequences.

3. The Sins of Others

God allows evil to operate in our world. One person’s actions will have a ripple effect on others.

4. An application of the Lord’s discipline. **Hebrews 12:6b**

God disciplines those He loves. When God is trying to get our attention and we refuse to turn, we may leave Him with no choice but to purify us in the crucible.

If that’s the case...**Big idea:** Turn back, or face the crucible.

Reason 1. My Rebellion Matters to God.

Jeremiah 8:4–6

For generations God was patient and withheld his hand of discipline. When Josiah there were hopeful signs. But it was short-lived. They went back to their old ways. Judah figured they could worship God and other gods, too.

Even worse, the shepherds / pastors downplayed their idolatry saying, “It really doesn’t matter. Don’t be ashamed of your sins.” **Jeremiah 8:11–12**

God doesn’t relinquish “ownership” of His people. They’re still His, but He will purify them. **Jeremiah 9:7**

Reason 2. The path I take affects the people I love.

God’s cry is a one of lamentation for His people. Like when Jesus wept over Jerusalem. **Matthew 23:37–38**

The worship of Baal & Molech can be traced back to Solomon when he began to import pagan deities to please his pagan wives. And this has been passed down from generation to generation. **Jeremiah 9:13–14**

The path you choose affects the people you love. Understand the gravity of your example. **Proverbs 22:6**

Reason 3. My Rebellion Tests God’s Patience

God’s patience is limited. Don’t provoke God. **Jeremiah 10:17–18** God says, “That’s it! Into the crucible you go. Not because I hate you, but because I love you,” says the LORD. God is not impulsive in His judgment. Time and again God implores the people to turn back. Even with people not His own.

In Genesis 15 God tells Abraham that he will give the Amorite nation generations before sending the Israelites into the land to judge them. The Amorites were descendants of Canaan, one of the sons of Noah. They were known as fierce warriors during their prime. Moses referred to Og, the king of the Amorites, as a giant, whose bed was 13 ½ ft long (**Deut 3:11**). The Amorites were destroyed. Why? Because of their worship of false gods. Israel’s conquest of their land was, in part, God’s judgment on the Amorites.

God waited 400 years to judge the Amorites for their idolatry. God also waited 400 years from the time Solomon first imported foreign gods (**1 Kings 11**) to the destruction of Jerusalem under the Babylonians.

It is because of His love that He provides the crucible. When peoples and nations refuse to turn, the crucible becomes inevitable. Realize also that the crucible is a refiner’s fire, not the lake of fire.

Discussion Questions:

- What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?
- Are you living with a sin or unhealthy habit? What steps are you taking to ensure that it is not passed onto your children?
- Has God ever placed you in the crucible? What was the final outcome?
- Is God being patient with you or someone close to you right now? Explain
- Is God always responsible for suffering?
- What are your thoughts about a parent who chooses to not discipline their child for continued disobedience? Is the greater act of love to discipline the child for disobedience or ignore the disobedience? Explain
- Some godly parents have done everything right, and their kids still go wrong. What encouragement could you offer godly parents who have rebellious children? Are the parents always to blame? What age should the children be when the parents are no longer responsible for the actions and decisions of those children?
- Read Jeremiah 7:21-34. Does this example speak of God being patient and loving or angry and vengeful? Explain