

“RUIN, REDEMPTION, AND RESTORATION”

Studies in the Book of Jeremiah

Jeremiah 8:1-28, Psalms 46:1, Psalms 91:1-2

“TRADING A PLACE OF REFUGE FOR A PLACE OF REFUSE”

11/09/2025

I. INTRODUCTION - The psalmists in Psalms 46 and Psalms 91 recognized the awesomeness of God as their refuge. That word refuge comes from the Hebrew word meaning shelter or hope. It can mean a place of refuge, shelter or trust.

How did Judah get to this point? I would like to suggest from Jeremiah 8 that Judah followed a downhill slope to get to this point. First: God’s **response** (vss. 1-3). Second: They **refused** God: (vss. 4-7). Third: They **rejected** God: (vss. 8-12). Fourth: They received God’s **retribution** (vss. 13-22).

II. God’s Response (Jeremiah 8: 1-3)

A) What did Judah do to cause the response that God gave? This list is not exhaustive. 1. They refused to obey God! 2. They refused to execute judgment (Jeremiah 5:1)! 3. They lied about the Lord! (vs. 12) 4. They did not fear the Lord (vs. 22) 5. They were wicked (vs.26). 6. They did not plea the cause fatherless, defend the rights of the needy (vs. 28).

B) What was God’s response? (Jeremiah 7:32 – 8:1) - He will send the Babylonians from the north to destroy them! He will turn Judah into a place of refuse, a garbage dump! A hell on earth! (Jeremiah 7:33 – 8:3).

C) Again, what was God’s response? (vss. 2-3) - Judah’s bones will be spread out before the sun, moon and all of the different gods that they worshipped. When you de-prioritize God and put other priorities in front of Him, you have chosen a garbage dump spirituality!) You have traded a place of refuge for a place of refuse!

III. They Refused God (vss. 4–7)

A) They refused to return to God – Their refusal did not make any sense.

B) Most people try to move forward, but Judah was in a state of perpetual backsliding. They refused to return to God! (vs. 5)

C) Deceitfulness was their way of life (vss 5b-7). They refused to think and speak the truth! God listened and heard. God hears and knows everything. He heard what they spoke and they did not speak right.

IV. They Rejected God (vss. 8-12)

A) The difference between refusing and rejecting - A Google search of the words refusing to do something and rejecting something would find there is a difference between the two words. A refusal would be defined as "To decline an offer, request, or action. It can be a simple "no" or a firm decision not to do something."

B) They were proud that they had the scriptures but rejected God's word!

C) The results of their rejecting God and His Word (vss. 10-12) - They thought they were wise, but they rejected God's Word (vs. 9).

V. They Received God's Retribution and Judgement (vss. 13-20)

A) Oftentimes in the Book of Jeremiah it is important to understand who is speaking to help unlock the context of the scriptures and to better understand it. As God announces his retribution or judgement, we hear three different voices speaking. The voice of God's judgment, the voice of a desperate despaired people and the angered and sorrowful voice of Jeremiah as he realized the destruction of his people. Let's listen to what each voice have to say.

B) The voice of God's judgement (vss. 13, 17 and 19b) – God is a righteous judge (Psalms 7:11 and Psalms 9:8).

C) The voice of desperate and despaired people (vss. 14-16). They fled to the fortified cities (vs. 14). God gave them poison to drink because of their sin (vs. 14). They lost their peace and their health. (vs. 15).

D) The angered and sorrowful voice of Jeremiah (vss. 18-19a, and 20-22) – He feels the pain of his people (vss. 18-19). He mourns because his people are not saved and not healed (vss.20-22).

Do not trade your place of refuge for a place of refuse! God demands our obedience! "If you love me keep my commandments". (John 14:15)

Praises Be to God (PBTG)

Pastor James W. Walker