

“RUIN, REBELLION, AND REDEMPTION”  
STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH  
Jeremiah 17:1-27

**“HOW TO RECOVER FROM A SPIRITUAL HEART ATTACK”**

**INTRODUCTION:** In a world that is full of people that cannot be trusted, many people decide to trust their own heart. That decision has often proven to be disastrous in many cases, and even believers have been misled by their own hearts. Why does it continue to happen? How does Scripture define our “hearts”- not referring to the physical organ that pumps blood throughout our bodies?

**BACKGROUND:** Jeremiah had been faithfully proclaiming God’s word while facing strong opposition and spiritual discouragement. We are in a similar culture today as we live in a nation that outwardly professes to believe in God, yet actions reveal our nation trusts in man-made idols rather than the true and living God.

**I. SIN IS ENGRAVED ON THE HUMAN HEART AND ONLY GOD CAN ERASE IT. (Jeremiah 17:1-10)**

- A. Judah’s sin was deeply ingrained in their hearts. The “altar” reference connects the people’s sins to their places of worship. Their children had been negatively influenced. Are your children being damaged by the sin in your heart? (Jeremiah 17:1-2)
- B. God warned the people of Judah that He was going to give their land and possessions to their enemies because their continued disobedience had provoked His holy anger, Are you in danger of losing possession of what God has for you because you won’t obey Him? (Jeremiah 17:3-4)
- C. Those who trust in their own abilities or only what other people can provide (like Judah wanting Egypt to protect them) bring a curse upon themselves. They will be like a shrub in the desert with no access to what is needed to survive. (Jeremiah 17: 5-6)
- D. The one who genuinely trusts will always have a source of nourishment, like a tree planted by the waters. (Psalm 1) The fruit of their relationship with the Lord will be evident. The human heart is incredibly deceptive! The Lord will search your heart and reveal to you what He already knows. ***DO YOU TRUST THE LORD, OR HAVE YOU DECEIVED YOURSELF INTO THINKING YOU TRUST HIM?*** (Jeremiah 17:7-10)

**II. YOUR HEART NEEDS A SANCTUARY IN ORDER TO FEEL SAFE AND SECURE. HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS HELP, BUT THE LORD HAS A BETTER ONE PREPARED FOR YOU. (Jeremiah 17:11-13)**

- A. The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. (1st Timothy 6:10) Like a bird sitting on the wrong nest, you will eventually be separated from dishonest gain. Working, saving, investing, and biblical stewardship are better options. (Jeremiah 17:11)
- B. Rather than trust in riches, train your heart to run to the sanctuary of God, prepared for you before you were ever born. There is welcome there and lessons that can never be learned anywhere else. (Jeremiah 17:12-13) (Psalm 73)

**III. CRY OUT TO THE LORD WHEN YOU NEED SPIRITUAL HEART SURGERY. HE IS THE GOD WHO HEALS. (Jeremiah 17:14-18)**

- A. True healing and deliverance comes to the one who learns to praise the Lord no matter what is happening at the moment. Jeremiah was being mocked because his prophecies had not yet come

to pass. Trust God to keep His promises at a time that brings Him glory, not when it makes sense to you! (Jeremiah 17:14-15)

B. Jeremiah learned how to cry out to the Lord in **private** when his heart was overwhelmed from the relentless attacks and pressures he faced. Those conversations with the Lord empowered him to speak boldly and serve well in **public!** (Jeremiah 17:16-18)

#### **IV. OUR HEARTS ARE ALWAYS AT WORK, SO WE MUST LEARN TO GET THE REST WE NEED. OUR SPIRITUAL HEARTS CAN REST WHEN WE UNDERSTAND THE REAL MEANING OF “SABBATH.” (Jeremiah 17:19-27)**

A. Jeremiah was commanded to stand at a main entrance to the city and remind the people they were violating God’s command to honor the Sabbath day by putting money ahead of obedience. The people of Judah, like most Americans today, would rather have more money than more of God’s blessing in their lives. (Jeremiah 17:19-24) Working on the Sabbath could bring deadly consequences! (Numbers 15:32-36)

B. Sabbath (Shabbat) means “rest,” and we first observed the Lord resting from His creative work because it was finished. He was not tired, but had accomplished His purpose in Creation. When man sinned, God went back to “work” in providing redemption for us. (John 5:15-18)

C. Israel was the only nation that was ever chastened by the Lord for Sabbath violations because they were the only nation that had a covenant relationship with Him. The Sabbath was a special sign of their covenant. (Exodus 31:13-18) It was their centuries of Sabbath violations and not allowing the land rest and restore its resources, that led to their 70 year captivity in Babylon.

D. There is a special connection between work and rest (Sabbath rest) that many people miss. It was never meant to be a burden like the Jewish religious people caused it to be. (Mark 2:27) Rather, it was a day of “reminder” of God’s purposes and provision for mankind. Christians should know that our rest comes from our relationship with Christ. We “labor” to enter into that rest, never working for salvation. Then, we co-labor with Him as He “works” on us, “works” in us, and “works” through us! (Hebrews 3-4)

E. Jeremiah told the people of Judah that if they obeyed His sabbath commands, Jerusalem would again become the place where everyone would see the obvious blessings of God. If they refused to obey, the city would be burned without remedy. Likewise, we should always be cognizant of the potential damage of continuing to disobey the Lord. (Jeremiah 17:25-27)

**ONE DAY IN THE NEAR FUTURE, WE WILL ENJOY AN ETERNAL KINGDOM THAT WILL REPRESENT GOD’S DESIRE FOR A PEOPLE TO LIVE IN SABBATH REST. OUR HEARTS WILL FINALLY BE AT PEACE, FULL OF THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST RATHER THAN FULL OF OUR OWN SELFISH DESIRES. MAKE SURE YOUR “WORK” IS FOCUSED ON THAT ETERNAL REST!**

***“Come unto me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from (of) me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. (Matthew 11: 28-29)***

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