

**RUIN, REDEMPTION, AND RESTORATION**  
**STUDIES IN THE PROPHECY OF JEREMIAH**  
Jeremiah 2:1-37

**“IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH GOD, OR COULD IT BE YOU?”**

**INTRODUCTION:** Virtually every adult has had the painful experience of having lost a relationship that was once special to them. Whether it was a dating relationship, a marriage that did not end well, or a parent that has felt the pain of a rebellious child, it is heartbreaking to feel the loss of true love. It is especially painful when you know YOU did nothing wrong and had not changed how you felt about the other party. No one has suffered more heartbreak than the LORD Himself, and He is the Perfect Lover that is often misunderstood.

**BACKGROUND:** Jeremiah, as all believers should be, was tasked with being the mouthpiece and representative of what God wanted to say to His people. Jeremiah saw a nation drifting from the Lord, and eventually abandoning the One that had done so much for the nation. The personal rejection and disappointment Jeremiah would feel from his ministry allowed him to be in touch with the wounded heart of God. Are you bringing joy to the heart of our Lord, or are you a source of pain?

**I. THE LORD REMEMBERS WHEN HE WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT LOVE OF OUR LIVES. WHO CHANGED, HIM OR YOU? (Jeremiah 2:1-8)**

- A. Just as parents remember when an infant adored them, trusted them, and obeyed them, the Lord reminded Israel of how she once followed Him as He led them from slavery to freedom. Do you ever stop to remember how you once felt about someone you loved? Do you remember how excited you were about loving and following the Lord? Keep pursuing the Lord! (Psalm 16:11) He is still perfect, and real satisfaction comes from staying close to Him. He has created you for Himself, and He kept Satan from destroying your life.
- B. Israel followed after vanity, and became vain. (Psalm 115:3-8) (2nd Kings 17:15) They ignored all of the blessings the Lord had given them. (Hosea 2:1-9; 14-16) Does that describe your current condition? Likewise, you will eventually become like whatever you choose to worship. Some will become like Christ, and others will become like useless idols. (2nd Corinthians 3:17-18)
- C. Those who were most responsible for teaching and shepherding the people of Israel (priests, scribes, civic leaders, and prophets), had failed them on every level. We have a similar epidemic in our nation today, as many ministries are known for *their* words rather than *God's* word. (Jeremiah 2:8)

**II. THE LORD HAS A FEW QUESTIONS AND CHARGES AGAINST HIS PEOPLE. ARE YOU GUILTY AS CHARGED? (Jeremiah 2:9-13)**

- A. The pagans and idolaters are more faithful to their false gods than many professing Christians are to the one true and living God. That is amazing! (Jeremiah 2:9)
- B. God's people had committed two evil actions; they had forsaken the Lord, the fountain of living (life giving) water, and chosen rather to have broken cisterns, which could not hold water. Why would anyone in need of water ignore cool clean flowing waters and drink polluted water from a filthy container? That is exactly what you are doing if you are ignoring what God has for you! **IDENTIFY YOUR BROKEN CISTERN AND STOP DEPENDING ON IT!**
- C. As the Jews brought water from the pool of Siloam to the temple to pour it on the altar, Jesus declared that anyone that came to Him to drink the water that God provides, would have living waters flowing from their innermost being. Does that describe your experience with the Lord? (John 4:10-14; 7:37-39)

**III. THE LORD HAS AN EMBARRASSING LIST OF NAMES AND METAPHORS FOR THOSE WHO CHOOSE SIN RATHER THAN THE SALVATION AND RELATIONSHIP HE OFFERS. IS YOUR BEHAVIOR INCLUDED IN THIS LIST? (Jeremiah 2:14-37)**

- A. Are you **a slave** to sin when you could be free in Christ? (Jeremiah 2:14-19) The term “backslide” is popular today, even though the term is not used in the N.T. It is the same as falling away from your first love or loving the world. (Revelation 2:4)
- B. Does the Lord compare your behavior to that of **a stubborn animal**? Hard to tame animals reject wearing a yoke, but the Lord’s yoke is easy and His burdens are light! (Matthew 11:28-30) (Jeremiah 2:20)
- C. Are you like the **degenerate vines** the Lord describes? He plants vines in good places and cares for them so they can be fruitful. (Isaiah 5:1-7) Where is the fruit of your walk with Christ? (Jeremiah 2:21)
- D. Are you allowing **the body** the Lord gave you to be **defiled**? King Josiah led a reform that temporarily changed behaviors, yet sadly hearts were not being changed. When your heart has been changed, your body will change its practices.
- E. The Lord said His people were acting like **animals in heat** during mating season, with easy to find “hook ups” with no ongoing commitment. Are you embarrassing yourself by the way you chase after others and other things to have your needs met? (Jeremiah 2:23-25)
- F. God’s people were stealing from Him, but they had been caught. Why would you live like **a thief**, trying to steal what is harmful for you, when Christ wants to give you what you really need? (Jeremiah 2:26-27)
- G. There are few things more discouraging to a parent than a rebellious child that will not change behavior no matter what kind of discipline is used. Do you really want the Lord to have to spank you as only He can? (Jeremiah 2:29-35)

**JEREMIAH ENDS THIS “SERMON” WITH A PICTURE OF THE PEOPLE BEING LED AWAY WITH HANDS IN THE AIR LIKE CRIMINALS BEING ARRESTED. THE WISE THING TO DO IS TO SURRENDER TO CHRIST, BECAUSE WHEN HE TAKES YOU CAPTIVE, YOU WILL ENJOY REAL FREEDOM FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YOUR LIFE.**

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