

“RUIN, REDEMPTION, AND RESTORATION”

Studies in the Book of Jeremiah

Jeremiah 5:1-6:30

“What Will You Do In the End?”

I. Judge with righteous judgement and seek the truth (Jeremiah 5:1-31)

- A. Pardon is offered if one person could be found in the city who executes judgement and seeks the truth. God demonstrates righteous judgement and He expects those in positions of leadership to follow His example (Psalm 119:30). Judgement involves discerning good and evil and the ability to make godly decisions. Biblical justice involves the proper use of power and wealth. From the poor to the great men no one executed judgment or sought the truth. The Lord was good to the people, yet they committed idolatry (Hosea 4:14).
- B. God has a pattern of severely punishing a group of people and leaving a remnant (Romans 9:27). The people of Jeremiah’s generation had fallen away from the Lord (Matthew 7:15). The metaphor of fire and wood is a dramatic way of saying God’s word will come to pass.
- C. The people of Jeremiah’s day forsook God and served foreign gods in their homeland, this resulted in serving foreigners in a foreign land. The state of spiritual deafness and blindness was predicted by Isaiah and is a recurring description of those who reject the Lord. The sea obeys the boundaries set by the Lord, but the rebellious people left the worship of the Lord. The people did not worship God who provided for their needs through the seasons of harvest. When they neglected their relationship with God their provision was affected. The leaders neglected the fatherless and the needy.

II. The Cost of Rejecting the Lord (Jeremiah 6:1-30)

- A. Verse 2-5 is a metaphor describing the siege of Jerusalem as a woman surrounded by shepherds. Verse 6-8 is a metaphor describing how wickedness gushes out of the city like water gushes out of a fountain. Verse 9 is a vine metaphor illustrating how the remnant that survives the invasion will be taken captive.
- B. When the authority of God’s word is compromised all manner of wickedness is accepted. The indictment on the people: everyone is given to covetousness, all the religious leaders dealt falsely, and they sinned with no shame.

- C. The people refused to walk in the good way and to listen to warnings. They did not heed God's words or His law. Jeremiah gives a call to lament the coming judgement. Verse 27-30 is the metaphor of an assayer (person who tests the purity of metals). Jeremiah will function as an assayer who tests the behavior and condition of the people. The refining process involved melting the metal to separate any impurities. The people were so corrupted that the metals were put through the fire in vain. They will be cast out like useless silver that remains impure after the refinement process.

“For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4)

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