

“RUIN, REDEMPTION, AND RESTORATION”

Studies in the Book of Jeremiah

Jeremiah 16:1-21

“When Today’s Consequence Becomes Tomorrow’s Testimony”

Introduction: The approaching new year brings excitement and the opportunity for a fresh start. Some people experienced the best mountain top experiences of their life in 2025 while others experienced their deepest valleys. Only God knows what 2026 holds but we can know that God does not waste our pain. He can turn your hardship even self-inflicted hardships into a future testimony.

I. The Sign of Apathy: Restriction on Marriage and Mourning (Jeremiah 16:1-9)

- A. Jeremiah was not allowed to start a family, and he was not allowed to enter the house of mourning (Hosea 1:2-8; Ezekiel 24:15-17; Matthew 24:19). Jeremiah’s singleness would serve as a sign of the judgment to come. Mourning was another significant activity in Jeremiah’s culture (Genesis 50:10). Their mourning practices were mixed with pagan rituals which is another indictment on the corruption in the land (Leviticus 19:28; Deuteronomy 14:1).
- B. God assures Jeremiah that this judgement will come to pass in his lifetime. Prophets did not always see the fulfillment of their messages because predictive prophecy can be near future, far future, or both.

II. The Cause, the Effect, and the Aftermath (Jeremiah 16:10-21)

- A. Why the disaster? The answer: your ancestors forsook God, they committed idolatry, and they did not keep God’s law. The present generation was guilty of following their own evil heart to the extreme that no one listened to God!
- B. The consequence of this behavior was exile (captivity) in a foreign land to serve other gods. God would turn the disaster into a new testimony. For years they testified how the Lord provided miraculous deliverance from Egyptian bondage. In the future the people would testify how the Lord provided miraculous deliverance from Babylonian captivity. Pharaoh was hard hearted and God displayed plaques of wrath. Cyrus, the king of Persia, willingly issued a decree and funded the return to Israel and the rebuilding of the temple.

- C. The ancient kingdom of Israel experienced ruin, but God had already planned redemption and restoration. This partially took place after the decree of Cyrus, but many of the Israelites remained scattered around the world. God is not done yet, if He said He would bring them all back, then He will bring them all back. I am convinced that this miraculous regathering and restoration of the earthly kingdom of Israel will take place during the thousand reign of Christ after the great Tribulation, I am convinced that Lord Jesus Christ will rule on the throne of David from a remodeled Jerusalem, the tribal allotments will be restored and every unconditional promise to Abraham will be fulfilled. What about believing Gentiles? We will have access to Christ as all the nations will be required to worship at Jerusalem (Zechariah 14:16-19).
- D. When God reveals His plan for the ages and reveals His amazing grace it influences praise and worship. Jeremiah was weak and weary, but he remembered that God was his strength. Jeremiah came under attack from the disobedient people and he remembered that God was his fortress. Jeremiah suffered affliction from persecution, and he remembered that God was his refuge. Jeremiah got a revelation of the aftermath of God's mighty work. God's dealings with Israel are part of His plan to motivate Gentile repentance. Praise God for the coming of Lord Jesus Christ who lived a sinless life and died for our sin so that we could be reconciled to God.

Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." (Revelation 21:5)

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