

“RUIN, REDEMPTION, AND RESTORATION”

Studies in the Book of Jeremiah

Jeremiah 3:1-4:4

“How to Make the Right Turn After you Left God”

Introduction: Have you ever been in a toxic relationship? What is a healthy relationship? God uses marriage as a metaphor to describe His relationship with His people.

I. God is always faithful. What about you? (Jeremiah 3:1-5)

- A. Marriage was created by God and regulated by the word of God (Genesis 2:23-25). God confronts the people using a lesser to greater argument based on laws regulating divorce and remarriage (Deuteronomy 24:1-42; Samuel 12:1-15). The references to fornication and adultery illustrate worshipping false gods. The graphic language is designed to evoke a strong emotional response.
- B. Why would a husband take back a wife who left him to become a prostitute? This is the seriousness of idolatry. What has become a priority in your life? How much time do you spend working or consuming entertainment? What addictions are controlling your life? What sin has become your master? Are you guilty of “worshipping around” on God?

II. Two Adulterous Sisters (Jeremiah 3:6-10)

- A. Josiah reigned in the aftermath of the captivity of the northern kingdom. The northern kingdom had an idolatrous false religion set up by King Jeroboam (1 Kings 12:25-33). Eventually, judgement came on the northern kingdom through Assyria, described as God issuing a certificate of divorce. God explains that the southern kingdom was not motivated by the judgement that came upon her sister. Instead, Judah went and lived like a prostitute (committed idolatry) instead of acting like a faithful, loyal, wife.
- B. Behavior modification can be imposed or legislated. Repentance is a response to the word of God. Heart transformation is a work of the Spirit in the life of a repentant person. The role of the church is faithful Gospel proclamation (Romans 10:14-15). Can you honestly say that you have turned to God with your whole heart?

III. Is God married to the backslider? (Jeremiah 3:11-4:4)

- A. Israel was constantly turning to false gods, and God is calling the people to return to Him. A relationship cannot be healed if a person does not

humble themselves and admit they are wrong. The people of the Northern Kingdom are called to return because they have a covenant with God. The prophetic promises in this passage are related to the future restoration of the remnant of Israel based on God's plan to implement a new covenant not based on the law of Moses.

- B. Verses 16-18 is a reference to the millennial kingdom era. During the millennial kingdom Jerusalem itself will be the Throne of the Lord as Christ Jesus will rule the world from Jerusalem. God also predicts the reunification of the 12 tribes.
- C. Verse 22-25. The people confess their sin in this prophetic prayer of confession. What would it look like if we truly examined our hearts and took the time to write out our sin and write out our confession in detail?
- D. Chapter 4:1-4 What would happen if the people returned? God said the people would not be moved. They would be able to make a truthful oath based on experience. They would have a witness to the nations. What are the action steps for Judah? They had to do some heart work/soul work. Their evil actions earned them fury but they had a chance to escape through repentance.

“For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? Now “If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?” (1 Peter 4:17–18, NKJV)

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