

Jeremiah 14-15 – 27 June 2024

“In The Midst Of Sin, Walk Worthy”

Introduction

*Jeremiah consistently warned Judah to submit to Babylon for judgment, therefore he was treated as a traitor

*1st Section (Chap 1-6) we saw the reasons for Judah’s fall & God’s challenge to accept His guidance

*2nd Section (Chap 7-10) we saw the Temple Sermon against dead religion

*3rd Section, started in Chap 11 as Yahweh declared how Judah had broken their covenant by following their own heart in pride

*In God’s grace that says, even in midst of a perverse nation, we can still live a prosperous & God-pleasing life!

*Chap 14-15 shows us the trouble sin brings into life, but in the end we’ll highlight the cures God gives

Let’s see 4 things sin condemns us to experience

#1 – Cycle of sin & disaster apart from God (Chap 14:1-12)

Read Chap 14:1-6

1. Sustained or multiple droughts would be life or death situation for agrarian societies
 - a. Tempts them to serve Baal the weather god
 - b. Many NT Jews were tempted to work in the Sabbath to make ends meet
 - c. Still today temptations to turn away in dire situations taking matters into our own hands
2. We'll see this drought was b/c of their sins
 - a. Not all trouble is b/c of us, but it can be
 - b. Notice their sin even affected wildlife & those around them – our sin affects others

Read Vs 7-9

1. God was distance to them b/c their sins have hid His face from them
 - a. God can't look on sin - must be confessed & forsaken

2. Like Star Trek's Capt Kirk waiting to spring into action aboard the Enterprise B in its trouble
 - a. God doesn't lack a strong hand able to help
 - b. God doesn't lack compassion to help
 - c. He helps those He's in fellowship with
3. Here Jeremiah role-models the faith that all Judah should have to come back into fellowship

Read Vs 10

1. Describes the repentant that God doesn't accept
 - a. Repentance only imagined or thought of
 - b. Repentance that another wants for you
 - c. Repentance that you plan to do in the future
2. Only actual & real repentance now is affective

Read Vs 11-12

1. God is not obligated to hear prayers from those in rebellion – those w/ knowledge choosing sin
2. Only one he's guaranteed to hear is repentance
3. There's limit to patience of God – come today

#2 – Confusion of sin by selfish influencers (Chap 14:13-22)

Read Chap 14:13

1. It's easy to preach peace and a “do-whatever-you-want” message – people love you
 - a. Read II Tim 4:2-4 – b/c of their lusts
2. So Jeremiah isn't only one telling the people that he speaks for God – many are doing this
 - a. What will happen to the false prophets?
 - b. What about the people that are listening?

Read Vs 14-15

1. So God speaks of false prophets thru time
 - a. In Present: They're speaking lies
 - b. Past: God didn't speak to or send them
 - c. Future: They'll die by the very lies they told
2. Why did they do this?
 - a. Allowed their own hearts to be deceived
 - b. Lusted after their own will, not God's will

Read Vs 16

1. They willingly received what they knew was lies
 - a. When you refuse truth, you'll believe anything
 - b. Word of God has the ring of truth to the human conscience & must willfully refuse it
2. When God allows punishment, it's deserved

Read Vs 17-18

1. The prophet & priest were living for the take rather than living for the give
 - a. The believer doesn't live for comfort, we live for truth whether it's comfortable or not
2. The reaction of God's people to the pending demise of a person or people is that of sadness
 - a. We're not happy or angry, but sad

Read Vs 19-20

1. Jeremiah sees this punishment as so bad; he wonders if this will be the very end of all Israel
2. No it's not. It's to get their agreement of what caused their trouble in the first place

Read Vs 21-22

1. Jeremiah appeals to God, not on the basis of the people's goodness, but for God's namesake
 - a. Appeal b/c He choose them & His reputation is on the line
 - b. Appeal b/c of His character/ability to save

#3 – Corruption of sin in turning us from God (Chap 15:1-9)

Read Chap 15:1

1. No amount of human intercession or intervention can save a rebellion heart
 - a. A heart needs to turn and ask for it
 - b. Problem here isn't Jeremiah's lack of faith
2. "Away from My presence"
 - a. The very picture of hell & eternal death
 - b. David prayed (Psm 51:11) cast me not away from thy presence

- c. Moses knew all they needed was God with them (Exo 33:14-17)
- d. In Your presence in fulness of joy (Psm 16:11)

Read Vs 2-4

1. So, vs 2, leaving God's presence there is only disease (death), war (sword), financial problems (famine) & bondage (captivity)
2. Vs 3 shows 4 ways a body would be desecrated after death & humiliated
3. Read about Manasseh's sins in II Kin 21:1-18
 - a. Read II Kin 21:16– idolatry & murder
 - b. Though he found personal forgiveness late in life, he affected many for evil and that was his legacy

Read Vs 5-9

1. They 'abandoned God', 'kept going backwards' and 'did not repent of their ways'
 - a. It's about your walk or direction of your life
 - b. May stumble into sin, but what direction are you facing & moving; toward God or your sin?

#4 – Confiscation of sin in robbing us of good (Chap 15:10-21)

Read Chap 15:10-11

1. What irony that Israel will hate Jeremiah for telling the truth, yet Babylon will treat him kindly
2. Literally fulfilled in Jer 39:11 by Nebo

Read Vs 12-14

1. Babylon got their iron swords from the Black Sea & Israel's army can't stand against that
2. Israel's wealth will be stolen back into Babylon

Read Vs 15-18

1. Jeremiah experienced all the emotions of this crisis of Babylon coming
 - a. God seemed like an on/off switch – wrong
 - b. But (Jer 2), God was really a living fountain
2. The inner Jeremiah, in his personal time
 - a. He didn't sit w/ the merrymakers playing Xbox til 2 in the morning
 - b. He consumed God's Word
 - c. He's had a heart transplant, he'll be saved

Read Vs 19-21

1. God has to correct him & call for his own repentance for leaning on his emotion in crisis
 - a. God called him to only speak the words most precious and not the words of depression
 - b. In vs 19, he's being called to lift up his people and not let them drag him down
2. If we stay strong in speaking God's Word in truth, then God will strengthen and deliver us!

Conclusion

We've seen condemnation of sin, but what of the cure?

1. **Cycle of sin & disaster apart from God**
 - a. Need true repentance
2. **Confusion of sin by selfish influencers**
 - a. Need to read God's Word
3. **Corruption of sin in turning us from God**
 - a. Need to turn & walk back to God now
4. **Confiscation of sin in robbing us of good**
 - a. Need to stay focused on what's true