

Jeremiah 9-10 – 6 June 2024

“The Temple Sermon Against Religion” Part 2 of 2

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

*Last week we began 2nd Section: The Temple Sermon (Chap 7-8) – Jeremiah goes to the gate of the Temple

*Jeremiah cries against their twisted religion

*Religion is simply man’s efforts to please God

Today we’ll see final 3 elements of dead religion in the 2nd half of Jeremiah’s Temple Sermon

*Just a recap of the 1st 3 elements from Chap 7-8

*Religion is external, not from the heart

*Religion adds layers, not purely what God wants

*Religion is hopeless, not answering the spirit

#4 – It's deadly, not life-giving (Chap 9:1-26)

Read Chap 9:1-2

1. Weeping Prophet weeps b/c of their wickedness

Read Vs 3-6

1. Important to remember that Judah wasn't tricked into sin, but it's willful
2. They used their tongue for lies & deceit instead of growing in their relationship with the Lord
 - a. The greatest cost to going your own way, is that you never come to know who God really is

Read Vs 7-11

1. Destruction from their own hypocrisy
 - a. Speaking peace yet murdering them in heart
2. Broke all the Law; didn't love God or others

Read Vs 12-16

1. All this was told to them 800 years earlier
2. Your homework is Lev 26
 - a. The *reasons*, the *timing*, the *scattering* & the *restoration* are all talked about there

- b. They are without excuse

Read Vs 17-22

1. There is a proper time to cry and mourn
 - a. Introspection is needed from time to time
2. Notice this is b/c they've 'forsaken the land'
 - a. This is prophesied as part of Lev 26
 - b. This is quoted in (Turn to) II Chr 36:19-21

Read Chap 9:23-24

1. You want to get excited about something? You want to promote something? Promote that you know the life-giving God of the Universe!
2. Pride in self needs destroyed; pride in God needs exalted
3. What do you see as great value in your life?

Read Vs 25-26

1. It's not about your *background or family*, it's not about your *religious knowledge* or lack of it
 - a. It's about the *condition of your heart*

#5 – It's incapable, not effective to provide (Chap 10:1-18)

Read Chap 10:1-3

1. The emphasis is to not follow after false religious practices of the world, emphasis isn't on the specific symbols that they're using
2. Don't allow false worship of astrology to dictate your life and direction
 - a. Don't need to look to stars for your answers, you can look to the very One who made those stars
3. We follow, in faith, the written Word of God
 - a. Evil & adulterous people that seeks a sign

Read Vs 3-5

1. The emphasis here is on the energy man expends yet the idol still has no power
 - a. They stand up the tree like a scarecrow, but there's no life or power
 - b. It can't speak or stand & needs carried
 - i. Have wrong God! B/c our God carries us

- c. Can't do evil or good—completely incapable
- 2. Some compare this to having a Christmas tree
 - a. 1st principle (Read Rom 14:22-23) There are issues of changing Christian practice that we each needs to draw answers from God's Word
 - b. 2nd principle – There are differences
 - i. Jeremiah's tree was an idol of worship, modern Christmas trees are not
 - ii. Jeremiah's time trees were their false gods, modern idols are cars, jobs, relationships & entertainment devices
- 3. If you leave here wondering if you can have a Christmas tree, you miss the point
 - a. Point? Beware of idols in our life preventing us from hearing God

Read Vs 6-10

- 1. It not just that they have a habit or custom that's not helpful; it's that they're teaching that these idols have power to change your life – but they don't

- a. In all the world, that power belongs to God
2. Vs 10 God is the God of truth
 - a. There is a meaningfulness to God that can't be found in your idols today

Read Vs 11-16

1. Our God is in control & actively able to provide all that we need
2. It's only the unbelievers that see the sea waves and heavenly signs & get scared
 - a. Read Luke 21:25 – They don't know what's coming
 - b. We trust our God & we're protected thru Him

Read Vs 17-18

1. To sling them out, as in a slingshot
2. Babylon again being seen as an instrument of God's judgement on Judah

#6 – It's a thief, not fulfilling (Chap 10:19-25)

Read Chap 10:19-20

1. Judah is pictured as a desperate nomad bereft of his family for support

Read Vs 21-22

1. 'Brutish' is wasted or burned away
 - a. Since their shepherds haven't sought the Lord, they have nothing to offer the people
 - b. Must receive from God, to affect others
2. If living for vain idols, you have vanity to offer
3. If living for Jesus, you have life to offer others

Read Vs 23

1. Read Prov 3:5-6 – We're helpless without the light of God's Word and truth

Read Vs 24-25

1. It's not wrong to expect God to judge those who refuse to know Him
2. What is not just is to ask God to be kind to us
 - a. Beyond just; it's simply mercy & grace

Conclusion

Still today, it's easy to fall into dead religion. What out for signs of it...

From 1st half of the Sermon

1. **It's external** – it needs to be in your heart
2. **It adds layers** – it can't be a *projection of my thoughts*, but it must be the *prescription of God's thoughts*
3. **It's hopeless** – it needs to benefit our spirit

Now from today, we can add..

4. **It's deadly** – If God is loving (& He is), He must put to death willful sin
5. **It's incapable** – it can't provide anything good into your life
6. **It a th ief** – it will leave you empty & destitute