

Jeremiah 7-8 – 30 May 2024

“The Temple Sermon Against Religion” Part 1 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

*Today we begin the 2nd Section with the Temple Sermon – Jeremiah goes to the gate of the Temple

*Jeremiah will cry against their twisted religion

*Religion is simply man’s efforts to please God

Today we’ll see the first 3 of 6 elements of dead religion in Jeremiah’s Temple Sermon

#1 – It's external, not internal (Chap 7:1-15)

Read Chap 7:1-4

1. How offensive! Standing in the Temple gate declaring that they need to change
 - a. This is actually love & grace in action
 - b. To do otherwise is unloving
2. Temple was their 'lucky rabbit's foot'
 - a. They falsely felt protected by past relationship w/ the Lord instead of present relationship
 - b. False peace & comfort needs shattered
 - i. ie jello story at death

Read Vs 5-7

1. This is the sum of the Law; don't oppress your neighbor and don't serve false gods
2. You're either concerned about upholding the glory & image of God or you're into yourself

Read Vs 8-11

1. Temple has become a place where they take for themselves instead of giving worship to God
 - a. Of course Jesus used this verse in His day

- b. When God is honored, do you see worship or waste?
2. This is religion at it's worse
 - a. This message is for those entering Temple; these people 'went to church every Sunday'
 - b. Doing the deeds & your heart is only for self
 - c. You think the outward deeds are your protection, but it's a heart submitted to God that protects (Read Pro 21:21)

Read Vs 12-15

1. What happened to Shiloh?
 - a. This refers to I Sam 4 when tabernacle was at Shiloh & Israel tried using the Ark as a good luck charm
 - b. Learn from what God's done in the past
2. Look at vs 14, what do you trust in?
 - a. They trusted in the presence of a place instead of in the presence of a Person
 - b. They trusted in having items instead of having intimacy
3. Eternal life is based on the presence of Jesus, don't drift into obsession w/ items or efforts

#2 – It adds more, instead of being pure (Chap 7:16-34)

Read Chap 7:16-20

1. ‘Don’t bother praying for them’ – There comes a time when God will cut you off from the opportunity of salvation; there IS a limit
2. Queen of Heaven was the Babylonian & Syrophoenician goddess of fertility Astaroth
 - a. Q of H today is known as Maty
3. This devotion to other pursuits not only offended God but also promoted their own demise

Read Vs 21-23

1. Long before commanding the sacrifices, God commanded obedience
 - a. Relationship thru obedience must be first, then sacrifices makes sense

Read Vs 24-28

1. They’re not listening, b/c they have a different motto to life, “Follow your heart”

- a. Jer 17:9 – The heart is deceitful...
- b. The unbeliever follows their heart, the believer walks by faith believing God

Read Vs 29-31

1. Israel is called on to mourn b/c of setting their false gods in the holy places and around Jerusalem
2. Valley of Hinnom is where garbage was burned and child sacrifice was performed
3. Problem is, Israel didn't see a problem w/ this
 - a. Probably thought it was a helpful addition
 - b. God thought it was an abomination
4. Exact same thing with abortion today
 - a. People try justifying abortion & their "Christian Faith" – what a mockery!

Read Vs 32-34

1. Valley of Hinnom is the name transliterated as Gehenna in the gk NT for the Lake of Fire
2. Very place of their greatest sin, will be very place of their slaughter & pic of eternal destruction

#3 – It's hopeless, not beneficial (Chap 8:1-22)

Read Chap 8:1-3

1. Babylon performs the worse form of insult with grave robbery and desecration
2. What irony that their bones are spread before the stars, the objects of their former worship, who are now impotent to help
3. After Babylon invades, Israel is at a low point of hopelessness not wanting to live

Read Vs 4-7

1. God intends for them to rise from their consequences, but it's not happening. Why?
 - a. They're still believing lies (Vs 5)
 - b. They haven't examined self (Vs 6)
2. Birds know what to do in changing seasons, yet Judah, doesn't know how to respond to judgement

Read Vs 8-9

1. This is the first mention of professional scribes
2. Even in the men they should be able to look to for direction and hope, they can't

Read Vs 10-13

1. What great irony that b/c they were covetous they will be robbed and spoiled
 - a. Tighter we try holding this world, the more it just slips thru our fingers
 - b. That worker that pushes for the top, but b/c of his pushing, he's hated & pushed down
 - c. Jesus said the humble shall be exalted

Read Vs 14-17

1. The people of Judah are pictured having regrets about their sin as Babylon invades
 - a. They now sit silent – instead of joy (vs 14)
 - b. They regret listening to false prophets – instead of the true voice of God (vs 15)
2. They wanted peace and their sin; but they got war b/c of their sin

Read Vs 18-19

1. This is the reason Jeremiah dares to go to the Temple gate to proclaim a message of repentance
 - a. B/c he prophetically sees coming destruction ...and it breaks his heart

Read Vs 20-22

1. Harvest pictured their hope for a good winter
 - a. The expression is that they don't have what they need to endure the coming days – hopeless
2. Gilead Is famous for medicinal resin
 - a. Help was near, but they accessed sin instead

Conclusion

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

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

Next week in chapter 9-10 we get the 2nd half of the “The Temple Sermon Against Religion”, God willing