

Jeremiah 11-13 – 13 June 2024

“Breaking Up With God”

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, starting in Chap 11 is Yahweh’s declaration that Judah has broken their covenant

*God’s will isn’t a mystery or unknown

*When we violate God’s plan, we know what we’re doing and we know we’re in rebellion

Today we’ll see just how to break a covenant in 3 easy steps

#1 – Follow your heart instead of God (Chap 11)

Read Chap 11:1-5

1. Turn to Exo 24:1-8 – Israel entered a 2-way covenant with God agreeing to obey Him
2. Lev 26 details conditional blessings or cursings
3. Jeremiah is instructed to speak of this to Judah

Read Vs 6-8

1. As a witness, it's Jeremiah's duty & ours, to bring accountability to our hearers
2. Tell them, there're 2 directions & they must choose

Read Vs 9-10

1. Judah would say they're just 'following their heart' (ie vs 8), but God classifies them as having entered a conspiracy (or treasonous alliance)
2. We need to see things the way God sees them

Read Vs 11-14

1. God brings the evil of Babylon invading, b/c of Judah's own idolatry & treason

2. It will be helpful for them to see that their false gods can NOT help in the day of trouble
 - a. Money can't save from all calamities
 - b. Fame & charisma can't save from all calamities - The Lord CAN
3. But you refuse the Lord's help long enough, He will eventually refuse you

Read Vs 15-17

1. God asks the common question again in vs 15, why are you still doing temple ritual w/o a heart?
2. Vs 17 reminds that this trouble's coming b/c of themselves

Read Vs 18-19

1. Jeremiah saw the true wickedness of their sin and idolatry but didn't seek their wickedness was coming after HIS life

Read Vs 20

1. For the threat of harm, Jeremiah turns to God

Read Vs 21-23

1. Gamaliel's advice in Acts 5 was to "let them alone, if it's of God, then you can't stop it"
2. These men of Anathoth have already judged for themselves that Jeremiah is NOT of God
 - a. Isn't based on the revealed Word of God

#2 – See God's patience as acceptance (Chap 12)

Read Chap 12:1-4

1. His complaint is that God's allowing evil men to prosper
 - a. Compared to himself, they look evil (vs 3)
 - b. He laments the land suffers b/c of them (vs 4)
2. Jeremiah asks for them to be judged
3. They grow root & fruit and God's allowing it
 - a. Turn to Matt 13:24-40 – Wheat & the Tares
 - b. God knows how to separate the good & bad

Read Vs 5-6

1. God tells him that the angry opposition he's dealing w/ from men of Anathoth is small compared to dealing with flattering words that are coming
2. Simply said; flattering lies are harder to resist than angry opposition

Read Vs 7-9

1. God always treats us the best possible way...the way we need treated
2. Their rebellious roaring & speckled sin needed crushed out of them by Babylon

Read Vs 10-13

1. Many shepherds or leaders of Israel have led to their downfall
2. At end of vs 13 Babylonians will be ashamed after taking a spoil from Judah b/c the Lord will repay them

Read Vs 14-15

1. Speaking to Babylon, God promises to take them out of their land and return Israel to theirs

Read Vs 16-17

1. Even individual Babylonians will have a chance to come to Jesus & be saved! What grace!
2. Justice delayed isn't injustice, but it's mercy

#3 – Be so blinded by pride, you can't see the obvious (Chap 13)

Read Chap 13:1-5

1. This linen belt would be much like a priest would wear & therefore be beautiful to look at
2. What would those of Anathoth think when Jeremiah disappears for 3 months in Babylon?

Read Vs 6-7

1. Obviously the belt represents Israel
2. Notice it still existed but was totally worthless
3. Remember vs 1 – “Go & buy it” – God purchased

Read Vs 8-11

1. Esteeming yourself or your possessions above God is pride and idolatry (Read Luke 16:15)
2. The things we trust in must be removed
 - a. Paul saw all his merits as dung (Phil 3:4-8)

Read Vs 12-14

1. Vs 12 makes them think he's prophesying prosperity, only to give a punchline that's opposite

2. Akin to saying, ‘You’re super...super wicked’
3. It’s all of them the priests, prophets & people
 - a. Can’t blame it on another person in country

Read Vs 15-16

1. Every time God speaks, we react in either pride or humility
2. Darkness is coming; there’s urgency to repent

Read Vs 17-20

1. From highest person to the lowest person, they are called to respond to God in humility not pride
2. Not many years before this the king of Nineveh lead his people in repentance at Jonah’s preaching

Read Vs 21-23

1. A bad person cannot do good, unless he’s granted a new nature
2. He’s challenging them, ‘what will you say in the day of judgement?’

- a. They should be embarrassed of sin now OR be embarrassed when they meet the Yahweh
- b. They should humble themselves now OR be humbled when they meet Yahweh

Read Vs 24-25

1. The call is to remember who God really is

Read Vs 26-27

1. Come to God for a cleansing from lustful thoughts and cravings

Conclusion

We have some choices to make today

1. **Do we follow our heart in making decisions?**
2. **Do we see God's patience as acceptance of sin?**
3. **Are we so blinded by pride that we can't see the obvious problems of living in sin?**

Reconciliation with God is just one prayer away!!