

Jeremiah

Lesson 12: Summary and Conclusion

Psalm 79 How Long, O LORD?

O God, the nations have come into your inheritance;
they have defiled your holy temple;
they have laid Jerusalem in ruins.

² They have given the bodies of your servants
to the birds of the heavens for food,
the flesh of your faithful to the beasts of the earth.

³ They have poured out their blood like water
all around Jerusalem,
and there was no one to bury them.

⁴ We have become a taunt to our neighbors,
mocked and derided by those around us.

⁵ How long, O LORD? Will you be angry forever?
Will your jealousy burn like fire?

⁶ Pour out your anger on the nations
that do not know you,
and on the kingdoms
that do not call upon your name!

⁷ For they have devoured Jacob
and laid waste his habitation.

⁸ Do not remember against us our former iniquities;
let your compassion come speedily to meet us,
for we are brought very low.

⁹ Help us, O God of our salvation,
for the glory of your name;
deliver us, and atone for our sins,
for your name's sake!

¹⁰ Why should the nations say,
"Where is their God?"

Let the avenging of the outpoured blood of your servants
be known among the nations before our eyes!

¹¹ Let the groans of the prisoners come before you;
according to your great power, preserve those doomed to die!

¹² Return sevenfold into the lap of our neighbors
the taunts with which they have taunted you, O Lord!

¹³ But we your people, the sheep of your pasture,
will give thanks to you forever;
from generation to generation we will recount your praise.

Psalm 137 How Shall We Sing the LORD's Song?

¹ By the waters of Babylon,
there we sat down and wept,
when we remembered Zion.

² On the willows there
we hung up our lyres.

³ For there our captors
required of us songs,
and our tormentors, mirth, saying,
“Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”

⁴ How shall we sing the LORD's song
in a foreign land?

⁵ If I forget you, O Jerusalem,
let my right hand forget its skill!

⁶ Let my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth,
if I do not remember you,
if I do not set Jerusalem
above my highest joy!

⁷ Remember, O LORD, against the Edomites
the day of Jerusalem,
how they said, “Lay it bare, lay it bare,
down to its foundations!”

⁸ O daughter of Babylon, doomed to be destroyed,
blessed shall he be who repays you
with what you have done to us!

⁹ Blessed shall he be who takes your little ones
and dashes them against the rock!

[Don McLean - Waters of Babylon - YouTube](#)

Jeremiah

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Gospel Glimpses

1. What are some specific ways Jeremiah has brought new clarity to your understanding of the gospel?
 - Jeremiah has added new insight into God's plans to bless all nations of the earth through Abraham and his descendants.
 - Jeremiah reinforces the concept of the remnant that we see throughout the Bible: Noah; Abraham; Jacob and his sons; the people of Judah taken into exile; believers.
 - Jeremiah promised the people of Judah that one day they would write God's word on their hearts. This is fulfilled with Jesus giving believers the Holy Spirit which lives within each believer, to remind him of Jesus' teachings; the Holy Spirit is literally God within each of us.
 - Jeremiah provides another example of God working for the good of his people. Just as Joseph told his brothers, "you meant this for evil but God meant it for good," Jeremiah tells the people of Judah that God will plant them and prosper them in Babylon in exile. God will again, as he did with the Israelites in the Wilderness, develop a people with a heart for God.
 - Jeremiah reminds us that God knows the plans he has for us. Jesus says in John 6:39 that he will lose not one of those the Father gave to him. Romans 8:28 reminds us that God foreknew us and predestined us to be conformed to the image of Christ, so that we can be justified and glorified before God.
2. What particular passages or themes in Jeremiah have led you to a fresh understanding or a deeper grasp of God's grace to us through Jesus?
 - For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you, declares the LORD, Jeremiah 29:11-14
 - God is patient, not wanting anyone to perish.

- God is merciful and wants all His people to repent from sin and to be saved.
- God know that we are incapable, by ourselves, of living a sin-free life. God always planned to send his son Jesus Christ to save us.
- God extends his grace to us by calling us to himself. We did nothing and can do nothing to merit this saving grace.

Whole-Bible Connections

3. How has your study of Jeremiah filled out your understanding of the biblical storyline of redemption?

- The people of Judah sent to exile in Babylon will become the remnant of the redeemed. One of those people was King Jehoiachin, who would be in the lineage of David and Jesus. This fulfills God's promise that there would always be someone from the lineage of David on the throne.
- Jeremiah's messages to the nations gives us a peek into how certain nations of the world will be redeemed when Christ returns.

4. What themes from Jeremiah have deepened your grasp of the Bible's unity?

- Idolatry
- Sin
- Repentance from sin
- Punishment for disobedience
- Redemption
-
- God is a God of remnants.
- Grace

- Before God sent Jesus (to save his people from their sins; Immanuel = God with us), God sent prophets to the people with his Word. Once Jesus, the Word, who became flesh and dwelt among us, came to earth, Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit so that we would have God's Word within us forever.
5. What passages or themes have expanded your understanding of the salvation Jesus accomplished for us? What specific aspects of Jesus' life ministry, death, or resurrection have you seen in a fresh light?
- Jeremiah points to Christ in many ways:
 - Jeremiah points out that the people of Judah were sinful and often unrepentant.
 - The people of Judah generally refused to hear Jeremiah's messages.
 - The people of Jesus' day were also sinful and often unrepentant.
 - Many people of Jesus' day refused to listen to Jesus' messages.
 - God told Jeremiah that he had given him a mission to pluck up and to tear down. This is the same mission Jesus has when he returns.
 - Jeremiah promised the Word would be written on people's hearts. Jesus fulfills this with the giving of the Holy Spirit.
 - Jeremiah stated that only a remnant of the Babylonian exiles would return to the Promised Land. Likewise, only a remnant of all the people in the world will become believers (those given to Christ by the Father).
6. What connections between Jeremiah and the New Testament were new to you?
- King Jehoiachin of Judah is in the lineage Jesus.
 - I also found 2 new connections between Jeremiah and Daniel.
 - Daniel was in the first group of Judeans taken into Babylonian exile.
 - Later in life, Daniel read Jeremiah's writings (Daniel 9).

Theological Soundings

7. Has your theology shifted in minor or major ways during this study of Jeremiah? How so?

- No.

8. How has your understanding of the nature and character of God been deepened by this study?

- God is so consistent with his messages.
- God always keeps his promises.
- God was very specific in Leviticus 26 about the punishments for disobedience. We see each one of those punishments delivered in Jeremiah because of Judah's disobedience.
- God is patient and merciful. He waited 140 years after the destruction of the Northern Kingdom before sending destruction on Judah. In those intervening years, God tried repeatedly through his prophets to call his people to repentance.

9. What unique contributions does Jeremiah make toward our understanding of Jesus' character and accomplishments in his life, death, and resurrection?

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10. What, specifically, does Jeremiah teach us about the human condition and our need for redemption?

- There is nothing new under the sun. Idolatry is a frequent problem and so is disobedience.
- Without a savior, we are not capable of stopping our sinning.

Personal Implications

11. God gave the book of Jeremiah to transform our lives. As you reflect on the book of Jeremiah as a whole, what implications do you see for your own life?

- Jeremiah reminds me to be faithful to the end, despite any adversity in my life.
- Jeremiah tells me not to be afraid to speak about God and Jesus to others.
- God cares for me. God has numbered my days. God knows the plans he has for me. They are to profit, not to perish.

12. What implications for life flow from your reflections on the questions already asked in this week's study concerning Gospel Glimpses, Whole-Bible Connections, and Theological Soundings?

- Be courageous.
- Be rooted in the Word.

13. What have you learned in Jeremiah that should lead you to praise God, turn away from sin, and trust more firmly in his promises?

- I have the whole Bible and the Holy Spirit within me. This is so much more than the people of Judah had available to them.
- God firmly does what he says he is going to do.

- When evil befalls us and our world, we cannot always see the good in it. But God is in control of the world. Jesus reminds us that we should not have troubled hearts but remember that he has overcome of the world.
- Jesus will return and set all things right.

The Last Mention of the Ark

- The Ark of the Covenant is last mentioned in 2 Chronicles 35: 1-3:
 - Josiah kept a Passover to the LORD in Jerusalem. And they slaughtered the Passover lamb on the fourteenth day of the first month. ² He appointed the priests to their offices and encouraged them in the service of the house of the LORD. ³ And he said to the Levites who taught all Israel and who were holy to the LORD, “Put the holy ark in the house that Solomon the son of David, king of Israel, built. You need not carry it on your shoulders. Now serve the LORD your God and his people Israel.
- Shortly after this event, Josiah, King of Judah, was killed in battle at Megiddo by Pharaoh Neco.
- King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon twice raided the Temple for its treasures; the 1st time when Jehoiachin was ruling, and the 2nd time when Zedekiah was ruling. There is no mention of the Ark in connection with either raid.
- Did the Ark end up in Babylon and it wasn’t returned with the other Temple treasures under the Edict of King Cyrus of Persia?
- The non-canonical book 2 Maccabees records that Jeremiah received a divine revelation from God to remove the Ark, the Tent of the Meeting, and the altar of incense to a cave on Mount Nebo.
 - Jeremiah said the following to some people who attempted to mark the path to the cave, “The place is to remain unknown until God gathers his people together again and shows them mercy. Then the Lord will disclose these things, and the glory of the Lord will be seen in the cloud, just as it appeared in the time of Moses and when Solomon prayed that the Temple might be gloriously sanctified.” (2 Maccabees 2:6-8).
- Other theories are:
 - The Ark was buried beneath Temple Mount.
 - The Ark is in a church in Ethiopia.
 - The Ark is in Egypt.
 - The Ark was buried in Israel.