

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 289 – Any Seekers Through What Will You Do In The End (Jeremiah 5:1-31)

1. What needed to be found in Jerusalem for God to pardon her?

A man that executed judgment and sought truth: *“Run ye to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek in the broad places thereof, if ye can find a man, if there be any that executeth judgment, that seeketh the truth; and I will pardon it”* (**Jeremiah 5:1**).

- The sad reality that there were so few faithful that you have to run and seek in broad places to find a single man seeking the truth (**Proverbs 20:6**, **Isaiah 59:4**, **Ezekiel 22:30-31**, and **Romans 3:9-23**).
- This was similar to the conditions for pardon in Sodom and Gomorrah (**Genesis 18:23-19:24**).
- God wasn't look to get away from pardoning them either (**Nehemiah 9:17**, **Isaiah 55:6-7**, and **Jeremiah 50:20**).

2. Were there any in Jerusalem honestly seeking to return to God?

No, in fact their backslidings were increased: *“(2) And though they say, The LORD liveth; surely they swear falsely. (3) O LORD, are not thine eyes upon the truth? thou hast stricken them, but they have not grieved; thou hast consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction: they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return. (4) Therefore I said, Surely these are poor; they are foolish: for they know not the way of the LORD, nor the judgment of their God. (5) I will get me unto the great men, and will speak unto them; for they have known the way of the LORD, and the judgment of their God: but these have altogether broken the yoke, and burst the bonds. (6) Wherefore a lion out of the forest shall slay them, and a wolf of the evenings shall spoil them, a leopard shall watch over their cities: every one that goeth out thence shall be torn in pieces: because their transgressions are many, and their backslidings are increased”* (**Jeremiah 5:2-6**).

- They spoke falsely about their relationship with God (**Isaiah 48:1-4** and **Mark 7:1-9**).
- God's eyes see what is really going on (**II Chronicles 16:9** and **Isaiah 29:15**).
- They faced discipline, but did not correct themselves (**Isaiah 9:13** and **Zechariah 7:11-12**).
- They were poor (**Proverbs 13:18**), foolish (**I Corinthians 2:14**), and that ties to them being ignorant of the way of the Lord (**Hosea 4:1-6**).
- The expectation is that older men would know better, but it was not the case with them either (**Job 32:1-10**).
- The older men had broken the yoke and bonds – meaning that they had separated themselves from God (**Psalms 2:1-3**).
- God's judgment on them is that He would send the beasts of the earth to tear them into pieces (**Nahum 2:11-13**).

3. In addition to spiritual adultery, did God's people also commit physical adultery?

Yes: "(7) *How shall I pardon thee for this? thy children have forsaken me, and sworn by them that are no gods: when I had fed them to the full, they then committed adultery, and assembled themselves by troops in the harlots' houses. (8) They were as fed horses in the morning: every one neighed after his neighbour's wife. (9) Shall I not visit for these things? saith the LORD: and shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this*" (**Jeremiah 5:7-9**)?

- Adultery (**Leviticus 20:10, Proverbs 6:32-35, Jeremiah 29:23, Ezekiel 16:32, and Matthew 5:27-32**).
- He would "visit" them for these things (**Hosea 8:12-13**).

4. What are "battlements" (KJV) in this text?

There verse in which this word appears is here: "*Go ye up upon her walls, and destroy; but make not a full end: take away her battlements; for they are not the LORD'S*" (**Jeremiah 5:10**).

- Branches (**Isaiah 18:5**) or plants (**Jeremiah 48:32**).
- The point... **Jeremiah 2:21** and **Matthew 15:13**

5. How had the houses of Israel and Judah dealt with the Lord?

Very treacherously [deceitful; offensive] against Him: "(11) *For the house of Israel and the house of Judah have dealt very treacherously against me, saith the LORD*" (**Jeremiah 5:11**).

- **Isaiah 48:8, Jeremiah 3:20, Hosea 5:7, Hosea 6:7, and Malachi 2:11-14.**

6. Would the false comfort of the false prophets stand?

No, they'd become wind: "(12) *They have belied the LORD, and said, It is not he; neither shall evil come upon us; neither shall we see sword nor famine: (13) And the prophets shall become wind, and the word is not in them: thus shall it be done unto them*" (**Jeremiah 5:12-13**).

- They were told that God would do nothing (**Jeremiah 6:14** and **Jeremiah 23:17**).
- Wrong answer (**Zephaniah 1:12-18**).
- Mankind likes to think that because nothing happens to them immediately everything will be okay with their sins (**Ecclesiastes 8:11**). That is not true (**II Peter 3:3-14**).

7. In what way would God use Jeremiah toward the destruction of His people?

Through the speaking of His words: "*Wherefore thus saith the LORD God of hosts, Because ye speak this word, behold, I will make my words in thy mouth fire, and this people wood, and it shall devour them*" (**Jeremiah 5:14**).

- **Jeremiah 23:29-30, Ephesians 6:17, and Hebrews 4:12.**

8. What did God intend to do with a mighty nation from far off?

Bring them against His people: *“(15) Lo, I will bring a nation upon you from far, O house of Israel, saith the LORD: it is a mighty nation, it is an ancient nation, a nation whose language thou knowest not, neither understandest what they say. (16) Their quiver is as an open sepulchre, they are all mighty men. (17) And they shall eat up thine harvest, and thy bread, which thy sons and thy daughters should eat: they shall eat up thy flocks and thine herds: they shall eat up thy vines and thy fig trees: they shall impoverish thy fenced cities, wherein thou trustedst, with the sword. (18) Nevertheless in those days, saith the LORD, I will not make a full end with you. (19) And it shall come to pass, when ye shall say, Wherefore doeth the LORD our God all these things unto us? then shalt thou answer them, Like as ye have forsaken me, and served strange gods in your land, so shall ye serve strangers in a land that is not yours” (Jeremiah 5:15-19).*

- Babylon would bring dire consequences to the children of God (**II Kings 25:11** and **Jeremiah 25:9**).
- Not to a full end though (**Ezra 9:8** and **Ezekiel 11:13-21**).
- Now they would serve strangers as a consequence for their idolatry (**Jeremiah 27:12**).

9. In Jeremiah's commanded declaration, who was to blame for what they suffered?

Themselves: *“(20) Declare this in the house of Jacob, and publish it in Judah, saying, (21) Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding; which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not: (22) Fear ye not me? saith the LORD: will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it? (23) But this people hath a revolting and a rebellious heart; they are revolted and gone. (24) Neither say they in their heart, Let us now fear the LORD our God, that giveth rain, both the former and the latter, in his season: he reserveth unto us the appointed weeks of the harvest. (25) Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withholden good things from you” (Jeremiah 5:20-25).*

- The prophet's job was to declare what God revealed (**Jeremiah 42:4** and **II Peter 1:20-21**).
- They didn't want to see or hear the truth (**Ezekiel 12:2**).
- They ignored the might of God (**Psalms 36:1**) shown here as the barrier of the sea from land (**Proverbs 8:29**). This should cause fear (**Nahum 1:3-8**).
- They had hearts of rebellion (**Psalms 95:10**). Since obedience is from the heart (**Romans 6:17**), this is a damning statement (**Luke 8:4-15**).
- They ignored the good God did for them as He brings the rain, seasons, etc. (**Acts 14:17**).
- Their iniquities had turned away the good from them (**Psalms 107:17**, **Lamentations 3:39-54**, and **Hosea 8:7-14**).

10. Did God's people want to punish the wicked and false dwelling among them?

No, they loved it: *"(26) For among my people are found wicked men: they lay wait, as he that setteth snares; they set a trap, they catch men. (27) As a cage is full of birds, so are their houses full of deceit: therefore they are become great, and waxen rich. (28) They are waxen fat, they shine: yea, they overpass the deeds of the wicked: they judge not the cause, the cause of the fatherless, yet they prosper; and the right of the needy do they not judge. (29) Shall I not visit for these things? saith the LORD: shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this? (30) A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land; (31) The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof" (Jeremiah 5:26-31)?*

- They should not have had wicked men among them (**Deuteronomy 17:1-7**, **Proverbs 9:6**, and **Ecclesiastes 9:18**).
- They had trap setters among them, which they had been warned about in the past (**Proverbs 1:10-19**).
- The wicked were prospering through their traps (**Micah 6:10-12**).
- The wicked had gotten fat through abuse of their brethren (**Amos 4:1** and **James 5:1-6**).
- God wasn't ignoring these things (**Psalms 12:5** and **Malachi 3:5**).
- The people loved the errors among them (**I Kings 22:1-28**, **Isaiah 30:9-11**, and **II Timothy 4:1-5**) and refused to hear the truth (**Jeremiah 6:16-17**).