

## Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 293 – Weeping Through Uncircumcised in Heart (Jeremiah 9:1-26)

1. Why did Jeremiah write about weeping at the opening of this chapter?

For the slain of the daughter of my people: *“Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people” (Jeremiah 9:1)!*

- There is no joy in the fact that some perish through their sins (**Psalms 119:136, Lamentations 3:48-51, Ezekiel 33:11, and Romans 9:1-3**).

2. Why would a righteous person have wanted to escape from among the Israelites at the time Jeremiah was a prophet?

Israel was treacherous, liars, untrustworthy, and they refused to know the Lord: *“(2) Oh that I had in the wilderness a lodging place of wayfaring men; that I might leave my people, and go from them! for they be all adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men. (3) And they bend their tongues like their bow for lies: but they are not valiant for the truth upon the earth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they know not me, saith the LORD. (4) Take ye heed every one of his neighbour, and trust ye not in any brother: for every brother will utterly supplant, and every neighbour will walk with slanders. (5) And they will deceive every one his neighbour, and will not speak the truth: they have taught their tongue to speak lies, and weary themselves to commit iniquity. (6) Thine habitation is in the midst of deceit; through deceit they refuse to know me, saith the LORD” (Jeremiah 9:2-6).*

- Righteousness does not fit in amongst the treacherous (**Psalms 26:4-5, Jeremiah 15:17, Amos 3:3, II Corinthians 6:14-18, and Ephesians 5:6-11**).
- Truth had perished from among the people (**Jeremiah 7:28**); which says a lot (**Isaiah 8:20**). Now you can see their character reflects the same because they are all liars in this context (**Isaiah 59:11-14**).
- Trust was gone at this time (**Micah 7:5-6**).
- They trained themselves to be liars (**Psalms 50:19-20**).
- They wearied themselves in doing so much evil (**Proverbs 4:16**).
- This deceptiveness was the core of their refusal to know the Lord (**II Timothy 3:13**; cf. **Luke 8:15**).

3. Did God try His people?

Yes: *“Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, I will melt them, and try them; for how shall I do for the daughter of my people” (Jeremiah 9:7)?*

- **Psalms 7:9** and **Psalms 11:4-7**.
- *“The fining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the Lord trieth the hearts” (Proverbs 17:3).*

4. If a person in Israel spoke peaceably to his or her neighbor, could that be trusted?  
No: *“Their tongue is as an arrow shot out; it speaketh deceit: one speaketh peaceably to his neighbour with his mouth, but in heart he layeth his wait”* (**Jeremiah 9:8**).

- **Psalms 12:1-3, Psalms 28:3, Proverbs 26:24-26, Jeremiah 12:6, and Mark 12:13-17.**

5. Was God going to let them get away with their transgressions?

No: *“(9) Shall I not visit them for these things? saith the LORD: shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this? (10) For the mountains will I take up a weeping and wailing, and for the habitations of the wilderness a lamentation, because they are burned up, so that none can pass through them; neither can men hear the voice of the cattle; both the fowl of the heavens and the beast are fled; they are gone. (11) And I will make Jerusalem heaps, and a den of dragons; and I will make the cities of Judah desolate, without an inhabitant. (12) Who is the wise man, that may understand this? and who is he to whom the mouth of the LORD hath spoken, that he may declare it, for what the land perisheth and is burned up like a wilderness, that none passeth through? (13) And the LORD saith, Because they have forsaken my law which I set before them, and have not obeyed my voice, neither walked therein; (14) But have walked after the imagination of their own heart, and after Baalim, which their fathers taught them: (15) Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will feed them, even this people, with wormwood, and give them water of gall to drink. (16) I will scatter them also among the heathen, whom neither they nor their fathers have known: and I will send a sword after them, till I have consumed them”* (**Jeremiah 9:9-16**).

- God is vengeful (**Deuteronomy 32:41, Isaiah 1:24, and Nahum 1:1-6**).
- Even the land felt His wrath when He judged them of old (**Isaiah 13:5; 13:9**).
- The great city of Jerusalem in heaps (**Micah 3:12; cf. Isaiah 25:1-2**).
- The question of all times is who is wise enough to learn from these things (**Hosea 14:8-9 and I Corinthians 10:1-12**)?
- Because they forsook the law He gave them (**Deuteronomy 31:16-17**). They’ve not only been warned, but have seen in their history what happens when they do such (**II Chronicles 12:1-4**) and what they needed to do (**II Chronicles 12:5-7**).
- Since they walked after their own imaginations and after Baalim they’d face punishment (**Jeremiah 19:4-9**).
- They erred in following the ways of their fathers (**Jeremiah 11:10 and Jeremiah 23:27**) rather than the ways of God (**Joshua 22:5**).
- He did give them wormwood and gall and they’d remember that afterward (**Lamentations 3:19-20**).
- Their scattering among the heathen was intended to be temporary (**Ezekiel 28:25**) and for God’s sake (**Ezekiel 36:19-32**).

6. What did God call the mourning women for?

To wail, gush tears, learn, teach their daughters how the men fell as dung on the earth: *“(17) Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Consider ye, and call for the mourning women, that they may come; and send for cunning women, that they may come: (18) And let them make haste, and take up a wailing for us, that our eyes may run down with tears, and our eyelids gush out with waters. (19) For a voice of wailing is heard out of Zion, How are we spoiled! we are greatly confounded, because we have forsaken the land, because our dwellings have cast us out. (20) Yet hear the word of the LORD, O ye women, and let your ear receive the word of his mouth, and teach your daughters wailing, and every one her neighbour lamentation. (21) For death is come up into our windows, and is entered into our palaces, to cut off the children from without, and the young men from the streets. (22) Speak, Thus saith the LORD, Even the carcasses of men shall fall as dung upon the open field, and as the handful after the harvestman, and none shall gather them” (Jeremiah 9:17-22).*

- It is interesting that God wanted the attention not only of the mourning, but the cunning [intelligent; wise] women. A wise woman is a builder of households (**Proverbs 14:1**).
- He wanted these women to mourn. We might want to recall that there is more to this in their history (**Isaiah 3:16-26**).
- The wake-up call of “how are we spoiled” (**Jeremiah 2:14**).
- Now they will have to teach their daughters not to follow their bad examples and show them what such has brought about. Consider had generations past taught their children none of this would have happened (**Deuteronomy 6:6-11**).

7. What should the wise, strong, and rich man glory in?

Knowing the Lord: *“(23) Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: (24) But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD” (Jeremiah 9:23-24).*

- Don't glory in YOUR wisdom (**Isaiah 5:21**).
- Don't glory in YOUR might (**Psalms 33:16**).
- Don't glory in YOUR riches (**Luke 12:13-21**).
- Glory in knowing and understanding the Lord (**Psalms 44:8**) because of what that ultimately means (**Isaiah 45:25** and **Galatians 6:14**).

8. What type of uncircumcision was found in all the house of Israel?

Uncircumcision of the heart: *“(25) Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will punish all them which are circumcised with the uncircumcised; (26) Egypt, and Judah, and Edom, and the children of Ammon, and Moab, and all that are in the utmost corners, that dwell in the wilderness: for all these nations are*

*uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised in the heart”*  
(**Jeremiah 9:25-26**).

- He told them He would do this (**Leviticus 26:38-41**).
- The uncircumcised in heart (**Deuteronomy 10:16, Acts 7:51, and Romans 2:24-29**).