

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 297 – A Linen Girdle Through Thou Not Be Made Clean (Jeremiah 13:1-27)

1. What did God have Jeremiah do with the linen girdle he asked Jeremiah to put upon his loins?

Wear it, hide it, recover it, and see that once marred it was profitable for nothing: *“(1) Thus saith the LORD unto me, Go and get thee a linen girdle, and put it upon thy loins, and put it not in water. (2) So I got a girdle according to the word of the LORD, and put it on my loins. (3) And the word of the LORD came unto me the second time, saying, (4) Take the girdle that thou hast got, which is upon thy loins, and arise, go to Euphrates, and hide it there in a hole of the rock. (5) So I went, and hid it by Euphrates, as the LORD commanded me. (6) And it came to pass after many days, that the LORD said unto me, Arise, go to Euphrates, and take the girdle from thence, which I commanded thee to hide there. (7) Then I went to Euphrates, and digged, and took the girdle from the place where I had hid it: and, behold, the girdle was marred, it was profitable for nothing” (Jeremiah 13:1-7).*

- God has had men undress for a point (**Isaiah 20:1-6**), consider pottery for a point (**Jeremiah 18:1-11**), marry a whore & name children for a point (**Hosea 1:1-9**), make a point from a tile brick, iron pan, bands, wheat, barely, etc. (**Ezekiel 4:1-5:9**), etc.
- Jeremiah did according to the word of the Lord (**Joshua 1:7-8**, **Psalms 119:9**, and **Luke 11:28**).
- As the Lord commanded him (**Deuteronomy 12:32**, **Isaiah 8:20**, and **Luke 11:28**).
- The Lord has a place prepared for those who choose to continue being unprofitable (**Matthew 25:14-30**).

2. What point, concerning the marred girdle, was Jeremiah to make concerning Judah?

That like that marred girdle that was made to be unprofitable, God was going to mar the pride of Judah and Jerusalem because of their refusal to hear Him: *“(8) Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, (9) Thus saith the LORD, After this manner will I mar the pride of Judah, and the great pride of Jerusalem. (10) This evil people, which refuse to hear my words, which walk in the imagination of their heart, and walk after other gods, to serve them, and to worship them, shall even be as this girdle, which is good for nothing. (11) For as the girdle cleaveth to the loins of a man, so have I caused to cleave unto me the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah, saith the LORD; that they might be unto me for a people, and for a name, and for a praise, and for a glory: but they would not hear” (Jeremiah 13:8-11).*

- God was to mar [destroy] the pride of Judah and Jerusalem (**Proverbs 16:18**, **Isaiah 2:11-12**, and **Obadiah 1:1-5**).
- Evil through refusal to hear (**Isaiah 1:19-20**), walking after the imagination of their heart (**Jeremiah 7:24**), and idolatry (**Joshua 24:20**).

- Good for nothing (**Luke 14:34-35**).
- God had them cleave to Him like a girdle (**Deuteronomy 10:14-15** and **Psalms 135:4**), BUT they would not hear (**Psalms 81:10-11**).

3. What point did God make concerning the bottles being filled with wine?

That He would cause them to be filled with drunkenness and would then dash them one against another: *“(12) Therefore thou shalt speak unto them this word; Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Every bottle shall be filled with wine: and they shall say unto thee, Do we not certainly know that every bottle shall be filled with wine? (13) Then shalt thou say unto them, Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will fill all the inhabitants of this land, even the kings that sit upon David’s throne, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, with drunkenness. (14) And I will dash them one against another, even the fathers and the sons together, saith the LORD: I will not pity, nor spare, nor have mercy, but destroy them”* (**Jeremiah 13:12-14**).

- Filled with wine as figurative language (**Psalms 60:3, Isaiah 19:14, Isaiah 29:9-11, Isaiah 51:17, Isaiah 63:6, and Ezekiel 23:30-33**).
- Filled with wine literally was a choice of men, not of God (**Isaiah 5:11, Isaiah 5:22, and Isaiah 56:10-12**).
- God would dash them without mercy (**Isaiah 9:16-17**).

4. When we read that “the LORD hath spoken”, what did He tell them NOT to be?

Be not proud: *“Hear ye, and give ear; be not proud: for the LORD hath spoken”* (**Jeremiah 13:15**).

- Be NOT proud (**Psalms 10:2-6, Proverbs 6:16-19, Proverbs 8:13, Proverbs 11:2, Proverbs 15:25, Proverbs 28:25, Proverbs 29:23, Isaiah 2:11-17, James 4:6-10, I Peter 5:5, and I John 2:15-17**).

5. What was going to happen if they did not give glory unto the Lord?

They would find the opposite of what they looked for: *“Give glory to the LORD your God, before he cause darkness, and before your feet stumble upon the dark mountains, and, while ye look for light, he turn it into the shadow of death, and make it gross darkness”* (**Jeremiah 13:16**).

- Give glory to God (**Psalms 108:5, Luke 2:14, Luke 17:11-19, Acts 12:1-23, Romans 16:27, I Corinthians 10:31, Philippians 1:10-11, Philippians 4:20, I Timothy 1:17, Jude 1:25, and Revelation 1:6**).
- Before it’s too late (**Ecclesiastes 12:1-7**).

6. What was going to cause Jeremiah to weep sore in secret places?

Their not listening to God, their pride, and the fact that they were going to be carried away into captivity: *“But if ye will not hear it, my soul shall weep in secret places for your pride; and mine eye shall weep sore, and run down with tears, because the LORD’S flock is carried away captive”* (**Jeremiah 13:17**).

- If you will not hear you are in trouble (**Jeremiah 22:5** and **Ephesians 5:6**).
- They did all they could not to hear (**Isaiah 30:9-11**).
- Their pride leading them not to hear (**Malachi 2:1-4**).
- Jeremiah would weep in private over this (**Psalms 119:53, Psalms 119:136, Psalms 119:158, Lamentations 3:48-49, Luke 19:41-42, and Philipians 3:18-19**).

7. What needed to be said to the king and queen?

Humble yourselves because of what is to come if you do not: *“(18) Say unto the king and to the queen, Humble yourselves, sit down: for your principalities shall come down, even the crown of your glory. (19) The cities of the south shall be shut up, and none shall open them: Judah shall be carried away captive all of it, it shall be wholly carried away captive. (20) Lift up your eyes, and behold them that come from the north: where is the flock that was given thee, thy beautiful flock? (21) What wilt thou say when he shall punish thee? for thou hast taught them to be captains, and as chief over thee: shall not sorrows take thee, as a woman in travail”* (**Jeremiah 13:18-21**)?

- Leaders need to consider their role and humble themselves (**Matthew 23:11-12**).
- Judah went into whole captivity (**Lamentations 1:1-3**).
- The Chaldeans came from the north to take Judah (**Jeremiah 25:9**).
- What could be said when the allies of this people, by the choice of the people, turn to take them captive (**II Kings 20:12-19**)?

8. Did God’s reply to the question of the heart of the people regarding the reasoning for their punishment leave much hope for their immediate future?

No: *“(22) And if thou say in thine heart, Wherefore come these things upon me? For the greatness of thine iniquity are thy skirts discovered, and thy heels made bare. (23) Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil. (24) Therefore will I scatter them as the stubble that passeth away by the wind of the wilderness. (25) This is thy lot, the portion of thy measures from me, saith the LORD; because thou hast forgotten me, and trusted in falsehood. (26) Therefore will I discover thy skirts upon thy face, that thy shame may appear. (27) I have seen thine adulteries, and thy neighings, the lewdness of thy whoredom, and thine abominations on the hills in the fields. Woe unto thee, O Jerusalem! wilt thou not be made clean? when shall it once be”* (**Jeremiah 13:22-27**)?

- “Say in thine heart” is a phrase about inward thinking (**Luke 9:46-47**).
- Wherefore come these things... BECAUSE OF YOU (**Proverbs 1:31, Proverbs 12:14, Proverbs 14:14, Proverbs 24:12, Isaiah 3:10-11, Jeremiah 2:19, Jeremiah 4:16-18, Jeremiah 32:19, Ezekiel 22:31, Hosea 7:2, Hosea 8:7, Romans 2:4-11, and Galatians 6:7-8**).
- Those accustomed to do evil do not change (**Jeremiah 9:5** and **Luke 6:43-46**).

- Since repentance was far from them (**Jeremiah 13:10**), God had no choice but to punish them (**II Chronicles 36:14-17**).
- They forgot the Lord (**Jeremiah 3:21** and **Ezekiel 23:35**; cf. **Psalms 50:22**). Remember, God tried all He could to prevent this (**Deuteronomy 4:8-10**).
- They trusted in falsehood (**Jeremiah 7:8**; cf. **Proverbs 26:28**).
- God had to shame them (**II Samuel 12:1-14** and **Romans 2:24**).
- They were continual spiritual harlots (**Jeremiah 3:1-2** and **Ezekiel 16:15**).