

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 298 – The Dearth Through Thou Hast Made All These Things (Jeremiah 14:1-22)

1. How bad was the dearth God showed Jeremiah going to be?

No water, leads to no food, causes great mourning and suffering: *“(1) The word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah concerning the dearth. (2) Judah mourneth, and the gates thereof languish; they are black unto the ground; and the cry of Jerusalem is gone up. (3) And their nobles have sent their little ones to the waters: they came to the pits, and found no water; they returned with their vessels empty; they were ashamed and confounded, and covered their heads. (4) Because the ground is chapt, for there was no rain in the earth, the plowmen were ashamed, they covered their heads. (5) Yea, the hind also calved in the field, and forsook it, because there was no grass. (6) And the wild asses did stand in the high places, they snuffed up the wind like dragons; their eyes did fail, because there was no grass” (Jeremiah 14:1-6).*

- The dearth [draught] was a punishment from God. This is a reminder that He is the source of our rain (**Acts 14:17**).
- They could have had safety from draughts, had they kept their faithfulness to God (**Jeremiah 17:7-8**).
- Their cries would do them no good (**Zechariah 7:13-14**).
- Think of how terrible it was to seek water, need it for crops, etc. and there was none (**Lamentations 5:6-10**).
- The covering of their heads is indicative of their weeping state (**II Samuel 15:30**).
- Now, in shame as they send for water and find none, what did their idols do for them (**Jeremiah 2:26-28**)?
- Their disobedience caused this chapt ground (**Deuteronomy 28:15; 23-24**).
- There was nothing for wildlife to feed off of either (**Joel 1:18-20**). Think of how that has a growing effect on everything.

2. During this dearth, did they want God to help them?

Of course, though they didn't want anything to do with Him before, now they cry to the Father in time of need: *“(7) O LORD, though our iniquities testify against us, do thou it for thy name's sake: for our backslidings are many; we have sinned against thee. (8) O the hope of Israel, the saviour thereof in time of trouble, why shouldst thou be as a stranger in the land, and as a wayfaring man that turneth aside to tarry for a night? (9) Why shouldst thou be as a man astonied, as a mighty man that cannot save? yet thou, O LORD, art in the midst of us, and we are called by thy name; leave us not” (Jeremiah 14:7-9).*

- God righteously punished them, as the remnant will later confess, for their sins (**Nehemiah 9:33-34**). Here though, they are not righteously confessing their faults or wholly turning to God (**Psalms 78:36-37** and **Jeremiah 3:10**).
- They called upon God's help for God's namesake, knowing that God cared about such (**Ezekiel 20:21-22**).

- They can remember God is the HOPE in times of trouble (**Psalms 37:39-40**), but when the times were good they left Him until He punishes them like He has here (**Deuteronomy 32:15-24** and **Hosea 13:6-9**).
- Was it God that left them or the other way around (**Psalms 34:16**, **Isaiah 50:1**, **Isaiah 59:1-3**, and **Jeremiah 5:23-25**)?

3. Did God want to hear their cries for help?

No: *“(10) Thus saith the LORD unto this people, Thus have they loved to wander, they have not refrained their feet, therefore the LORD doth not accept them; he will now remember their iniquity, and visit their sins. (11) Then said the LORD unto me, Pray not for this people for their good. (12) When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and an oblation, I will not accept them: but I will consume them by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence”* (**Jeremiah 14:10-12**).

- God did not accept them because of their sins (**Psalms 119:155**, **Proverbs 15:29**, **Jeremiah 44:21-22**, and **I Peter 3:12**).
- He instructed Jeremiah not to pray for this people (**Jeremiah 7:16** and **Jeremiah 11:14**). Remember, they are “GONE” (**Jeremiah 5:23**; cf. **Jeremiah 9:5-6**).
- Their attempts to sacrifice and return to God were rejected because they would not change (**Proverbs 1:28-31**, **Proverbs 21:27**, **Isaiah 1:10-20**, **Amos 5:21-27**, and **Micah 3:4**).

4. What were the false prophets telling the people?

That nothing was going to happen: *“(13) Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, the prophets say unto them, Ye shall not see the sword, neither shall ye have famine; but I will give you assured peace in this place”* (**Jeremiah 14:13**)

- Again, false peace is spread through false prophets (**Jeremiah 6:13-16** and **Ezekiel 13:10-16**).

5. What did God say about those false prophets?

That they lied and would answer for it: *“(14) Then the LORD said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart. (15) Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the prophets that prophesy in my name, and I sent them not, yet they say, Sword and famine shall not be in this land; By sword and famine shall those prophets be consumed”* (**Jeremiah 14:14-15**).

- God didn't send them or tell them to say anything (**Jeremiah 23:25-26**).
- Don't listen to them (**Jeremiah 27:14-17**).
- Later He said where are those prophets (**Jeremiah 37:19**).
- They'll be consumed (**Jeremiah 23:14-15**, **Jeremiah 28:15-17**, and **II Peter 2:1-3**), as their false promises don't hold up (**Micah 3:11-12**).

6. What would happen to the people that those prophets falsely prophesied to?

They would have their wickedness poured out upon them: *“And the people to whom they prophesy shall be cast out in the streets of Jerusalem because of the famine and the sword; and they shall have none to bury them, them, their wives, nor their sons, nor their daughters: for I will pour their wickedness upon them”* (**Jeremiah 14:16**).

- **Isaiah 9:14-16, Jeremiah 23:32, and Matthew 15:14**

7. What message did God want Jeremiah to deliver unto Judah?

A sad message that would conclude with their acknowledgment of sin and their waiting upon the Lord: *“(17) Therefore thou shalt say this word unto them; Let mine eyes run down with tears night and day, and let them not cease: for the virgin daughter of my people is broken with a great breach, with a very grievous blow. (18) If I go forth into the field, then behold the slain with the sword! and if I enter into the city, then behold them that are sick with famine! yea, both the prophet and the priest go about into a land that they know not. (19) Hast thou utterly rejected Judah? hath thy soul lothed Zion? why hast thou smitten us, and there is no healing for us? we looked for peace, and there is no good; and for the time of healing, and behold trouble! (20) We acknowledge, O LORD, our wickedness, and the iniquity of our fathers: for we have sinned against thee. (21) Do not abhor us, for thy name’s sake, do not disgrace the throne of thy glory: remember, break not thy covenant with us. (22) Are there any among the vanities of the Gentiles that can cause rain? or can the heavens give showers? art not thou he, O LORD our God? therefore we will wait upon thee: for thou hast made all these things”* (**Jeremiah 14:17-22**).

- The sad reality is, this is out of their hands. The time of repentance is come and gone (**Psalms 81:10-13** and **Jeremiah 44:15-28**).
- They now are going to have to wait on the Lord to allow restoration on His terms at His time (**Lamentations 3:24-31**). Sadly, that will not be in this present generation (**Jeremiah 29:10**; cf. **Ezra 8:35**).