

## Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 295 – The Word Came To Jeremiah Through Visitation (Jeremiah 11:1-23)

1. Who was Jeremiah supposed to speak the words of “this covenant” to?

Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: *“(1) The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, (2) Hear ye the words of this covenant, and speak unto the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem” (Jeremiah 11:1-2).*

- The word came to Jeremiah (**Jeremiah 1:11, Jeremiah 7:1, Jeremiah 14:1, Jeremiah 18:1, Jeremiah 21:1, Jeremiah 25:1**, etc.).
- “This covenant” is the Law of Moses (**Jeremiah 34:13**; cf. **Exodus 34:27-34**).
- Later, Jeremiah would instruct them of the coming end of that law (**Jeremiah 31:31-34**; cf. **Romans 7:1-6, Hebrews 8:1-13, Hebrews 9:15-17, and Hebrews 10:1-22**).
- Speak to Judah (**Jeremiah 26:2**).
- Speak to the inhabitants of Jerusalem (**II Chronicles 34:30-32**).

2. What did Jeremiah say, “so be it, O Lord” concerning?

Delivering the message that those whom obeyed not the words of the covenant between God and Israel would be cursed: *“(3) And say thou unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel; Cursed be the man that obeyeth not the words of this covenant, (4) Which I commanded your fathers in the day that I brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, from the iron furnace, saying, Obey my voice, and do them, according to all which I command you: so shall ye be my people, and I will be your God: (5) That I may perform the oath which I have sworn unto your fathers, to give them a land flowing with milk and honey, as it is this day. Then answered I, and said, So be it, O LORD” (Jeremiah 11:3-5).*

- Cursed for lacking obedience (**Deuteronomy 27:26, Deuteronomy 28:15, and Galatians 3:10**).
- The law which I commanded your fathers... (**II Kings 17:13**).
- According to all He commanded (**Deuteronomy 6:2, Deuteronomy 8:1, and Deuteronomy 12:32**).
- That God can perform His oath (**Psalms 105:1-15**) IF they obeyed (**Deuteronomy 11:27-28**).

3. Did God expect them to just hear His word?

No. He expected them to do it as well: *“Then the LORD said unto me, Proclaim all these words in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, saying, Hear ye the words of this covenant, and do them” (Jeremiah 11:6).*

- Proclaim these words in the cities and streets (**Psalms 40:9-10 and Isaiah 58:1**).
- Be doers (**Deuteronomy 5:1, Leviticus 22:31, Luke 6:46, Luke 11:28, Romans 2:13, James 1:21-25, and Revelation 22:14**).

4. Did the children of Israel change from the ways of their fathers?

No: *“(7) For I earnestly protested unto your fathers in the day that I brought them up out of the land of Egypt, even unto this day, rising early and protesting, saying, Obey my voice. (8) Yet they obeyed not, nor inclined their ear, but walked every one in the imagination of their evil heart: therefore I will bring upon them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded them to do; but they did them not. (9) And the LORD said unto me, A conspiracy is found among the men of Judah, and among the inhabitants of Jerusalem. (10) They are turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers, which refused to hear my words; and they went after other gods to serve them: the house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken my covenant which I made with their fathers” (Jeremiah 11:7-10).*

- God earnestly protested [repeatedly charged], rising up early, to their fathers to obey Him (**Deuteronomy 8:1-20, Deuteronomy 30:15-20, and Jeremiah 7:13**).
- God earnestly protested [repeatedly charged] their fathers to obey Him, but they refused (**II Chronicles 36:14-16 and Jeremiah 44:4-5**).
- Foolishly, they were conspiring together against the Lord’s will (**Numbers 14:9, Joshua 22:29, II Chronicles 30:7, Proverbs 19:3, Isaiah 3:8, and Isaiah 59:13**).

5. Was God going to be merciful towards those whom worshipped idols?

No: *“(11) Therefore thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will bring evil upon them, which they shall not be able to escape; and though they shall cry unto me, I will not hearken unto them. (12) Then shall the cities of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem go, and cry unto the gods unto whom they offer incense: but they shall not save them at all in the time of their trouble. (13) For according to the number of thy cities were thy gods, O Judah; and according to the number of the streets of Jerusalem have ye set up altars to that shameful thing, even altars to burn incense unto Baal” (Jeremiah 11:11-13).*

- God’s response was to bring evil [affliction; hurt] upon them (**I Kings 14:1-16, II Kings 22:16-17, II Chronicles 34:24-25, and Jeremiah 23:9-12**).
- God was not going to hear them if they called upon Him (**Proverbs 1:24-31, Proverbs 15:29, Isaiah 59:1-3, and Jeremiah 5:25**).
- God will allow them to go to their gods that cannot save (**Psalms 115:3-8**).
- They had a LOT of idols (**Isaiah 2:6-9**).

6. How often did God want Jeremiah to pray for Israel?

Not at all: *“Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up a cry or prayer for them: for I will not hear them in the time that they cry unto me for their trouble” (Jeremiah 11:14).*

- **Jeremiah 7:16 and Jeremiah 14:11-12; cf. Proverbs 29:1.**

7. Did God still see His people as holy?

No: *“What hath my beloved to do in mine house, seeing she hath wrought lewdness with many, and the holy flesh is passed from thee? when thou doest evil, then thou rejoices”* (**Jeremiah 11:15**).

- Why act clean when you're really perverted (**Deuteronomy 5:28-29**, **Isaiah 1:10-18**, **Isaiah 29:13**, **Isaiah 58:2**, **Jeremiah 7:9-10**, and **Ezekiel 33:30-33**)?

8. Though the Lord made them fair and goodly, what did He pronounce?

Evil against them: *“(16) The LORD called thy name, A green olive tree, fair, and of goodly fruit: with the noise of a great tumult he hath kindled fire upon it, and the branches of it are broken. (17) For the LORD of hosts, that planted thee, hath pronounced evil against thee, for the evil of the house of Israel and of the house of Judah, which they have done against themselves to provoke me to anger in offering incense unto Baal”* (**Jeremiah 11:16-17**).

- God called their name (**Isaiah 45:4**).
- Imagery of kindled fire (**Numbers 11:1** and **Lamentations 4:11**).
- They blew it (**Jeremiah 15:1-7**).

9. What were God's intentions for those whom plotted against Jeremiah?

God was going to take vengeance on them: *“(18) And the LORD hath given me knowledge of it, and I know it: then thou shewedst me their doings. (19) But I was like a lamb or an ox that is brought to the slaughter; and I knew not that they had devised devices against me, saying, Let us destroy the tree with the fruit thereof, and let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name may be no more remembered. (20) But, O LORD of hosts, that judgest righteously, that triest the reins and the heart, let me see thy vengeance on them: for unto thee have I revealed my cause. (21) Therefore thus saith the LORD of the men of Anathoth, that seek thy life, saying, Prophecy not in the name of the LORD, that thou die not by our hand: (22) Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, I will punish them: the young men shall die by the sword; their sons and their daughters shall die by famine: (23) And there shall be no remnant of them: for I will bring evil upon the men of Anathoth, even the year of their visitation”* (**Jeremiah 11:18-23**).

- God revealed their doings, etc. to Jeremiah (**Revelation 22:6**).
- Though God told Jeremiah of their intentions (**Jeremiah 1:19**), he was surprised by their level of intent against him (**Jeremiah 18:18-23**). They plotted against him (**Jeremiah 20:10**).
- Jeremiah plead to God that vengeance be upon them (**Deuteronomy 32:43**, **Psalms 58:10**, and **Isaiah 35:4**).
- Now, servants of God would not have such a desire to see vengeance in this manner (**Acts 7:51-60** and **II Timothy 4:14-16**).
- Since they didn't want to hear the prophet (**Isaiah 30:9-11**), Jeremiah was going to get his desire of vengeance (**II Chronicles 36:17-21**).