

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 301 – Sin Of Judah Is Written Through A Kindled Fire (Jeremiah 17:1-27)

1. What did the Lord say about how engraved the sin of Judah was?

It was with a pen of iron and point of a diamond written on their hearts. Meaning, it was deeply graven upon their hearts: *“The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron, and with the point of a diamond: it is graven upon the table of their heart, and upon the horns of your altars”* (Jeremiah 17:1).

- There was no denying their sin. It was evident by the altars (Jeremiah 11:13) and in their hearts (Hosea 4:8).
- The imagery of the table of thine heart (Proverbs 3:3, Proverbs 7:3, and II Corinthians 3:1-3).

2. While their children remembered their altars, what actions was God taking?

God was taking away their heritage and causing them to serve their enemies: *“Whilst their children remember their altars and their groves by the green trees upon the high hills. O my mountain in the field, I will give thy substance and all thy treasures to the spoil, and thy high places for sin, throughout all thy borders. And thou, even thyself, shalt discontinue from thine heritage that I gave thee; and I will cause thee to serve thine enemies in the land which thou knowest not: for ye have kindled a fire in mine anger, which shall burn for ever”* (Jeremiah 17:2-4).

- Remember, the idolatry in Jerusalem was a family function (Jeremiah 7:17-18).
- “My mountain” given for spoil (Lamentations 5:17-18 and Micah 3:12).
- Even the treasures of the temple were taken (II Kings 25:11-20).
- God’s people were handed into the hands of their enemies to be their servants many times (Nehemiah 9:24-31).
- They had kindled a fire in God’s anger that would burn forever (Matthew 18:8-9 and Matthew 25:41).

3. Should we place our trust in God or man?

God: *“Thus saith the Lord; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord. For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited. Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit”* (Jeremiah 17:5-8).

- Cursed for trusting in man over God (Psalms 118:8-9 and Isaiah 31:1-3) in departing from God (Isaiah 59:13-14 and Hebrews 3:12; cf. Acts 5:29 and Galatians 1:10).

- Trusting in man and departing from God leaves you likened to a heath [naked] man in the desert (**Jeremiah 48:3-13**).
- On the other hand, trusting in God is a blessed life (**Psalms 146:5, Proverbs 16:20**, and **I Peter 1:3-9**).
- A godly life is a fruitful life (**John 15:1-11**).

4. Can you trust in your heart?

No: *"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it"* (**Jeremiah 17:9**).

- **Proverbs 28:26**
- Consider, one's "desires of the heart" are what leads to sin (**Matthew 15:18-20**; cf. **James 1:13-16**).
- Furthermore, when you talk of deceiving oneself, you have a lot more to consider (**Proverbs 14:12, Proverbs 21:2, Galatians 6:3**, etc.).

5. How deep into man does God reach to judge righteously?

Beyond actions, to the heart of man: *"I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings"* (**Jeremiah 17:10**).

- Who can know the heart? GOD DOES (**I Samuel 16:7, I Chronicles 28:9, Proverbs 17:3, John 2:24-25, Hebrews 4:13, and Revelation 2:23**).
- The Lord judges on the ways of man (**Matthew 16:27, John 5:28-29, and II Corinthians 5:10**) and the fruit of our doing (**Romans 6:21-23**).

6. What lesson was God teaching by using the partridge in comparison to a person getting riches?

The partridge that sits on eggs not belonging to it will not retain them as a man that gets riches unrighteously will not retain that wealth: *"As the partridge sitteth on eggs, and hatcheth them not; so he that getteth riches, and not by right, shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool"* (**Jeremiah 17:11**).

- **Proverbs 13:11, Proverbs 15:27, Proverbs 21:6-7, Proverbs 28:20, Matthew 23:14, and James 5:1-6.**

7. How long was the glorious throne, the sanctuary of Israel, set on high?

From the beginning: *"A glorious throne, set on high from the beginning, is the place of our sanctuary"* (**Jeremiah 17:12**).

- **Psalms 103:19 and Hebrews 4:16.**

8. Did Jeremiah fearfully approach God?

Yes: *“A glorious high throne from the beginning is the place of our sanctuary. O Lord, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, and they that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the Lord, the fountain of living waters. Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise. Behold, they say unto me, Where is the word of the Lord? let it come now. As for me, I have not hastened from being a pastor to follow thee: neither have I desired the woeful day; thou knowest: that which came out of my lips was right before thee. Be not a terror unto me: thou art my hope in the day of evil. Let them be confounded that persecute me, but let not me be confounded: let them be dismayed, but let not me be dismayed: bring upon them the day of evil, and destroy them with double destruction” (Jeremiah 17:13-18).*

- The Lord was the hope of Israel (**Psalms 130:7**).
- Those that forsook Him were put to shame (**Deuteronomy 31:17**), though they were not in such a state by their choosing in a rightful way (**Jeremiah 8:12**).
- Spiritual well-being is found in the Lord (**Psalms 6:1-4** and **Luke 5:29-32**).
- They mocked with “where is the word of the Lord” (**Isaiah 5:18-19**, **Jeremiah 5:12-13**, **Jeremiah 23:17**, **Zephaniah 1:12-18**, and **II Peter 3:3-10**).
- Jeremiah separated himself here from them in their mockery of God’s word and asked God to punish them for their persecution against him (**Jeremiah 18:19-23**).

9. What message did God tell Jeremiah to deliver in all the gates of Jerusalem?

Keep my Sabbath, obey Him, or else... *“Thus said the Lord unto me; Go and stand in the gate of the children of the people, whereby the kings of Judah come in, and by the which they go out, and in all the gates of Jerusalem; And say unto them, Hear ye the word of the Lord, ye kings of Judah, and all Judah, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, that enter in by these gates: Thus saith the Lord; Take heed to yourselves, and bear no burden on the sabbath day, nor bring it in by the gates of Jerusalem; Neither carry forth a burden out of your houses on the sabbath day, neither do ye any work, but hallow ye the sabbath day, as I commanded your fathers. But they obeyed not, neither inclined their ear, but made their neck stiff, that they might not hear, nor receive instruction. And it shall come to pass, if ye diligently hearken unto me, saith the Lord, to bring in no burden through the gates of this city on the sabbath day, but hallow the sabbath day, to do no work therein; Then shall there enter into the gates of this city kings and princes sitting upon the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, they, and their princes, the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: and this city shall remain for ever. And they shall come from the cities of Judah, and from the places about Jerusalem, and from the land of Benjamin, and from the plain, and from the mountains, and from the south, bringing burnt offerings, and sacrifices, and meat offerings, and incense, and bringing sacrifices of praise, unto the house of the Lord. But if ye will not hearken unto me to hallow the sabbath day, and not to bear a burden, even entering in at the gates of*

Jerusalem on the sabbath day; then will I kindle a fire in the gates thereof, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it shall not be quenched” (Jeremiah 17:19-27).

- Stand in the gate to teach, catching them in coming and going (**Jeremiah 7:2-3** and **Jeremiah 26:2**).
- Jeremiah was acting as the spiritual watchman (**Ezekiel 3:17**).
- “Take heed to yourselves” (**Deuteronomy 11:16** and **Joshua 23:11**).
- Keeping the Sabbath was a cornerstone of their faith during Old Testament times (**Exodus 20:8-11**, **Exodus 31:13-16**, and **Isaiah 58:13-14**). That Law and the Sabbath are no longer in effect (**Romans 7:1-6** and **Colossians 2:12-17**).
- But they obeyed not (**Jeremiah 3:13**, **Jeremiah 7:24**, and **Daniel 9:14**).
- They make their neck stiff (**Deuteronomy 9:13**) and refused instruction (**Proverbs 10:17**).
- As God has told them in times past, if they hearkened they’d be His people and He’d be their God (**Exodus 19:5** and **Deuteronomy 11:13-25**).
- The choice God gave them was always a “this” or “that” choice (**Deuteronomy 11:26-28**).