

# **Jeremiah 08 - The Peril of False Teaching; Jeremiah Mourns for the People**

## **II. Thirteen prophecies of judgment upon Judah (Jer 2:1–25:38)**

(1) Nine general prophecies of judgment that include offers of repentance (Jer 2:1–19:15)

(C) Third message: Temple's sermon (Jer 7:1–10:25)

(a) The inevitability of coming judgment (Jer 7:1–8:3)

(ii) Judah's sins making judgment unavoidable (7:16–8:3)

(c) Child sacrifice and astral worship (7:29–8:3)

(b) Reality and causes of coming judgment (Jer 8:4–10:25)

(i) Willful ignorance (8:4–17)

(ii) First funeral dirge over Jerusalem (8:18–9:1)

## **Jeremiah 8**

(a) The inevitability of coming judgment (Jer 7:1–8:3)

(ii) Judah's sins making judgment unavoidable (7:16–8:3)

(c) Child sacrifice and astral worship (7:29–8:3)

**1** "At that time," declares the LORD, "they will bring out the bones of the kings of Judah, the bones of its leaders, the bones of the priests, the bones of the prophets, and the bones of the inhabitants of Jerusalem from their graves.

**1** "At that time," declares the LORD, "they will bring out the bones of the kings of Judah and the bones of its princes, and the bones of the priests and the bones of the prophets, and the bones of the inhabitants of Jerusalem from their graves.

**1** "At that time," declares the LORD, "the bones of the king of Judah, the bones of his officials, the bones of the priests, the bones of the prophets, and the bones of the residents of Jerusalem will be removed from their graves.

**1** At that time, saith the LORD, they shall bring out the bones of the kings of Judah, and the bones of his princes, and the bones of the priests, and the bones of the prophets, and the bones of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, out of their graves:

**2** They will spread them out to the sun, the moon, and to all the heavenly lights, which they have loved, which they have served, which they have followed, which they have sought, and which they have worshiped. They will not be gathered nor buried; they will be like dung on the face of the ground.

2 They will spread them out to the sun, the moon and to all the host of heaven, which they have loved and which they have served, and which they have gone after and which they have sought, and which they have worshiped. They will not be gathered or buried; they will be as dung on the face of the ground.

2 They'll be spread out to the sun, the moon, and all the stars of the heavens, which they loved and served, and which they followed, consulted, and worshipped. Their bones won't be collected, nor will they be buried. They'll be like dung on the surface of the ground.

2 And they shall spread them before the sun, and the moon, and all the host of heaven, whom they have loved, and whom they have served, and after whom they have walked, and whom they have sought, and whom they have worshipped: they shall not be gathered, nor be buried; they shall be for dung upon the face of the earth.

- God is upset, seen even by the construction of the sentences.

- Five groups of people will be disinterred out of their graves before the hosts of heaven, the sun, the moon, and the stars.

- Then he lists five verbs: whom they have loved, whom they have served, and after whom they have walked, and whom they gave sought, and whom they have worshiped.

— Even the structures of the sentences are tight, tough, and articulate: five groups of bones, five verbs that are sarcastically or cynically modeling their worship of these things when they were alive.

— As you see this attitude of God to his people for rejecting him and worshiping idols, then move to the book of Revelation. You see God's fury poured out on the whole earth, and discover not only is he mad, he chooses the same idioms all the way through...

3 And death will be chosen rather than life by all the remnant that remains of this evil family, that remains in all the places to which I have driven them," declares the LORD of armies.

3 And death will be chosen rather than life by all the remnant that remains of this evil family, that remains in all the places to which I have driven them," declares the LORD of hosts.

3 "In all the places where the people remain, where I've banished them, death will be chosen over life by all the remnant that remains of this evil family," declares the LORD of the Heavenly Armies.

3 And death shall be chosen rather than life by all the residue of them that remain of this evil family, which remain in all the places whither I have driven them, saith the LORD of hosts.

[Lev 26:32-39; Deut 28:64-67]

(b) Reality and causes of coming judgment (Jer 8:4—10:25)

(i) Willful ignorance (8:4-17)

4 "You shall say to them, 'This is what the LORD says: "Do *people* fall and not get up? Does one turn away and not repent?

4 "You shall say to them, 'Thus says the LORD, "Do *men* fall and not get up again? Does one turn away and not repent?

4 "You are to say to them, 'This is what the LORD says: "Will a person fall down and then not get up? Will someone turn away and then not turn back again?

4 Moreover thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the LORD; Shall they fall, and not arise? shall he turn away, and not return?

5 "Why has this people, Jerusalem, Turned away in continual apostasy? They hold on to deceit, They refuse to return.

5 "Why then has this people, Jerusalem, Turned away in continual apostasy? They hold fast to deceit, They refuse to return.

5 Why has this people turned away? Why does Jerusalem continue in apostasy? They hold on to deceit and refuse to repent.

5 Why *then* is this people of Jerusalem slidden back by a perpetual backsliding? they hold fast deceit, they refuse to return.

6 "I have listened and heard, They have spoken what is not right; No one repented of his wickedness, Saying, 'What have I done?' Everyone turned to his own course, Like a horse charging into the battle.

6 "I have listened and heard, They have spoken what is not right; No man repented of his wickedness, Saying, 'What have I done?' Everyone turned to his course, Like a horse charging into the battle.

6 I've listened and I've heard, and what they say is not right. No one repents of his evil and says, 'What have I done?' "They all turn to their own course like a horse racing into battle.

6 I hearkened and heard, *but* they spake not aright: no man repented him of his wickedness, saying, What have I done? every one turned to his course, as the horse rusheth into the battle.

7 "Even the stork in the sky Knows her seasons; And the **turtledove**, the **swallow**, and the **crane** Keep to the time of their migration; But My people do not know The judgment of the LORD.

7 "Even the stork in the sky Knows her seasons; And the turtledove and the swift and the thrush Observe the time of their migration; But My people do not know The ordinance of the LORD.

7 Even the stork in the sky knows its seasons, and the dove, the swallow, and the crane observe the time for migration. But my people don't know the requirements of the LORD.  
7 Yea, the stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times; and the turtle and the crane and the swallow observe the time of their coming; but my people know not the judgment of the LORD.

- "...turtledove...swallow...crane" - these are references to birds; they know their migratory patterns

-- These birds are smarter than these people: "But my people know not the law of the Lord." They turned away from the Lord, but it is time to come back and repent; they are not doing that either.

**8** "How can you say, 'We are wise, And the Law of the LORD is with us'? But behold, the lying pen of the scribes Has made *it* into a lie.

**8** "How can you say, 'We are wise, And the law of the LORD is with us'? But behold, the lying pen of the scribes Has made *it* into a lie.

8 How can you say, 'We're wise, and the Law of the LORD is with us,' when, in fact, the deceitful pen of the scribe has made it into something that deceives.

8 How do ye say, We are wise, and the law of the LORD *is* with us? Lo, certainly in vain made he *it*; the pen of the scribes *is* in vain.

9 "The wise men are put to shame, They are dismayed and caught; Behold, they have rejected the word of the LORD, So what *kind of* wisdom do they have?

9 "The wise men are put to shame, They are dismayed and caught; Behold, they have rejected the word of the LORD, And what kind of wisdom do they have?

9 The wise men will be put to shame. They'll be dismayed and taken captive. Look, they have rejected the message from the LORD! So what kind of wisdom do they have?

9 The wise *men* are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom *is* in them?

10 "Therefore I will give their wives to others, Their fields to new owners; Because from the least even to the greatest Everyone is greedy for gain; From the prophet even to the priest, Everyone practices deceit.

10 "Therefore I will give their wives to others, Their fields to new owners; Because from the least even to the greatest Everyone is greedy for gain; From the prophet even to the priest Everyone practices deceit.

10 Therefore, I'll give their wives to others, and their fields to new owners. Indeed, from the least important to the most important, they're all greedy for dishonest gain. From prophet to priest, they all act deceitfully.

10 Therefore will I give their wives unto others, *and* their fields to them that shall inherit *them*: for every one from the least even unto the greatest is given to covetousness, from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely.

11 "They have healed the brokenness of the daughter of My people superficially, Saying, 'Peace, peace,' But there is no peace.

11 "They heal the brokenness of the daughter of My people superficially, Saying, 'Peace, peace,' But there is no peace.

11 They have treated my people's wound superficially, telling them, 'Peace, peace,' when there is no peace.

11 For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when [there is] no peace.

- False prophets were preaching to the people that everything was going to be fine, the Lord is going to take care of it. They were giving a message of hope and peace, but Jeremiah's voice is unpopular, and is in total contrast to that.

12 "Were they ashamed because of the abomination they had done? They were not ashamed at all, And they did not know how to be ashamed; Therefore they will fall among those who fall; At the time of their punishment they will collapse," Says the LORD.

12 "Were they ashamed because of the abomination they had done? They certainly were not ashamed, And they did not know how to blush; Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; At the time of their punishment they shall be brought down," Says the LORD.

12 Are they ashamed because they have done what is repugnant to God? They weren't ashamed at all; they don't even know how to blush! Therefore they'll fall with those who fall. When I punish them, they'll be brought down," says the LORD.

12 Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore shall they fall among them that fall: in the time of their visitation they shall be cast down, saith the LORD.

13 "I will certainly snatch them away," declares the LORD. "There will be no grapes on the vine And no figs on the fig tree, And the leaf will wither; And what I have given them will pass away"""

13 "I will surely snatch them away," declares the LORD; "There will be no grapes on the vine And no figs on the fig tree, And the leaf will wither; And what I have given them will pass away"""

13 "I would have gathered them," declares the LORD, "but there were no grapes on the vine, and no figs on the fig tree, and their leaves were withered. What I've given them has been taken away"""

13 I will surely consume them, saith the LORD: *there shall be no grapes on the vine, nor figs on the fig tree, and the leaf shall fade; and the things that I have given them shall pass away from them.*

### **The People Respond**

14 Why are we sitting *still*? Assemble yourselves, and let's go into the fortified cities And perish there, For the LORD our God has doomed us And given us poisoned water to drink, Because we have sinned against the LORD.

14 Why are we sitting still? Assemble yourselves, and let us go into the fortified cities And let us perish there, Because the LORD our God has doomed us And given us poisoned water to drink, For we have sinned against the LORD.

14 Why are we sitting here? Join together! Let's go to the fortified cities and perish there! For the LORD our God has condemned us to perish and given us poisoned water to drink, because we have sinned against him.

14 Why do we sit still? assemble yourselves, and let us enter into the defenced cities, and let us be silent there: for the LORD our God hath put us to silence, and given us water of gall to drink, because we have sinned against the LORD.

- Incidentally, in Jer 8:13—9:23, that passage is the portion of Scripture that is read in the synagogue on the ninth of Av, the day of the destruction of the Temple

- They go into the fortified cities to buy a little time, because the enemy is coming

15 We waited for peace, but no good *came*; For a time of healing, but behold, terror!

15 We waited for peace, but no good *came*; For a time of healing, but behold, terror!

15 We waited for peace, but no good has come, for a time of healing, but instead there was terror.

15 We looked for peace, but no good *came*; and for a time of health, and behold trouble!

### **The LORD's Warning**

16 From Dan there is heard the snorting of his horses; At the sound of the neighing of his stallions The whole land quakes; For they come and devour the land and its fullness, The city and its inhabitants.

16 From Dan is heard the snorting of his horses; At the sound of the neighing of his stallions The whole land quakes; For they come and devour the land and its fullness, The city and its inhabitants.

16 "The snorting of their horses is heard from Dan. At the neighing of their stallions, the whole earth quakes. They're coming to devour the land and all it contains, the city and all who live in it.

16 The snorting of his horses was heard from Dan: the whole land trembled at the sound of the neighing of his strong ones; for they are come, and have devoured the land, and all that is in it; the city, and those that dwell therein.

- The horses they are talking about here are Babylonian horses, the cavalry that made Babylon famous

17 "For behold, I am sending serpents among you, Vipers for which there is no charm; And they will bite you," declares the LORD.

17 "For behold, I am sending serpents against you, Adders, for which there is no charm, And they will bite you," declares the LORD.

17 Look, I'll send snakes among you, vipers that cannot be charmed, and they'll bite you."

17 For, behold, I will send serpents, cockatrices, among you, which *will* not be charmed, and they shall bite you, saith the LORD.

(ii) First funeral dirge over Jerusalem (8:18—9:1)

18 My sorrow is beyond healing, My heart is faint within me!

18 My sorrow is beyond healing, My heart is faint *within me*!

18 Incurable sorrow has overwhelmed me, my heart is sick within me.

18 *When I would comfort myself against sorrow, my heart is faint in me.*

19 Behold, listen! The cry of the daughter of my people from a distant land: "Is the LORD not in Zion? Is her King not within her?" "Why have they provoked Me with their carved images, with foreign idols?"

19 Behold, listen! The cry of the daughter of my people from a distant land: "Is the LORD not in Zion? Is her King not within her?" "Why have they provoked Me with their graven images, with foreign idols?"

19 Listen! My people cry from a distant land: "Is the LORD no longer in Zion? Is her king no longer there?"

### **The LORD Speaks**

"Why did they provoke me to anger with their images, with their worthless foreign gods?"

19 Behold the voice of the cry of the daughter of my people because of them that dwell in a far country: *Is not the LORD in Zion? is not her king in her?* Why have they provoked me to anger with their graven images, *and* with strange vanities?

### **The People Speak**

20 "Harvest is past, summer is over, And we are not saved."

20 "Harvest is past, summer is ended, And we are not saved."

20 The harvest is past, the summer has ended, and we haven't been delivered.

20 The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.

- One of the saddest verses in the Scripture...

- Barley wheat and spelt were harvested in April, May and June; figs, grapes and pomegranates were harvested in August and September; olives were harvested in October.

— But the plea here, to the people who understood the cycles, is that there was a time to harvest and if you didn't harvest by that time, it was too late

### **The Prophet Mourns**

21 I am broken over the brokenness of the daughter of my people. I mourn, dismay has taken hold of me.

21 For the brokenness of the daughter of my people I am broken; I mourn, dismay has taken hold of me.

21 Because my people are crushed, I'm crushed. I mourn, and dismay overwhelms me.

21 For the hurt of the daughter of my people am I hurt; I am black; astonishment hath taken hold on me.

22 **Is there no balm in Gilead?** Is there no physician there? Why then has not the health of the daughter of my people been restored?

22 Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has not the health of the daughter of my people been restored?

22 Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? So why is there no healing for my people?

22 *Is there no balm in Gilead; is there* no physician there? why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?

- "Is there no balm in Gilead?" - it has become a figure of speech in our language. Gilead is east of Jordan, north of Moab. It is famous for the storax tree, and its resin gum has become a very important healing agent.

— Gilead was the source in that day for pharmaceuticals. The Balm from Gilead was in fact used as a healing agent (Gen 37:25; Jer 46:11; 51:8; Ezek 27:17)