

# Jeremiah 12 - Jeremiah's Question; The Lord's Answer; The Prosperity of the Wicked

## 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)
  - (D) Fourth message: broken covenant (Jer 11:1–12:17)
    - (c) Consequences of covenant violation (11:11–12:17)
      - (ii) Plot against Jeremiah (11:18–12:6)
      - (iii) God forsakes Judah (12:7–13)
      - (iv) Judah to be restored and her enemies vindicated (12:14–17)

### **Jeremiah 12**

(ii) Plot against Jeremiah (11:18–12:6)

**1** Righteous are You, LORD, when I plead *my* case with You; Nevertheless I would discuss matters of justice with You: Why has the way of the wicked prospered? *Why* are all those who deal in treachery at ease?

**1** Righteous are You, O LORD, that I would plead *my* case with You; Indeed I would discuss matters of justice with You: Why has the way of the wicked prospered? *Why* are all those who deal in treachery at ease?

**1** You are righteous, LORD, even when I bring a complaint to you. But I want to discuss justice with you. Why does the way of the wicked prosper, while all who are treacherous are at ease?

**1** Righteous *art* thou, O LORD, when I plead with thee: yet let me talk with thee of *thy* judgments: Wherefore doth the way of the wicked prosper? *wherefore* are all they happy that deal very treacherously?

**2** You have planted them, they have also taken root; They grow, they have also produced fruit. You are near to their lips But far from their mind.

**2** You have planted them, they have also taken root; They grow, they have even produced fruit. You are near to their lips But far from their mind.

**2** You plant them and they take root, they grow and bear fruit. "You are near to us," they say with their mouths, but the truth is that you're far from their hearts.

2 Thou hast planted them, yea, they have taken root: they grow, yea, they bring forth fruit: thou *art* near in their mouth, and far from their reins.

3 But You know me, LORD; You see me And examine my heart's *attitude* toward You. Drag them off like sheep for the slaughter, And set them apart for a day of slaughter!

3 But You know me, O LORD; You see me; And You examine my heart's *attitude* toward You. Drag them off like sheep for the slaughter And set them apart for a day of carnage!

3 You know me, LORD. You see me and test my thoughts<sup>1</sup> toward you. Pull the wicked out like sheep for slaughter; set them apart for the day of butchering.

3 But thou, O LORD, knowest me: thou hast seen me, and tried mine heart toward thee: pull them out like sheep for the slaughter, and prepare them for the day of slaughter.

4 How long is the land to mourn, And the vegetation of the countryside to dry up? Due to the wickedness of those who live in it, Animals and birds have been snatched away, Because *people* have said, "He will not see our final end."

4 How long is the land to mourn And the vegetation of the countryside to wither? For the wickedness of those who dwell in it, Animals and birds have been snatched away, Because *men* have said, "He will not see our latter ending."

4 How long will the land mourn and the vegetation of every field dry up? Because of the wickedness of those who live in it, animals and birds are swept away. For they say, "He does not see our future."

4 How long shall the land mourn, and the herbs of every field wither, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein? the beasts are consumed, and the birds; because they said, He shall not see our last end.

### **God's Reply to Jeremiah**

5 "If you have run with infantrymen and they have tired you out, How can you compete with horses? If you fall down in a land of peace, How will you do in the thicket by the Jordan?

5 "If you have run with footmen and they have tired you out, Then how can you compete with horses? If you fall down in a land of peace, How will you do in the thicket of the Jordan?

5 Indeed, if you run with others on foot, and they tire you out, how can you compete with horses? You are secure in a land at peace, but how will you do in the thicket of the Jordan?

5 If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses? and if in the land of peace, *wherein* thou trustedst, *they wearied thee*, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?

6 "For even your brothers and the household of your father, Even they have dealt treacherously with you, Even they have called aloud after you. Do not believe them, though they say nice things to you."

6 "For even your brothers and the household of your father, Even they have dealt treacherously with you, Even they have cried aloud after you. Do not believe them, although they may say nice things to you."

6 Indeed, even your brothers and your father's family conspire against you. Even they cry out after you loudly. Don't believe them, even though they speak friendly words to you.

6 For even thy brethren, and the house of thy father, even they have dealt treacherously with thee; yea, they have called a multitude after thee: believe them not, though they speak fair words unto thee.

- Interesting problem here, you have to recognize that Jeremiah is really upset, and is making comments here within the family. This isn't some abstraction, in a few verses back, he gets extracted from a plot to assassinate him that included his family.

### (iii) God forsakes Judah (12:7-13)

7 "I have forsaken My house, I have abandoned My inheritance; I have handed the beloved of My soul Over to her enemies.

7 "I have forsaken My house, I have abandoned My inheritance; I have given the beloved of My soul Into the hand of her enemies.

7 I'll forsake my house, I'll abandon my inheritance. I'll give the beloved of my heart into the hand of her enemies.

7 I have forsaken mine house, I have left mine heritage; I have given the dearly beloved of my soul into the hand of her enemies.

8 "My inheritance has become to Me Like a lion in the forest; She has roared against Me; Therefore I have come to hate her.

8 "My inheritance has become to Me Like a lion in the forest; She has roared against Me; Therefore I have come to hate her.

8 My inheritance has become like a lion in the forest to me. She roars at me; therefore, I hate her.

8 Mine heritage is unto me as a lion in the forest; it crieth out against me: therefore have I hated it.

9 "Is My inheritance *like* a speckled bird of prey to Me? Are the birds of prey against her on every side? Go, gather all the animals of the field, Bring them to devour!

9 "Is My inheritance like a speckled bird of prey to Me? Are the birds of prey against her on every side? Go, gather all the beasts of the field, Bring them to devour!

9 Is my inheritance like a speckled bird of prey to me? Are the other birds of prey all around her coming against her? Go, gather all the wild animals and bring them to devour it.  
9 Mine heritage *is* unto me as a speckled bird, the birds round about *are* against her; come ye, assemble all the beasts of the field, come to devour.

10 "Many shepherds have ruined My vineyard, They have trampled down My field; They have made My pleasant field A desolate wilderness.

10 "Many shepherds have ruined My vineyard, They have trampled down My field; They have made My pleasant field A desolate wilderness.

10 Many shepherds will destroy my vineyard. They'll trample down my portion. They'll turn my pleasant portion into a desolate desert.

10 Many pastors have destroyed my vineyard, they have trodden my portion under foot, they have made my pleasant portion a desolate wilderness.

11 "It has been made a desolation; Desolate, it mourns before Me; The whole land has been made desolate, Because no one takes it to heart.

11 "It has been made a desolation, Desolate, it mourns before Me; The whole land has been made desolate, Because no man lays it to heart.

11 They'll make it into a desolate place, and, desolate, it will cry out in mourning to me. The whole land will be desolate because no one takes it to heart.

11 They have made it desolate, *and being* desolate it mourneth unto me; the whole land is made desolate, because no man layeth *it* to heart.

12 "On all the bare heights in the wilderness Destroyers have come, For the sword of the LORD is devouring From one end of the land even to the other; There is no peace for anyone.

12 "On all the bare heights in the wilderness Destroyers have come, For a sword of the LORD is devouring From one end of the land even to the other; There is no peace for anyone.

12 On all the barren heights in the desert destroyers will come. Indeed, a sword of the LORD will devour from one end of the land to the other. There will be no peace for any person.

12 The spoilers are come upon all high places through the wilderness: for the sword of the LORD shall devour from the *one* end of the land even to the *other* end of the land: no flesh shall have peace.

13 "They have sown wheat but have harvested thorns, They have strained themselves to no profit. So be ashamed of your produce Because of the fierce anger of the LORD."

13 "They have sown wheat and have reaped thorns, They have strained themselves to no profit. But be ashamed of your harvest Because of the fierce anger of the LORD."

13 They have sown wheat, but they have harvested thorns. They have tired themselves out, but they don't show a profit. Now be disappointed about your harvest because of the fierce anger of the LORD.

13 They have sown wheat, but shall reap thorns: they have put themselves to pain, *but* shall not profit: and they shall be ashamed of your revenues because of the fierce anger of the LORD.

(iv) Judah to be restored and her enemies vindicated (12:14-17)

**14** This is what the LORD says concerning all My wicked neighbors who do harm to the inheritance with which I have endowed My people Israel: "Behold, I am going to drive them out of their land, and I will drive the house of Judah out from among them.

**14** Thus says the LORD concerning all My wicked neighbors who strike at the inheritance with which I have endowed My people Israel, "Behold I am about to uproot them from their land and will uproot the house of Judah from among them.

**14** This is what the LORD says about all the wicked neighbors who strike out against the land I've given to my people Israel as their inheritance: "I'm about to uproot them from their land, and I'll uproot the house of Judah from among them.

**14** Thus saith the LORD against all mine evil neighbours, that touch the inheritance which I have caused my people Israel to inherit; Behold, I will pluck them out of their land, and pluck out the house of Judah from among them.

- Incidentally, all this is anticipating Chapters 47-49 which will go into a lot of this in more detail.

15 And it will come about that after I have driven them out, I will again have compassion on them; and I will bring them back, each one to his inheritance and each one to his land.

15 And it will come about that after I have uprooted them, I will again have compassion on them; and I will bring them back, each one to his inheritance and each one to his land.

15 After I've uprooted them, I'll again have compassion on them. I'll return each one of them to his inheritance, and each one to his own land.

15 And it shall come to pass, after that I have plucked them out I will return, and have compassion on them, and will bring them again, every man to his heritage, and every man to his land.

16 Then, if they will really learn the ways of My people, to swear by My name, 'As the LORD lives,' just as they taught My people to swear by Baal, they will be built up in the midst of My people.

16 Then if they will really learn the ways of My people, to swear by My name, 'As the Lord lives,' even as they taught My people to swear by Baal, they will be built up in the midst of My people.

16 If they have learned the ways of my people well, to swear by my name: 'As surely as the LORD lives,' just as they once taught my people to swear by Baal, then they'll be built up among my people.

16 And it shall come to pass, if they will diligently learn the ways of my people, to swear by my name, The LORD liveth; as they taught my people to swear by Baal; then shall they be built in the midst of my people.

17 But if they do not listen, then I will drive out that nation, drive *it* out and destroy *it*," declares the LORD.

17 But if they will not listen, then I will uproot that nation, uproot and destroy it," declares the LORD.

17 But if they don't listen, then I'll completely uproot that nation and destroy it," declares the LORD.

17 But if they will not obey, I will utterly pluck up and destroy that nation, saith the LORD.

- Remnant returning; Rom 11:15 and Gen 12:1-3. The same enemy of Judah is also going to destroy the enemies of Judah, i.e. Assyria, Moab, and Ammon; they will be destroyed by the Babylonian forces that God is going to use to judge Judah.