

Jeremiah 14 - Sword, Famine and Pestilence; The People Plead for Mercy

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)

(F) Sixth message: drought and prayer (14:1-22)

(a) Drought described (14:1-6)

(b) Consequences of the drought (14:7-22)

(i) Judah's plea (14:7-9)

(ii) God's non-responsiveness to the plea (14:10-16)

(iii) Jeremiah's dirge (14:17-18)

(iv) Judah's plea (14:19-22)

Jeremiah 14

(F) Sixth message: drought and prayer (14:1-22)

(a) Drought described (14:1-6)

1 That which came as the word of the LORD to Jeremiah regarding the drought:

1 That which came as the word of the LORD to Jeremiah in regard to the drought:

1 This is this message from the LORD that came to Jeremiah concerning the drought:

1 The word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah concerning the dearth.

2 "Judah mourns And her gates languish; *Her people sit* on the ground in mourning garments, And the cry of Jerusalem has ascended.

2 "Judah mourns And her gates languish; They sit on the ground in mourning, And the cry of Jerusalem has ascended.

2 "Judah mourns, and her gates languish. The people mourn for the land, and the cry of Jerusalem goes up.

2 Judah mourneth, and the gates thereof languish; they are black unto the ground; and the cry of Jerusalem is gone up.

3 "Their nobles have sent their servants for water; They have come to the cisterns and found no water. They have returned with their containers empty; They have been put to shame and humiliated, And they cover their heads,

3 "Their nobles have sent their servants for water; They have come to the cisterns and found no water. They have returned with their vessels empty; They have been put to shame and humiliated, And they cover their heads.

3 Their nobles send their young people for water. They go to the cisterns, but they find no water. They return with their vessels empty. They're disappointed and dismayed, and they cover their heads in shame.

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.

- The cisterns were large reservoirs that were designed to catch rainwater, so the little rain they had would be saved. But the cisterns were empty.

4 Because the ground is cracked, For there has been no rain on the land. The farmers have been put to shame, They have covered their heads.

4 "Because the ground is cracked, For there has been no rain on the land; The farmers have been put to shame, They have covered their heads.

4 The ground is cracked, because there has been no rain in the land. The farmers are disappointed, and they cover their heads in shame.

4 Because the ground is chapt, for there was no rain in the earth, the plowmen were ashamed, they covered their heads.

5 "For even the doe in the field has given birth only to abandon *her young*, Because there is no grass.

5 "For even the doe in the field has given birth only to abandon *her young*, Because there is no grass.

5 Even the doe in the field gives birth and then abandons her young because there is no grass.

5 Yea, the hind also calved in the field, and forsook *it*, because there was no grass.

6 "The wild donkeys stand on the bare heights; They pant for air like jackals, Their eyes fail Because there is no vegetation.

6 "The wild donkeys stand on the bare heights; They pant for air like jackals, Their eyes fail For there is no vegetation.

6 Wild donkeys stand on the barren hills. They pant for air like jackals. Their eyesight fails because there is no vegetation."

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.

(b) Consequences of the drought (14:7-22)

(i) Judah's plea (14:7-9)

7 "Though our wrongdoings testify against us, LORD, act for the sake of Your name! Our apostasies have indeed been many, We have sinned against You.

7 "Although our iniquities testify against us, O LORD, act for Your name's sake! Truly our apostasies have been many, We have sinned against You.

7 LORD, even though our iniquities testify against us, do something for the sake of your name. Indeed, our apostasies are many, and we have sinned against you.

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 "Hope of Israel, Its Savior in time of distress, Why are You like a stranger in the land, Or like a traveler who has pitched *his tent* for the night?

8 "O Hope of Israel, Its Savior in time of distress, Why are You like a stranger in the land Or like a traveler who has pitched his *tent* for the night?

8 Hope of Israel, its deliverer in time of trouble, why are you like a stranger⁹ in the land, like a traveler who sets up his tent for a night?

8 O the hope of Israel, the saviour thereof in time of trouble, why shouldest thou be as a stranger in the land, and as a wayfaring man *that* turneth aside to tarry for a night?

- Jeremiah uses one of his favorite phrases, the hope of Israel (Jer 17:7,13; 50:7; Paul uses it in Acts 28:20; Col 1:27; 1 Tim 1:1). It is also a subtle way to say, like Joshua, the Egyptians will hear about it God, which is hinted at in this title. Jeremiah is reminding him, the savior in time of trouble.

9 "Why are You like a confused person, Like a warrior who cannot save? Yet You are in our midst, LORD, And we are called by Your name; Do not leave us!"

9 "Why are You like a man dismayed, Like a mighty man who cannot save? Yet You are in our midst, O LORD, And we are called by Your name; Do not forsake us!"

9 Why are you like a man taken by surprise, like a strong man who can't deliver? You are among us, LORD, and your name is the one by which we're called. Don't abandon us!

9 Why shouldest thou be as a man astonished, 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.

(ii) God's non-responsiveness to the plea (14:10-16)

10 This is what the LORD says to this people: "So much they have loved to wander; they have not restrained their feet. Therefore the LORD does not accept them; now He will remember their wrongdoing and call their sins to account."

10 Thus says the LORD to this people, "Even so they have loved to wander; they have not kept their feet in check. Therefore the LORD does not accept them; now He will remember their iniquity and call their sins to account."

10 This is what the LORD says to these people: "Yes, they do love to wander, and they haven't restrained their feet. So the LORD won't accept them now. He will remember their iniquity and punish their sin."

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 So the LORD said to me, "Do not pray for a good outcome on behalf of this people.

11 So the LORD said to me, "Do not pray for the welfare of this people.

11 Then the LORD told me, "Don't pray for the welfare of these people.

11 Then said the LORD unto me, Pray not for this people for *their* good.

- Third time forbidden to pray for the people (v11; 7:16; 11:14)

12 When they fast, I am not going to listen to their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and grain offering, I am not going to accept them. Rather, I am going to put an end to them by the sword, famine, and plague."

12 When they fast, I am not going to listen to their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and grain offering, I am not going to accept them. Rather I am going to make an end of them by the sword, famine and pestilence."

12 Although they fast, I won't listen to their cry, and although they offer burnt offerings and grain offerings, I won't accept them. Instead, I'll put an end to them with the sword, with famine, and with a plague."

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.

- The sword, the famine and the pestilence, those three things are linked together as a trio seven times in the book of Jeremiah.

False Prophets

13 But I said, "Oh, Lord GOD! Behold, the prophets are telling them, 'You will not see a sword, nor will you have famine; on the contrary, I will give you lasting peace in this place.'"

13 But, "Ah, Lord GOD!" I said, "Look, the prophets are telling them, 'You will not see the sword nor will you have famine, but I will give you lasting peace in this place.'"

13 Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD, look! The prophets are saying to them, 'You won't see the sword and you won't experience famine. Rather, I'll give you lasting peace in this place.'"

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.

14 Then the LORD said to me, "The prophets are prophesying falsehood in My name. I have neither sent them nor commanded them, nor spoken to them; they are prophesying to you a false vision, divination, futility, and the deception of their own minds.

14 Then the LORD said to me, "The prophets are prophesying falsehood in My name. I have neither sent them nor commanded them nor spoken to them; they are prophesying to you a false vision, divination, futility and the deception of their own minds.

14 Then the LORD told me, "The prophets are prophesying lies in my name. I didn't send them, I didn't command them, and I didn't speak to them. They're proclaiming to you false visions, worthless predictions, and the delusions of their own minds.

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.

- The prophets are saying to them that they won't see the sword, famine or pestilence, they were reassuring the people that every- thing was going to be alright.

15 Therefore this is what the LORD says concerning the prophets who are prophesying in My name, although it was not I who sent them—yet they keep saying: 'There will be no sword or famine in this land'—by sword and famine those prophets shall meet their end!

15 Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the prophets who are prophesying in My name, although it was not I who sent them—yet they keep saying, 'There will be no sword or famine in this land'—by sword and famine those prophets shall meet their end!

15 Therefore, this is what the LORD says about the false prophets who prophesy in my name, 'There will be no sword and famine in this land' (though I haven't sent them): 'By the sword and by famine these prophets will be finished off!

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.

16 And the people to whom they are prophesying will be thrown out into the streets of Jerusalem because of the famine and the sword; and there will be no one to bury them—*neither* them, *nor* their wives, nor their sons, nor their daughters. For I will pour out their *own* wickedness upon them.

16 The people also to whom they are prophesying will be thrown out into the streets of Jerusalem because of the famine and the sword; and there will be no one to bury them—

neither them, *nor* their wives, nor their sons, nor their daughters—for I will pour out their *own* wickedness on them.

16 The people to whom they have prophesied will be thrown out into the streets of Jerusalem because of the famine and the sword. There will be no one to bury them, their wives, their sons, or their daughters. I'll pour out on them the judgment they deserve."

16 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.

- The people were suffering from unwarranted complacency, Jeremiah was trying to wake them up to realize their peril. It is interesting that the first prophecy in the Scripture surfaces at a time of failure: Gen 3:15.

— God sends prophecy in time of trouble. It is interesting that in time of prosperity, we get complacent.

— 2 Tim 4:3-4 and 2 Peter 3:3-4 are examples that prophecy is never popular

(iii) Jeremiah's dirge (14:17-18)

17 "You will say this word to them, 'Let my eyes stream down tears night and day, And let them not cease; For the virgin daughter of my people has been crushed with a mighty blow, With a sorely infected wound.

17 "You will say this word to them, 'Let my eyes flow down with tears night and day, And let them not cease; For the virgin daughter of my people has been crushed with a mighty blow, With a sorely infected wound.

17 "And deliver this message to them: 'Let tears run down my face, night and day, and don't let them stop, because my virgin daughter—my people— will be broken with a powerful blow, with a severe wound.

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 out to the country, There are those killed by the sword! Or if I enter the city, There are diseases from famine! For both prophet and priest Have wandered around in the land that they do not know.'"

18 'If I go out to the country, Behold, those slain with the sword! Or if I enter the city, Behold, diseases of famine! For both prophet and priest Have gone roving about in the land that they do not know.'"

18 If I go out into the field, I see those slain by the sword! If I go into the city, I see the ravages of the famine! Indeed, both prophet and priest ply their trade in the land, but they don't know anything.'"

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.

(iv) Judah's plea (14:19-22)

19 Have You completely rejected Judah? Or have You loathed Zion? Why have You stricken us so that we are beyond healing? *We waited for peace, but nothing good came; And for a time of healing, but behold, terror!*

19 Have You completely rejected Judah? Or have You loathed Zion? Why have You stricken us so that we are beyond healing? *We waited for peace, but nothing good came; And for a time of healing, but behold, terror!*

19 Have you completely rejected Judah? Do you despise Zion? Why have you struck us, so that there is no healing for us? We hoped for peace, but no good came, for a time of healing, but there was only terror.

19 Hast thou utterly rejected Judah? hath thy soul loathed 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 know our wickedness, LORD, The wrongdoing of our fathers, for we have sinned against You.

20 We know our wickedness, O LORD, The iniquity of our fathers, for we have sinned against You.

20 We acknowledge, LORD, our wickedness, the guilt of our ancestors. Indeed, we have sinned against you.

20 We acknowledge, O LORD, our wickedness, *and* the iniquity of our fathers: for we have sinned against thee.

21 Do not despise *us*, for the sake of Your own name; Do not disgrace the throne of Your glory. Remember *and* do not annul Your covenant with us.

21 Do not despise *us*, for Your own name's sake; Do not disgrace the throne of Your glory; Remember *and* do not annul Your covenant with us.

21 For the sake of your name don't despise us. Don't dishonor your glorious throne. Remember, don't break your covenant with us!

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 idols of the nations who give rain? Or can the heavens grant showers? Is it not You, LORD our God? Therefore we wait for You, For You are the one who

has done all these things.

22 Are there any among the idols of the nations who give rain? Or can the heavens grant showers? Is it not You, O LORD our God? Therefore we hope in You, For You are the one who has done all these things.

22 Can any of the worthless gods of the nations make it rain? Can the heavens themselves bring forth showers? Aren't you the one who does this, LORD our God? So we hope in you, for you are the one who does all these things.

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*.