

Jeremiah 6

10-9-97

• Intro:

- Aneurin Bevin(British pol. Leader) said, “*We know what happens to people who stay in the middle of the street...They get run over!*”
 - Jeremiah wasn’t a “middle of the street kind-a-guy! You always knew where he stood!
- Last week - “*They Loved their sin!*”(5:31)
 - Read - Job 20:4-19(esp.12-14)
 - Quote: “The road to ruin is always kept in good repair.”
- Jerusalem was a city of Refuge for them(4:6);
Now, it’s a Trap ready to spring.
Worst yet...God set the trap(6)! The rest of the chapter explains why!

1. SIGNAL-FIRE! (1-5)

- 1.1. vs.1 - *Signal-Fire* = Fire signals on the hills gave warnings of danger approaching. {in their case “*Judgment is Coming!*”}
- 1.2. “*Benjamin*” - 1st Jeremiah warns his neighbors(he’s from Anathoth in Benj.) to get out of Jerusalem.
- 1.3. “*Disaster from the north*” - Both Tekoa & Bet-Ha-Cerem (house of the vineyard) were immediately south of Jerusalem.
- 1.4. They had **3 ways** of passing military information: [**1**] Watchmen on the walls(17) [**2**] Trumpet Signals [**3**] Signal-Fires.
- 1.5. vs.2 - “*a lovely & delicate woman*” - will end up → Lam.1:1,6 “How lonely sits the city That was full of people! How like a *widow* is she, Who was great among the nations!...And from the daughter of Zion All *her splendor has departed*.”
- 1.6. vs.3 - *Shepherds* = Babylonian soldiers.
- 1.7. vs.4 - **Prov.21:1** “The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, Like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.”

- 1.7.1. God, being in charge of the Babylonian army, told them to attack at **high noon!**(no one would expect that)
 - 1.7.1.1. * Similar to Syria's attack on 1968 on the Sabbath(1 prob.)
- 1.8. **vs.5** - Continue on into the **night** when most armies are tired.

2. GENERAL GOD! (6-9)

- 2.1. General God gives the orders:
- 2.2. **vs.6** - ***What to do!*** - Chop down trees; build ramps; put against the walls of the city {like Massada}.
- 2.3. **vs.7** - ***Why to do it?*** - Because they are like a well that pours out filthy waters.
 - 2.3.1. Babrov,Russia - Dirty water analogy - Painting hand pump white wouldn't help!
 - 2.3.2. Judah's sins aren't being masked at all - so open, so blatant!
 - 2.3.2.1. **Lk.6:45** ""A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks."
- 2.4. **vs.8** - Read with "America"! {Zach poem}
- 2.5. ***"lest I make you desolate"*** - [NEB] "Lest my love for you be torn from my heart".
- 2.6. **vs.9** - ***How to do it?*** - With precision & thoroughness, the way gleaners go over a vineyard so as not to miss any fruit. {Maine berry's}

3. WHAT? (10-15)

- 3.1. **vs.10** - No one was listening! What? What?
 - 3.1.1. Not only were their **heart's** uncircumcised, but now their **EARS** were also refusing to hear God's Word!

- 3.1.1.1. **Acts 7:51** “You stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.”(Stephen)
- 3.2. Read vs.9,10 together. The search from ch.5 came up empty with NO rt. man.
- 3.3. The result of a **closed mind** is: God’s Word becomes a reproach to them.
- 3.4. **vs.11** - Note: Judgment on all: kids, young men, women, & elderly.
- 3.5. **vs.13,14** - The *false prophets* & the *priests* won’t escape... “They’re the most guilty.”
- 3.5.1. They gave people a **false confidence** & refused to **repent** of their sins.
- 3.5.2. “*Peace, Peace*” - from the year 1500 B.C. to A.D. 1860 more than **8000** treaties of peace, meant to remain in force forever, were concluded. The average time they remained in force was **two years**.”
- 3.6. **vs.15** - “A closed mind produces a callous conscience.” (*not ashamed*)
- 3.6.1. **Shame** - “Social studies show “shame & honor” as 2 pivotal values a society must possess.
- 3.6.1.1. **Honor** = high respect, having a good reputation.
- 3.6.1.2. **Shame** = The opposite of honor, low respect, bad reputation.
- 3.6.2. “The ancients viewed every human action & interaction as an occasion for either **gaining honor**, that is, increasing one’s value in the public eye, or for **being shamed**, that is, having one’s estimation degraded.” **Q: DO you agree?**
- 3.6.3. A society that rejects the framework for values will do **anything!**
- 3.6.3.1. **We have forgotten how to blush in our society!**

4. WHICH WAY? (16-21)

- 4.1. **vs.16** - Ladies here’s a verse for the guys who won’t ask for directions!
- 4.1.1. God gave them the right way...They rejected it!

- 4.1.2. “**Rest for your souls**” - **Mt.11:29** “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”
- 4.1.2.1. 1st comes **Redirection**, then comes **Rest!**
- 4.1.2.2. **Key** - He walks with you - Yoke! {Thanks Jesus!}
- 4.2. **vs.17** - The sounded their warning...they put in ear plugs!
- 4.3. “**We will not!**”(16,17) - These are studious, religious people. They spared no expense in their “outward” worship to God(20), everything but love that is!
- 4.3.1. **Lk.11:42** “But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass by **justice** and the **love** of God. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.”
- 4.4. **Q:** Where are WE religiously cold(rt. now)?
- 4.4.1. Do you have **Ice prayers**? Do you sing worship songs simply with your minds recollection, or by your hearts best intention? Is your Daily Bread a loaf of heals? Would your Fellowship be better called Fallenship, as you drown your friends in gossip? Where are **we** religiously cold?

5. **FEAR ON EVERY SIDE! (22-26)**

- 5.1. **vs.22-26** - “God’s executioners will be no local face, but a world power, summoned from the ends of the earth.” (Derek Kidner)
- 5.1.1. Interesting, these same verses(22-24) are found in (50:41-43), where they are then used AGAINST Babylon {God is no respecter of persons}
- 5.2. **vs.24,25** - Jeremiah now describes the responses of the people as they heard the news: Feeble, anguish, pain, like a woman in hard labor, &... last but not least... “Fear on every side!”
- 5.2.1. This “**fear/terror on every side**” is used 3 times in Jer.
- 5.2.2. It is also used for a name change from Jeremiah to **Pashur** (the chief officer of the Temple/Megoor Mesabib) in ch.20:1-3.
- 5.3. **vs.26** - Prepare to Mourn!!! **Dress** completely in sackcloth, **Wallow** in the ashes, **Mourn** like you would for an only son that died. (most bitter)

- 5.3.1. Zech. 12:10 “And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, **they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.**”

6. THE ASSAYER! (27-30)

- 6.1. An *Assayer* = Person who tests the amount of metal in ores or coins.
- 6.2. **vs.27** - A good picture here of its vivid detail but also its tragic outcome!
- 6.2.1. Judah was not a precious metal w/a few impurities, but a base metal with **Nothing** of worth that could be extracted.
- 6.2.2. **Quote:** *S.R.Driver* “The process of refining in those days was to melt down lead w/the rest of the metal, & then to direct a stream of air at the molten mass. This oxidized the lead, causing it to act as a flux to carry off the baser elements.”
- 6.2.2.1. All this has been done to Judah but to no avail!
- 6.2.3. Sometimes suffering brings out the best in people...not here!
- 6.2.4. God turns on the Babylonian furnace on high,...not to **Purify** but to **Punish!**
- 6.2.5. If they won't **Refine** He must **Reject** them!
- 6.2.6. **Thomas Jefferson wrote**(on his notes on the state of Virginia)(over 2 centuries ago) “Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, & that His Justice cannot sleep forever!”
- 6.3. **vs.30 - Rejected!** - “The Die has been cast, The invader must come, The kingdom must fall!” (Derek Kidner)