

# Jeremiah 8

10-30-97

## 1. INTRO:

- 1.1. **A newspaper ad read:** Lost--one dog. Brown hair with several bald spots. Right leg broken due to auto accident. Left hip hurt. Right eye missing. Left ear bitten off in a dog fight...Answers to the name "**Lucky**."
  - 1.1.1. Israel had a good name, but a terrible history!
- 1.2. **Last Chapter** – We heard Jeremiah’s Unpopular Temple Sermon. 8:1-3 ends that Judgment on Jerusalem with Destruction, Desecration, & Death.
- 1.3. **We’ll look at 5 questions:** [1] Why are they backsliding? [2] How can you say, “We are wise?” [3] Why are they sitting still? [4] Why did they provoke god? [5] Why is there no recovery?

## 2. INTRODUCTION! (1-3)

- 2.1. **Vs.1** – Sounds Halloweenish?
  - 2.1.1. Nat. Retail Assoc. says, “consumers will spend more than 2.5 BILLION this year on halloween products. [USA Today 10/30/97]
  - 2.1.2. Desecration of graves – Russia example!
- 2.2. **vs.2** – Loved, served, walked after, sought, & worshiped.
  - 2.2.1. If only they did this with Jehovah?
- 2.3. **Vs.3** – “Just kill me!”
  - 2.3.1. **Rev.9:6** “In those days men will seek death and will not find it; they will desire to die, and death will flee from them.”

## 3. WHY ARE THEY BACKSLIDING? (4-7)

- 3.1. **Vs.4,5** – The Lord gives simple illustrations from human life & nature.

- 3.1.1. **4a)** If someone falls?...They get up!
- 3.1.2. **4b)** If one finds themselves going the wrong way?...You retrace your steps!
- 3.1.3. **Conclusion?** If people are sensible in everyday matters...why not in eternal matters? Esp. because the outcome is so tragic!
- 3.2. **Vs.6** – “*What have I done?*” – This is Biblical Self-Confrontation at its finest!
  - 3.2.1. How do we **examine** ourselves biblically?
    - 3.2.1.1. 1<sup>st</sup> this is NOT self-condemnation!
    - 3.2.1.2. Our goal is not learning how to **save** our life, but n how to **loose** it!
  - 3.2.2. **Read** - Ps.26:2 “**Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; Try my mind and my heart.**”
  - 3.2.3. **Examine me** – Put me to the test! {The confidence you have when your ready for a history exam, you walk in...”Examine me!”}
    - 3.2.3.1. David was sure all was confessed!
    - 3.2.3.2. **Q:** Can we have this confidence after we’ve confessed our sin?
    - 3.2.3.3. **Poem:** “Oh God of matchless grace, We sing unto thy name. We stand accepted in the place, That none but Christ could claim.”
  - 3.2.4. **Prove me** – Test me for reality!
    - 3.2.4.1. It’s the language of the smelter. The gold has been purified & is ready for the eye of the assayer. It’s ready for the acid test!
  - 3.2.5. **Try my** – Probe down into my innermost recesses of my being!
- 3.3. **Q:** Were they tip-toeing into sin?
  - 3.3.1. No! They were charging like swift horses into battle!
    - Horses that don’t have any idea of the dangers involved[old westerns]
  - 3.3.2. Man, made in the image of God, knows more than the horse!
- 3.4. **Vs.7** – Here’s the 1<sup>st</sup> time “Bird Brains” is used in the possitive.
  - 3.4.1. **Is.1:3** “The ox knows its owner And the donkey its master's crib; But Israel does not know, My people do not consider.”

- 3.4.2. Birds know migration, climates, temp. change, ...but my people know so much more!
- 3.4.3. **Quote:** (7700) Migration quotes.
- 3.4.4. We ought to be as obedient to Divine Instruction as birds are to Natural instinct.

#### 4. HOW CAN YOU SAY, WE ARE WISE? (8-12)

- 4.1. **Vs.8,9** – Last chapter they boasted in having the Temple, now in the Divine Law!
  - 4.1.1. *Possessing* the scriptures is not the same as *Practicing* them!
    - 4.1.1.1. **Australia** has the scriptures, yet is dead. **China** has been robbed of them the last 50 years, but Christianity is ever growing.
  - 4.1.2. The Bible is still the **Best-Seller**, but it's sure not helping Western Society from crumbling morally, ethically, & spiritually!
  - 4.1.3. "I read my Bible to know what people ought to do, and my newspaper to know what they are doing". [Cardinal Newman]
    - 4.1.3.1. There seems to be no connection between what people say they believe & the way people act!
    - 4.1.3.2. **Tozer** "They are, Long on talk & short on conduct!"
- 4.2. **Vs.10** – *Covetousness* in "The Big 10"– **Ex.20:17** "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."
- 4.3. **Vs.11** – They are deceitful physicians!
  - 4.3.1. **Like Dr. Claude Light** {USA Today 10/30/97} he failed to change syringes for each patient while administering flu shots to 468 people at clinics earlier this month. (used 1 syringe per vile, 10-12 doses)
  - 4.3.2. What happens to the Lord's people often depends upon the leaders they follow!

## 5. WHY ARE THEY SITTING STILL? (13-17)

- 5.1. Here 3 voices: **God's** voice of judgment(13,17); The **Peoples** voice of despair (14-16); **Jeremiah's** voice of anguish (18-22).
- 5.2. **Vs.13,17** – Fields will be ruined(13). Babylon compared to Vipers which couldn't be charmed.
  - 5.2.1. A Python at the San Diego Zoo eats 20 large rats, 3 chickens, 5 rabbits, & 2 piglets...at 1 feeding.
  - 5.2.2. Oh what destruction is coming their way!
  - 5.2.3. Israel couldn't get away with anything!
    - 5.2.3.1. **Pager Story** – 3 robbers robbed Harold & Belle's restaurant in L.A. Police arrested on outside. SWAT looked for the other 2 in shops nearby. While searching for them one of the robbers Beeper went off & gave a way there hiding place in a crawl space!
- 5.3. **Vs.14-16** – The people respond by fleeing to there fortified cities.

## 6. WHY DID THEY PROVOKE GOD? (18-19)

- 6.1. **Vs.18** – Jer. the faithful shepherd! – He identified w/the hurts of the people.
  - 6.1.1. His heart was faint(18); he was hurt, mourning, & astonished(21).
  - 6.1.2. Notice he doesn't say, "I told you so!"

## 7. WHY IS THERE NO RECOVERY? (20-22)

- 7.1. **Vs.20** – I pray this wouldn't be our dying lamentation!
  - 7.1.1. **Parents w/teens leaving home** – "*Our harvest is past, the summer is ended, our children are moving out, & our children are not saved*"
  - 7.1.2. **S.S. Teachers** – "*Our harvest is past, our class is ended, & our children are not saved!*"
  - 7.1.3. **Home Study leaders** - "*Our harvest is past, the summer is ended, & our guests are not saved!*"

- 7.2. **Vs.22** – “*Is there no balm in Gilead?*” – Here Jer. desperately searches for a cure! {Is there no Aloe-Vera in Gilead?}
- 7.2.1. **Balm** = a resin or gum from an evergreen tree (about 14’ high). Was used for cosmetic & medicinal purposes.
- 7.2.2. **Gilead** – region north of Jerusalem. Caravans brought spices/balm from up north, thru Gilead, heading to Egypt. Trees also grew in Gilead.
- 7.2.2.1. **Jer.46:11** “Go up to Gilead and take balm, O virgin, the daughter of Egypt; In vain you will use many medicines; You shall not be cured.”
- 7.2.2.2. 1<sup>st</sup> came from Queen of Sheba(Arabia) – [Josephus Antiq. 8:2]
- 7.2.3. No Cure? No Doctor? Then No healing!
- 7.2.4. **Read** Bible Versions! {Rosin, instead of Resin}
- 7.3. Our world needs the balm for moral & social healing.
- 7.3.1. In Hinche,Haiti they do not have a doctor, nor very much medicine.
- 7.3.2. But this analogy would be better likened to USA. Where we have doctors in abundance, & medicine everywhere!
- 7.3.3. So Israel had “**The Great Physician with healing in His wings!**”
- 7.4. “Why then is there no recovery?” – Good question!
- 7.4.1. Instead there sin spread like a wild disease!
- 7.4.2. **Story** – [USA Today] 20 yr. Old man(Nushawn Williams) possibly infected up to 100 women in N.Y. with HIV virus.
- 7.5. **[1]** **The False prophets provided their Remedy** – Snake Oil!(11)
- 7.6. **[2]** **The Earth provided its Remedy** – Yet only heals externally/surface.
- 7.7. **[3]** **God has provided His Remedy** – Christ remedy goes to the root of the problem
- 7.7.1. Again the problem isn’t: no Balm, or no Doctor, but that no patient is coming for the cure at the free clinic!
- 7.8. “The false prophets had made a **wrong diagnosis** & prescribed the **wrong remedy**, & the wounds of the nation were still **open, bleeding, & infected.**” (www)