

Jeremiah 14-15**12-18-97****1. Intro:**

1.1. John Henry Jowett (British preacher) “**Preaching that costs nothing accomplishes nothing!**”

1.1.1. This definitely spoke of Jer.’s as a preacher. Having to daily pick up his cross & follow the Lord.

1.1.2. Let’s look at 2 messages: [1] The Drought [2] The Coming Captivity.

2. THE DROUGHT! (14:1-22)

2.1. **Q:** Droughts were a warning against what? (God’s judgment?)

2.1.1. **Egypt** relied on “The Nile” for its water supply.

Israel had to rely on **the rain** God sent!

2.1.2. So Jeremiah used this painful timely topic for a sermon to the people.

2.1.3. Their response would either be **Panic** or **Penitence!**

2.1.4. **Q:** The prophets took advantage of what other calamities to preach from? {earthquakes; locusts; }

2.2. THE LAND’S PLIGHT! (1-6)

2.3. (1-3) – The famine touched the **City**.

2.4. (4) - The famine touched the **Farm**.

2.5. (5,6) - The famine touched the **Open Country**.

2.6. THE PEOPLE’S PLEA! (7-12)**2.7. The Jews Prayer (7-9)**

2.8. A fire insurance prayer, that was insincere, not linked w/repentance.

2.9. **Vs.7** – Our sins testify against us shouting GUILTY!

2.9.1.OK, we don't deserve it...how about for your Name's sake?

2.9.2.Notice the appeal to **God's good name**, NOT man's deserving!

2.9.2.1.**Ezek 36:22** "Thus says the Lord GOD: "I do not do this for your sake, O house of Israel, but for **My holy name's sake**, which you have profaned among the nations wherever you went."

2.10.**Vs.8** – God was like a tourist in His own land!

2.11.**Vs.9** – Can't just show **Remorse** it must be **Repentance!**

2.11.1.**Ps. 51:17** "...A **broken**(not proud) and a **contrite**(crushed) **heart**; These, O God, You will not despise."

2.12.Gods Response (10-12)

2.13.**Vs.10** – **Q:** Where are you prone to wander? Where was your mind prone to wander...today? Where are your feet still not restrained?

2.14.**Vs.11** – "Don't even pray for them!" – This is what it looks like when Gods Longsuffering runs out!"

2.15.**Vs.12** - You want rain? I'll bring a "storm" dropping Swords; a "flood" of Famine, & let it "pour" w/Pestilence.

2.16.THE PROPHETS PROTEST! (13-16)

2.17.**Vs.13** – Jer. says, "But it's the prophets fault!"

2.18.**Vs.14-16** – God responds Yes, & they'll get judged for it!

2.18.1.**2 Tests** for prophets(to prove if false).

2.18.2.**[1]** 100% accuracy.

2.18.2.1.Q: Has anyone ever prophesied over you & it hasn't come true?

2.18.2.2.Be careful, they're out there!

2.18.3.**[2]** Their message agreed w/the law of God.

2.18.3.1.**Is.8:20** "To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."

2.19. THE PROPHETS PRAYER! (17-22)

2.20. It starts w/ “we acknowledge, O Lord, our wickedness”
& ends w/ “Therefore, we will wait for you!”

3. THE COMING CAPTIVITY! (15:1-21)

3.1. God had judged them “in” the land(Judges), now “from” the land.

3.2. THE LORD’S RESPONSE! (1-9)

3.3. **Vs.1** – At critical times in Jewish history Moses & Samuel interceded & God heard & answered.

3.3.1. “I don’t care who is interceding for them...my mind is made up!”

3.3.2. **Q:** Can we ever change God’s mind?

3.3.3. **Q:** Is the sign along the freeway true, “Prayer changes things?”

3.4. **Q:** What are 2 things you never want to here God say?

3.4.1. “**Get out of my sight!**” & “**Go away!**”(1b)

3.4.2. **Q:** Can you think of other times when God said basically the same thing?

3.4.2.1. Mt.15:14 “**Let them alone**{NIV, **leave them**}”/blind lead blind

3.4.2.2. “**Depart from me**” (Mt.7)

3.4.2.3. You can take all you want from this life...but plan on paying in the end.

3.4.2.4. Or, loose your life & truly find it!

3.5. **Vs.3** – Why 4 things? 14:1(1 thing); 14:12(3 things); here 4!

3.6. **Vs.4** – The monster Manaseh found forgiveness, but his legacy remained! {The sins he taught his people to embrace.}

3.6.1. “In those days they shall say no more: ‘The **fathers** have eaten sour grapes, And the **children's** teeth are set on edge.’(31:29)

3.6.2. **Q:** I wonder what sins we are teaching our kids, employees, friends, co-workers, to embrace?

3.6.2.1. What happens when **we** turn from that sin & **they** don’t?

3.7. **Vs.6** – “I am weary of relenting” – For God to postpone judgment meant encouraging the nations sins even more.

3.7.1. Sin’s effects & heavens judgments are but 2 sides of the same coin.

3.7.1.1. “You have forsaken me” → “I will stretch out my hand against you”.

3.8. **Vs.7** – Coming judgment would be like separating the wheat from the chaff.

3.9. JEREMIAH’S RESPONSE! (10-21)

3.10. **Vs.10** – Jeremiah’s now... “running with the horses” & it isn’t easy.

3.11. **Vs.15-18** – Here we see the turmoil in Jeremiah’s mind.

3.11.1. One minute affirming the Lord’s Longsuffering & His faithfulness (15-17), the next minute crying out w/pain(18).

3.12. **Vs.16** – *Great verse!* – We here often the Bible is the most “popular book of all time” but if none were to read & recommend it would you read it? Would you Eat it?

3.12.1. **Eating God’s Word** - One man said reading the Bible was like **eating fish**. “When I find a difficulty, I lay it aside, and call it a bone. Why should I choke over the bone when there is so much nutritious meat for me?”

3.12.2. **At a Gideon convention D. J. De Pree of Zeeland, Michigan said**, “We must **read it** (1 Tim. 4:13); **eat it** -- that is, **take it into our very being** (Job 23:12; Jer. 15:16); **bathe in it** for spiritual cleansing (John 15:3); **look into it as a mirror** to see our true self (James 1:23-25); **meditate on it** (Psalm 1:2; 1 Tim. 4:15); **memorize it** (Deut. 11:18; Psalm 119:11); **study it** (2 Tim. 2:15; Heb. 5:12-14); **teach it to others** (Deut. 11:19; Col 3:16) ; **talk about it** (Josh. 1:8); **and sow its seeds of truth in the field of the world** (Matt. 13:3-9; Luke 8:11).

3.12.3. **Carl Sharsmith, an 81 year old guide in Yosemite National Park:**

A lady tourist had hit him with a question where it hurt: “I’ve only got an hour to spend at Yosemite,” she declared. “What should I do? Where should I go?” The old naturalist-interpretor-ranger finally found voice to reply. “Ah, lady, only an hour.” He repeated it slowly. “I suppose that if I had only an hour to spend at Yosemite, I’d just walk over there by the river and sit down and cry.”

3.12.3.1. A whole lifetime is not long enough to appreciate fully the beauty and learning and value of the **Bible**.

3.12.4. “No body else ate...but I ate!” (says Jeremiah) & boy did it taste good!

3.12.4.1. **Job** said, “I have treasured the words of His mouth More than my necessary food.”

3.12.4.2. **Ps 19:7-10** “sweeter also than honey!”

3.13. **Vs.17** – “Sat alone” **Q:** Has God got you at a place where you’re made to sit alone? {maybe you feel outside “the group”?}

3.14. **Vs.19** – Shock therapy – God’s answer must have shocked him.

3.14.1. Jeremiah you repent for questioning me.

3.15. **Vs.20,21** – The Lord usually balances Rebuke w/Reassurance.

3.15.1. Lori R. saw rainbow, & lightening strike the center of where it touched the ground. {A good picture of God’s Rebuke & Reassurance)

3.16. **Q:** Is it unusual for servants of God to become **discouraged**?

3.16.1. No. - Human weakness **is** a battle.

*3.16.1.1. **Monday** is a hard way to spend **one-seventh** of your life!*

3.16.2. Many examples in scripture: Moses, Joshua, Elijah, David, even Jonah felt down in the mouth when the great fish swallowed him. All became discouraged in their ministries.

3.16.3. **Charles Spurgeon** looked back upon dark hours in his own life and said: I bear willing witness that I owe more to the **fire**, and the **hammer**, and the **file**, than to anything else in my Lord's workshop.

3.16.4. I was reading recently about a **young lawyer** who descended into the **valley of despond**. Things were going so poorly for him that his friends thought it best to keep all knives and razors away from him for fear of a suicide attempt. In fact, during this time he wrote in his memoirs, "I am now the most miserable man living. Whether I shall ever be better, I cannot tell. I fear I shall not." The young lawyer who unleashed these desperate feelings of utter hopelessness? His name was **Abraham Lincoln**.

3.16.5. Be careful “*Discouragement is faith in the devil.*”

3.16.6. God doesn’t want us to **ignore** our feelings, but He does want us to **trust Him** to **change** our feelings & start **walking by faith!**