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~ Our Spiritual Safari will re-orient ourselves with the prophecy of Jeremiah, and the prophet himself, in this report. He was around twenty years old when he first began his ministry. In chapters two through six, we examined serious and severe messages given to the nation Israel. Those first messages were likely inspired sermons that were written down at some later time; and they condemned his people – the children of Israel – by pronouncing harsh, immediate judgment upon the southern kingdom of Judah. The message was that Babylon would take them away as captives. The book of the law of the Lord – the Word of God – had been lost in the temple, but was recently re-discovered by Hilkiyah, Jeremiah’s father, under the rule and reign of King Josiah. Josiah had a wonderful, personal relationship with God; one which caused him to fear the Lord, and be very concerned for the people under his authority. As a result, Israel experienced reformation, to some degree. So, as we begin this leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God, we find Jeremiah standing in the gate of the temple, giving this third message to those in Jerusalem who were coming to worship....

VII

1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,

2 Stand in the gate of the LORD'S house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the LORD, all ye of Judah, that enter in at these gates to worship the LORD.

3 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place.

~ Jeremiah doesn’t want us to miss the fact that the Lord spoke to him by His Word. If you want to hear God speak to you today, you are going to have to examine Scripture. I wouldn’t have you miss that for the world, my friends. You can disagree with that Bible fact until you turn blue and fall

over dead, and you will still be wrong – period – full stop. God only speaks to us in His Word. This seems similar to the prophecy Jeremiah will give in the twenty-sixth chapter; the difference being: in chapter twenty-six, Jeremiah isn't standing in the gate of the temple anymore. He has moved into the court of the house of Jehovah at that time, and is giving the message *inside* the temple. The viewpoint of Jeremiah never changes – only the location in which he presents it.

The book of the law of the Lord has been re-discovered now, and people are flocking in droves back to the temple. It was the “*in*” thing to do at this time, in that day in which we are studying. Everyone was talking about turning back to the Lord; because King Josiah had implemented all of the reforms we learned of in his historical accounts. I can just see a lonely, heartbroken Jeremiah standing in the gate of the Lord's house, giving this message to no one; and those passing by saying to him, “.... *Jeremiah, why are you so angry? Why are you so proud and arrogant? You need to study the law more.*” Well, any man that brings the message of God to a people properly, correctly and completely is going to be accused of all of those things – and more. That's the way it is, my friends; you can just write that down.

The people loved to be seen bringing sacrifices and placing hundred-dollar gold coins in the tithes and offerings collection plate – but there was no change in their day-to-day, minute-to-minute lives. There was no change of heart. They were living as they always had: in idolatry! It was an outward and surface-only performance – all done for their own self-righteous and self-serving purpose of being seen by other men. The attitude of the people was Jeremiah's primary concern. They were in love with the beauty of the temple Josiah had repaired and restored; and I'm sure it was just like old times for most of them – but they weren't repenting and turning back to the laws and precepts God had given Moses so long ago. No, the priests and the people were just making stuff up and perverting Scripture as they went along. Their religious lives were tailor-made traditions and outright lies that suited their particular idols....

4 Trust ye not in lying words, saying, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, are these.

~ The people put on a blasphemous front; pretending that returning to the temple in worship was the greatest thing that ever happened. Jeremiah saw right through their pious pretenses. The feast days were brought back in recognition. Sacrificing bulls and goats was being carried out twenty-four hours a day. If you want to go back and read second Chronicles chapters thirty-four and thirty-five, you'll see there was nothing compared to the Passover feast Israel kept at this time during the reign of Josiah. Everything seemed great and wonderful to everyone – except for the *ONE* man who was actually listening to the Lord in His Word – Jeremiah. The children of Israel were living as they had before; nothing had changed. Lying, adultery, drunkenness, oppression of the poor – all continued. But they were bringing it into the temple now – and Jeremiah was just the man to call them out on it...

5 For if ye thoroughly amend your ways and your doings; if ye thoroughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbour;

6 If ye oppress not the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and shed not innocent blood in this place, neither walk after other gods to your hurt:

7 Then will I cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers, for ever and ever.

8 Behold, ye trust in lying words, that cannot profit.

9 Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not;

~ See, friends, the people had brought Baal worship into the temple and up to the altar of the Lord. They were defrauding each other, lying about their thefts, murdering the poor man, committing adultery with each others wives, and falsely swearing how they loved the True and Living God with all their minds, all their hearts, and all their souls. They had the vocabulary. It doesn't get any worse than that in God's eyes. Frankly, the atheist who openly rejects all notions of God will receive fewer stripes in hell than the

man who claims to love God, but whose life contradicts their profession of faith. You may want to think about that very, very carefully today, my beloved readers. Jeremiah tells them that is their problem and, unless they change their ways immediately, they would become slaves in Babylon.

Many people like to go to church on Sunday and tip their hat to the Lord while making sure everyone notices them put a handful of change in an offering basket. They honestly but erroneously believe God will save them on that basis alone. Of course, when a people *GENUINELY* turn to God, He will protect them and save them; but the people at the time in which we are studying were resting on false facts; errors they knew were wrong, but feigned to be true. They had taken up a huge offering to repair and rebuild the temple at this time. All of them had contributed to the building fund. They just couldn't understand why Jeremiah seemed so angry and hateful....

10 And come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, We are delivered to do all these abominations?

11 Is this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, even I have seen it, saith the LORD.

12 But go ye now unto my place which was in Shiloh, where I set my name at the first, and see what I did to it for the wickedness of my people Israel.

13 And now, because ye have done all these works, saith the LORD, and I spake unto you, rising up early and speaking, but ye heard not; and I called you, but ye answered not;

14 Therefore will I do unto this house, which is called by my name, wherein ye trust, and unto the place which I gave to you and to your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh.

15 And I will cast you out of my sight, as I have cast out all your brethren, even the whole seed of Ephraim.

16 Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee.

~ No book of the Bible has quite the relevant message that this Book of Jeremiah has for us today. In these United States, after World War Two, several evangelists emerged from nowhere, and a little wave of revival swept across America. Well, that revival died out very quickly – because it was only surface and shallow – just as we are studying in Jeremiah’s day. Today, people brag about church attendance doubling and tripling, and how they have to have six services every Sunday with standing room only. Churches build bigger and more beautiful buildings every year; complete with coffee shops, and religious bookstores in them; but, unfortunately, those new churches have no message. They’re not interested in sound doctrine. Their program doesn’t convict a lost and dying world; so, it is pointless. The old people are never made new, and none of them receive new hearts. It’s just the same old crowd of Baal worshipping hypocrites as it ever was. God says, in verse sixteen, *“don’t bother praying for those people – because I am not listening.”* Many people around this forum on which I teach today ask me to pray for them – and I do – but I’m not praying for the Lord’s blessing on their life. No, I’m only praying that those people will actually be chosen by the Lord for salvation. That’s the only prayer I have for almost all of them – very few exceptions....

17 Seest thou not what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem?

18 The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto other gods, that they may provoke me to anger.

19 Do they provoke me to anger? saith the LORD: do they not provoke themselves to the confusion of their own faces?

20 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, mine anger and my fury shall be poured out upon this place, upon man, and upon beast, and upon

the trees of the field, and upon the fruit of the ground; and it shall burn, and shall not be quenched.

21 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Put your burnt offerings unto your sacrifices, and eat flesh.

22 For I spake not unto your fathers, nor commanded them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices:

23 But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you.

24 But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward.

25 Since the day that your fathers came forth out of the land of Egypt unto this day I have even sent unto you all my servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending them:

26 Yet they hearkened not unto me, nor inclined their ear, but hardened their neck: they did worse than their fathers.

27 Therefore thou shalt speak all these words unto them; but they will not hearken to thee: thou shalt also call unto them; but they will not answer thee.

28 But thou shalt say unto them, This is a nation that obeyeth not the voice of the LORD their God, nor receiveth correction: truth is perished, and is cut off from their mouth.

29 Cut off thine hair, O Jerusalem, and cast it away, and take up a lamentation on high places; for the LORD hath rejected and forsaken the generation of his wrath.

30 For the children of Judah have done evil in my sight, saith the LORD: they have set their abominations in the house which is called by my name, to pollute it.

31 And they have built the high places of Tophet, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my heart.

32 Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that it shall no more be called Tophet, nor the valley of the son of Hinnom, but the valley of slaughter: for they shall bury in Tophet, till there be no place.

33 And the carcasses of this people shall be meat for the fowls of the heaven, and for the beasts of the earth; and none shall fray them away.

~ If all of this isn't harsh and condemning enough for you, then I don't know what would be? People erroneously believe a successful convention, or crusade, with a series on some quasi-biblical subject, that yields enormous sums of money given to wealthy, charismatic men or women, is a moving of the Spirit of God. Well, God says it's nothing in the world but sentimental rot to Him, my beloved. What we are seeing in the United States as I type this report and as you read it *IS NOT REVIVAL* by any stretch of imagination. Unless lives are transformed, and hearts are changed, then we're right back to Baal worship. Now, I already know these reports do not make Andrew C. Hunt a popular man - and this so-called Spiritual Safari won't be coming to the religious bookstores best-seller list anytime soon; but someone *MUST* say these things – and, because I don't see anyone else saying what I am saying – I'll just keep saying what the Holy Spirit of God told me to say. It just happens to be the same thing God told Jeremiah to say in his day, too....

34 Then will I cause to cease from the cities of Judah, and from the streets of Jerusalem, the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride: for the land shall be desolate.

VIII

1 At that time, saith the LORD, they shall bring out the bones of the kings of Judah, and the bones of his princes, and the bones of the priests, and the bones of the prophets, and the bones of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, out of their graves:

2 And they shall spread them before the sun, and the moon, and all the host of heaven, whom they have loved, and whom they have served, and after whom they have walked, and whom they have sought, and whom they have worshipped: they shall not be gathered, nor be buried; they shall be for dung upon the face of the earth.

3 And death shall be chosen rather than life by all the residue of them that remain of this evil family, which remain in all the places whither I have driven them, saith the LORD of hosts.

4 Moreover thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the LORD; Shall they fall, and not arise? shall he turn away, and not return?

5 Why then is this people of Jerusalem slidden back by a perpetual backsliding? they hold fast deceit, they refuse to return.

6 I hearkened and heard, but they spake not aright: no man repented him of his wickedness, saying, What have I done? every one turned to his course, as the horse rusheth into the battle.

7 Yea, the stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times; and the turtle and the crane and the swallow observe the time of their coming; but my people know not the judgment of the LORD.

8 How do ye say, We are wise, and the law of the LORD is with us? Lo, certainly in vain made he it; the pen of the scribes is in vain.

9 The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom is in them?

10 Therefore will I give their wives unto others, and their fields to them that shall inherit them: for every one from the least even unto the

greatest is given to covetousness, from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely.

11 For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.

12 Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore shall they fall among them that fall: in the time of their visitation they shall be cast down, saith the LORD.

13 I will surely consume them, saith the LORD: there shall be no grapes on the vine, nor figs on the fig tree, and the leaf shall fade; and the things that I have given them shall pass away from them.

14 Why do we sit still? assemble yourselves, and let us enter into the defenced cities, and let us be silent there: for the LORD our God hath put us to silence, and given us water of gall to drink, because we have sinned against the LORD.

15 We looked for peace, but no good came; and for a time of health, and behold trouble!

16 The snorting of his horses was heard from Dan: the whole land trembled at the sound of the neighing of his strong ones; for they are come, and have devoured the land, and all that is in it; the city, and those that dwell therein.

17 For, behold, I will send serpents, cockatrices, among you, which will not be charmed, and they shall bite you, saith the LORD.

18 When I would comfort myself against sorrow, my heart is faint in me.

19 Behold the voice of the cry of the daughter of my people because of them that dwell in a far country: Is not the LORD in Zion? is not her king in her? Why have they provoked me to anger with their graven images, and with strange vanities?

20 The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.

21 For the hurt of the daughter of my people am I hurt; I am black; astonishment hath taken hold on me.

22 Is there no balm in Gilead; is there no physician there? why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?

IX

1 Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!

2 Oh that I had in the wilderness a lodging place of wayfaring men; that I might leave my people, and go from them! for they be all adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men.

3 And they bend their tongues like their bow for lies: but they are not valiant for the truth upon the earth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they know not me, saith the LORD.

4 Take ye heed every one of his neighbour, and trust ye not in any brother: for every brother will utterly supplant, and every neighbour will walk with slanders.

5 And they will deceive every one his neighbour, and will not speak the truth: they have taught their tongue to speak lies, and weary themselves to commit iniquity.

6 Thine habitation is in the midst of deceit; through deceit they refuse to know me, saith the LORD.

7 Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, I will melt them, and try them; for how shall I do for the daughter of my people?

8 Their tongue is as an arrow shot out; it speaketh deceit: one speaketh peaceably to his neighbour with his mouth, but in heart he layeth his wait.

9 Shall I not visit them for these things? saith the LORD: shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?

10 For the mountains will I take up a weeping and wailing, and for the habitations of the wilderness a lamentation, because they are burned up, so that none can pass through them; neither can men hear the voice of the cattle; both the fowl of the heavens and the beast are fled; they are gone.

11 And I will make Jerusalem heaps, and a den of dragons; and I will make the cities of Judah desolate, without an inhabitant.

12 Who is the wise man, that may understand this? and who is he to whom the mouth of the LORD hath spoken, that he may declare it, for what the land perisheth and is burned up like a wilderness, that none passeth through?

13 And the LORD saith, Because they have forsaken my law which I set before them, and have not obeyed my voice, neither walked therein;

14 But have walked after the imagination of their own heart, and after Baalim, which their fathers taught them:

15 Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will feed them, even this people, with wormwood, and give them water of gall to drink.

16 I will scatter them also among the heathen, whom neither they nor their fathers have known: and I will send a sword after them, till I have consumed them.

17 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Consider ye, and call for the mourning women, that they may come; and send for cunning women, that they may come:

18 And let them make haste, and take up a wailing for us, that our eyes may run down with tears, and our eyelids gush out with waters.

19 For a voice of wailing is heard out of Zion, How are we spoiled! we are greatly confounded, because we have forsaken the land, because our dwellings have cast us out.

20 Yet hear the word of the LORD, O ye women, and let your ear receive the word of his mouth, and teach your daughters wailing, and every one her neighbour lamentation.

21 For death is come up into our windows, and is entered into our palaces, to cut off the children from without, and the young men from the streets.

22 Speak, Thus saith the LORD, Even the carcasses of men shall fall as dung upon the open field, and as the handful after the harvestman, and none shall gather them.

~ Well, this dreadfully long report from our Spiritual Safari sure got down to the nitty-gritty, where the rubber meets the road, and where the shoes scrape the sidewalk – all in one. Frankly, I'm just not interested in the man who goes to church on Sunday; I want to see what their work for the Lord is all the other days of the week – and how they support the genuine man of God who is teaching the entirety of sound doctrine to the entire world. That's where a judgment of true Christianity is made. God wants your obedience, friends – not your lip service.

People go to church for all sorts of pious, phony, hypocritical reasons – and their lives are profoundly sinful. They've never trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior. They've never been born again. They still gossip and crucify the poor man with their tongues. They will cast out any man who is teaching the Word of God properly, correctly and completely; and stab him in the back at the first opportunity. They don't mind hating people and disguising it as love. They're still of the world, and they bring their worldliness to an altar every Sunday. They have no testimony except for

self. The life they live gives a message that the worldly man loves – because it is a bone-sucking lie.

I understand this leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God is extremely personal. Quite frankly, it makes me, Andrew C. Hunt, question my own salvation. If it doesn't make you question yours, then there is no way you are even reading this report. People do not listen to my message any more than they listened to Jeremiah's message. Honestly – because I always am honest with you dear readers – I knew this would be the case before I began teaching the Bible. See, I actually learned what I was talking about *BEFORE* I deigned set pen to paper. Jeremiah knew what he was talking about, too; and it didn't cause any hands to be put up during his sermons. He didn't have people coming forward after he spoke. Even so, God tells Jeremiah, *"well, done, my faithful servant, you did the job I gave you to do properly, correctly and completely."*

If you are not giving a report to the Lord that is straight from His Word, I suggest you stop, renounce your Christianity, and forget about God – or get saved – because He has already forgotten about you. This is the generation of His wrath, friends; make no mistake about that. God only delights in honest lovingkindness, judgments that are not perverted, and the righteousness we can only obtain in the Lord Jesus Christ. These last two verses of chapter nine are given out *ALL* the time and, while they can stand alone, they really make more sense when they are observed in the context of this entire passage; where God says to His chosen people that they have rejected His Word, so He is rejecting them. This message of truth just isn't being given out today – I am sorry to say. Candidly, if I weren't teaching the entire Bible, I would pass all of this right on by, too.

Nations today feel that if their economy is alright then they are alright. Well, your financial status can be alright, and you can still be all wrong. We may think we are going to be *GREAT* again but, my beloved, most nations fall from the *INSIDE*. Claiming Jesus as our errand boy who would never allow anything bad to happen to us just doesn't happen to be what the Bible teaches. Glorifying in power, wisdom, *GREATNESS* and riches will absolutely assure our demise. The brain trust in Washington has experienced an aneurism. We need someone to lead us who knows

something more than a few irrelevant words out of context with Scripture. We need someone who actually knows the Lord Jesus Christ, and is willing to stand up, confess they are a sinner who needs a Savior, and learn the Word of God in an educated, sincere, systematic, proper, correct and complete manner from a man who really does know the Lord, loves the Bible, and lives a life that demonstrates it – like Jeremiah. Until that happens God says, *“I’m not interested in you...”*

23 Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches:

24 But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD ~

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