

Jeremiah 9:1 – 11:23

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~ What price do you pay to get the Word of God out to the entire world? Are you willing to sacrifice anything to fulfill the commission Jesus directly commanded us? Sharing a fractured verse here, and a disconnected thought there, or a subjective interpretation from a purported dream is not helping the cause of Christ. That does not constitute getting the Word of God out to the world. Those personal musings harm the cause of Christ. There is a high personal price to pay to be faithful to the truth of handling God's Word in sound doctrine in this world that hates and despises it – all while claiming to love it – and that high price is: *everything!*

There are multitudes who should be standing up for the things of God and supporting one of the only *REAL*, proper, correct, and complete missionary efforts happening today – one that actually has some evidence of what it is doing, by the way – but they do absolutely nothing; and inaction, my beloved, is persecution. Indifference is mistreatment, abuse, and discrimination – all rolled into one ugly ball of blasphemy. You can write that down if you want to. Jeremiah is giving us a message that we won't hear in the church today. Modern evangelists say, “... *come to Jesus and He will give you a great new personality, make you rich, and heal every problem you have.*” Well, Jeremiah wasn't saying anything like that. Jeremiah paid the ultimate price in his ministry – it cost him everything.

I have stressed certain mechanics of this prophecy that have been passed on to me, and which present an understanding we will not otherwise obtain. In chapters two through six, we saw the first two inspired sermons given by Jeremiah. Those were desperately harsh prophecies that were given in the gates of the temple. They were given during the first five years of his prophetic office. That was *BEFORE* the book of the law of the Lord – the Word of God – had been re-discovered. Remember, it had been lost in the temple until Hilkiah found it again; when Josiah rebuilt and restored the temple. Well, the worst possible place to lose the Word of God is in the church, friends; but that's where Israel lost it — and that's where it has been lost today.

Alright, in our last report, we saw Jeremiah begin to give his third message in the temple gate. I can just see him standing there as the people came to worship. The Jewish crowd loved temple worship. They had all contributed greatly to the rebuilding fund – and Solomon’s Temple was beautiful once again, thanks to King Josiah. They brought sacrifices around the clock. They dumped more money into the treasury than they ever had before. They burned incense on the altar around the clock. Well, the people passed Jeremiah by with disdain, because God spoke the ugliest, meanest, nastiest and harshest words that could possibly have been said to a self-professing believer through Jeremiah. God said, *“this is all just a bunch of Baal worship”* ~

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!

~ There are two topics I intentionally passed by in our previous introduction to chapter nine. When Jeremiah gave his message, tears were streaming from his eyes. That’s why, when Jesus wept over Jerusalem, the apostles said of Jesus, *“... this is Jeremiah.”* Remember, Jesus gave an extremely harsh message, too; just read Matthew chapter twenty-three again if you need a refresher course. The message Jeremiah had to give broke his heart. Yet, as the people passed by and heard what Jeremiah had to say in chapters seven, eight and nine, they asked, *“... why are you so proud and arrogant, Jeremiah? Why are you so angry? Why don’t you actually study the law for a change? You’re a sad and sorry witness for God.”* Don’t think those aren’t precisely the things that were said to this prophet, friends....

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.

~ The only way you’re ever going to be permitted to teach the Word of God and have the right to speak for the Lord Jesus Christ according to the

Father's instructions is if you have a genuine love and concern for people. Jeremiah had that. Ask yourself: do you really love the person you are criticizing so heavily today? Are you concerned about those people? Do you really love your church and care for its well-being? Well, this all broke Jeremiah's heart, because King Josiah had a genuine concern for the nation, too; but they were polluting all good things Josiah had done in restoring the temple. Frankly, I have no confidence in any unsaved man to rule any country today; because they have no lovingkindness, righteous judgment, honesty, or sense of fairness. The History of the United States, and the condition we find ourselves in today, bears evidence of this precept.

In order for the laws and amendments we trust in to function properly for society, said society must know God. To say, "*... I love God and I love Jesus Christ*" – yet turn right around and say, "*... I don't see any sins of mine that I need to be forgiven of*" is just so much nonsensical blah. It means nothing; in fact, it's Baal worship. Riches and power, and proclaiming God while leading the free world, are dangerous commodities when we are weak on the inside. God is against that one hundred percent and will ensure it fails in quick order. We have absolutely lost our moral compass, contaminated our character, dismissed our values, and have forgotten all purpose of right and wrong in this country – all while claiming "*Jesus, Jesus, Jesus!*" Our strength is not in the lies and crimes of modern politicians, who incessantly claim God this and God that. Our strength is that which has to do with the spiritual; and the Baal worshiping politician may have contact with spirits – but those spirits are not from above.

We have an entire generation now that is rude, inconsiderate, impatient – and pathological liars – but who think they know everything and hold the only truth. They think they are the most wonderful thing God ever created and wisdom dies with them. They have no sense of righteousness versus evil at all. As Jeremiah said to the nation Israel, Andrew C. Hunt says to the United States today, "*... we have lost our way on a dark mountain.*" What a message this book of the Bible has. It's not popular. I'm not making friends and influencing people in the Spiritual Safari. I have said *MANY* times that I do not expect to have a single reader when I finish Revelation. I hope I am wrong about that. But, either way, Jeremiah never made a convert. Jeremiah wasn't a well-loved public figure in Judah. I'm going to stand with

Jeremiah, because Jeremiah stood with God. If that weren't true, we wouldn't be reading his writings....

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.

25 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will punish all them which are circumcised with the uncircumcised;

26 Egypt, and Judah, and Edom, and the children of Ammon, and Moab, and all that are in the utmost corners, that dwell in the wilderness: for all these nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised in the heart.

X

1 Hear ye the word which the LORD speaketh unto you, O house of Israel:

~ Remember, the time in which we are studying is a time of reformation but *NOT* revival under King Josiah. The book of the law of the Lord had just been found in the temple by Hilkiah, Jeremiah's father, and when Josiah saw the law, and understood how far these people had fallen from God's intentions for them, it moved him. Josiah was affected tremendously. He forced the people to make a covenant that they would serve God according to all the laws and precepts God had given Moses so long ago – and they complied; but they despised it. Jeremiah doesn't seem to want us to miss the fact that this is the Word of God he is speaking to us. That's the seventh time in ten chapters he has told us....

2 Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.

3 For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe.

4 They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not.

~ Now, it is preposterous to say Jeremiah is talking about Christmas trees in this passage. Jeremiah knew *NOTHING* about Christmas trees – trust me. Jeremiah was talking to the nation Israel in this passage; and ridiculing them for their perpetual idolatry. None of them had a Christmas tree in that day. These people would go cut down a tree, and use part of it to make a fire to cook with. Then, they carved an image from what was left, and fell down and worshiped it. Today, at Christmas time, even the hard-core atheist usually has a Christmas tree; but I’ve never seen a single one of them fall down and worship the tree – and I know some extreme atheists, by the way. Reasonable people know the difference between idols and decorations. If *YOU* think that *YOU* may fall down and worship a Christmas tree then, by all means, don’t have one. In fact, *YOU* may as well skip Christmas altogether – and I know some of you do that, too – because *YOU* do not know the Lord Jesus Christ; and, even worse, Christ does not know *YOU*. If that fits your bill, then *YOU* can know very definitely that *YOU* are a Christian Tragedy.

These people were substituting the True and Living God with all manner of perversion. Men who are not honestly worshiping God – the Lord Jesus Christ – always manufacture substitutes. With today’s zodiac chasers, palm readers, fortune tellers, tarot card frauds, voodoo, astrology, astronomy and horoscope writers, mankind is in the most advanced state of superstition yet in world history. Everyone has a god – whether they know it or not. It might even be themselves they love and worship; but they have a god. I see it *ALL* the time – even in so-called fundamental circles. Of course, some worship money, fame, food, sex, children – you name it. Many men and women sell their honor, and forfeit their eternal lives for a few dollars – or some other unworthy worldly goal. They are always willing to be dishonest; although they claim to be outstanding, law abiding citizens – and usually present as super-duper saints. People will do the craziest

things to become rich and famous – or just accepted by others. Jeremiah stood poor, broken-hearted and completely alone....

5 They are upright as the palm tree, but speak not: they must needs be borne, because they cannot go. Be not afraid of them; for they cannot do evil, neither also is it in them to do good.

6 Forasmuch as there is none like unto thee, O LORD; thou art great, and thy name is great in might.

7 Who would not fear thee, O King of nations? for to thee doth it appertain: forasmuch as among all the wise men of the nations, and in all their kingdoms, there is none like unto thee.

8 But they are altogether brutish and foolish: the stock is a doctrine of vanities.

9 Silver spread into plates is brought from Tarshish, and gold from Uphaz, the work of the workman, and of the hands of the founder: blue and purple is their clothing: they are all the work of cunning men.

10 But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.

11 Thus shall ye say unto them, The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, even they shall perish from the earth, and from under these heavens.

12 He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion.

13 When he uttereth his voice, there is a multitude of waters in the heavens, and he causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; he maketh lightnings with rain, and bringeth forth the wind out of his treasures.

14 Every man is brutish in his knowledge: every founder is confounded by the graven image: for his molten image is falsehood, and there is no breath in them.

15 They are vanity, and the work of errors: in the time of their visitation they shall perish.

16 The portion of Jacob is not like them: for he is the former of all things; and Israel is the rod of his inheritance: The LORD of hosts is his name.

17 Gather up thy wares out of the land, O inhabitant of the fortress.

18 For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will sling out the inhabitants of the land at this once, and will distress them, that they may find it so.

19 Woe is me for my hurt! my wound is grievous: but I said, Truly this is a grief, and I must bear it.

20 My tabernacle is spoiled, and all my cords are broken: my children are gone forth of me, and they are not: there is none to stretch forth my tent any more, and to set up my curtains.

21 For the pastors are become brutish, and have not sought the LORD: therefore they shall not prosper, and all their flocks shall be scattered.

22 Behold, the noise of the bruit is come, and a great commotion out of the north country, to make the cities of Judah desolate, and a den of dragons.

23 O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

~ Apart from the direct revelation of the True and Living God – the Lord Jesus Christ – which is only available in the Word of God, no man can walk aright in this world. The moment we deviate from the Word of God, we are in complete darkness. That's how natural man starts out in this life. When children learn how to walk, they soon want to run off in every direction at

the same time. They don't look where they are going – they just go. They'll run right out in the street and, when they get to a corner, they always seem to want to go the *wrong* way. Well, I've never seen anyone that wanted to go in as many wrong directions as a new Christian learning to walk in faith. But it's not in man to direct his steps....

24 O LORD, correct me, but with judgment; not in thine anger, lest thou bring me to nothing.

25 Pour out thy fury upon the heathen that know thee not, and upon the families that call not on thy name: for they have eaten up Jacob, and devoured him, and consumed him, and have made his habitation desolate.

XI

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

2 Hear ye the words of this covenant, and speak unto the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem;

3 And say thou unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel; Cursed be the man that obeyeth not the words of this covenant,

~ Once again, Jeremiah sounds like a broken record as he repeats that this is all the Word of the Lord – the Word of the True and Living God of Israel. Jeremiah is referring to judgments of God and the things that condition this life. It affects the way we treat our neighbors and how we conduct our earthly business. The Bible will regulate our social life and make it clear that we cannot live any old way we want to live and still serve the Lord. Jeremiah is telling these people they are altogether on the wrong track. They were *VERY* far away from God; but they believed they were on the right track and close to Him. So many people talk about doctrine and theology today – and that's fine; but what kind of life are you living to back it all up? How clean are you in God's eyes? How much does your life honestly reflect the Lord Jesus Christ? That's what we're talking about in this section of Scripture; and it gets right down into our living rooms and

bedrooms. When is the last time you knelt down and confessed to God your coldness and indifference, and asked Him to draw you to that place where you can walk close and be close to Him? Well, they didn't do that in Jeremiah's day and, let's just be honest – men don't do that today, either. Those who so desperately need to do that stopped reading my reports a *LONG* time ago, you may be absolutely sure....

4 Which I commanded your fathers in the day that I brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, from the iron furnace, saying, Obey my voice, and do them, according to all which I command you: so shall ye be my people, and I will be your God:

5 That I may perform the oath which I have sworn unto your fathers, to give them a land flowing with milk and honey, as it is this day. Then answered I, and said, So be it, O LORD.

6 Then the LORD said unto me, Proclaim all these words in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, saying, Hear ye the words of this covenant, and do them.

7 For I earnestly protested unto your fathers in the day that I brought them up out of the land of Egypt, even unto this day, rising early and protesting, saying, Obey my voice.

8 Yet they obeyed not, nor inclined their ear, but walked every one in the imagination of their evil heart: therefore I will bring upon them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded them to do; but they did them not.

9 And the LORD said unto me, A conspiracy is found among the men of Judah, and among the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

10 They are turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers, which refused to hear my words; and they went after other gods to serve them: the house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken my covenant which I made with their fathers.

11 Therefore thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will bring evil upon them, which they shall not be able to escape; and though they shall cry unto me, I will not hearken unto them.

12 Then shall the cities of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem go, and cry unto the gods unto whom they offer incense: but they shall not save them at all in the time of their trouble.

13 For according to the number of thy cities were thy gods, O Judah; and according to the number of the streets of Jerusalem have ye set up altars to that shameful thing, even altars to burn incense unto Baal.

14 Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up a cry or prayer for them: for I will not hear them in the time that they cry unto me for their trouble.

15 What hath my beloved to do in mine house, seeing she hath wrought lewdness with many, and the holy flesh is passed from thee? when thou doest evil, then thou rejoicest.

16 The LORD called thy name, A green olive tree, fair, and of goodly fruit: with the noise of a great tumult he hath kindled fire upon it, and the branches of it are broken.

17 For the LORD of hosts, that planted thee, hath pronounced evil against thee, for the evil of the house of Israel and of the house of Judah, which they have done against themselves to provoke me to anger in offering incense unto Baal.

18 And the LORD hath given me knowledge of it, and I know it: then thou shewedst me their doings.

19 But I was like a lamb or an ox that is brought to the slaughter; and I knew not that they had devised devices against me, saying, Let us destroy the tree with the fruit thereof, and let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name may be no more remembered.

~ As we close out this leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God, Jeremiah tells us how he was flatly rejected and despised by his own people in his own hometown. They wanted to kill him; and they had already devised a plan to do so. So, God goes on to tell Jeremiah there's no sense speaking to these people of Anathoth anymore; they had rejected Jeremiah, because they rejected Him. I'm sure there were a whole bunch of pious people in Anathoth who said, "... *Jeremiah was shut down by God because his message was false.*" Well, Jeremiah was giving God's message; but he has gone somewhere else to do so. He's obeying a command to not cast pearls before swine. When people reject the Bible, you are absolutely wasting your time trying to teach it to them. There are *MANY – MANY – MANY* churches that, at one time, stood for the things of God, and taught the Bible properly, correctly and completely, but have since deserted their faith, and refuse to give out the Word of God in sound doctrine anymore. God is going to close their doors – mark my words. How tragic....

20 But, O LORD of hosts, that judgest righteously, that triest the reins and the heart, let me see thy vengeance on them: for unto thee have I revealed my cause.

21 Therefore thus saith the LORD of the men of Anathoth, that seek thy life, saying, Prophecy not in the name of the LORD, that thou die not by our hand:

22 Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, I will punish them: the young men shall die by the sword; their sons and their daughters shall die by famine:

23 And there shall be no remnant of them: for I will bring evil upon the men of Anathoth, even the year of their visitation.

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