

Jeremiah 3:8 – 6:30

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~ Our Spiritual Safari continues in a period of reformation of the nation Israel during the reign of King Josiah. However, this is before the book of the law of the Lord – the Word of God – had been found in the temple after being lost for so many years. As far as I can tell, Hezekiah would have been the last king to have the book of the law of the Lord in his custody – and that was nearly one hundred years prior to the time in which we are studying. So, this is reformation, but *NOT* revival; as revival requires the Word of God. The reforms Josiah took were shallow and surface. Although Josiah was sincere in his convictions, and desired to draw closer to the Lord, the reforms didn't turn the people back to the Lord.

The people didn't listen to Jeremiah's scathing prophecies, either. His messages should have blanched their souls in conviction. But they ignored him. They refused to repent and turn back to God from the abominations they were committing in the temple. If you have not read our last several reports, I suggest you go back and do so now. This report is going to cover four chapters; and represents inspired sermons given by Jeremiah the prophet, which were later written down during the first five years of his prophetic office – but we're only going to hit the highlights. I also suggest you read all of these chapters from Jeremiah's book before continuing with us on this expedition....

III

8backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also.

9 And it came to pass through the lightness of her whoredom, that she defiled the land, and committed adultery with stones and with stocks.

10 And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah hath not turned unto me with her whole heart, but feignedly, saith the LORD....

~ The turning to God at this time by Judah was superficial lip-service. They went to the temple. They kept the feast days. They brought their sacrifices. They paid their tithes. Their ritual was elaborate and ornate; but their hearts were far from God. See, this reformation was something Josiah was attempting to produce – not God. This reveals a nation can have reformation without revival. When reformation without revival happens, the religion that is adopted is never genuine. Today, the curiosity and fascination with the Word of God and going to church is not revival; it's Baal worship – plain and simple. What the United States is seeing today is an emotional and experiential form of self-love that produces no conversion. It results in madness. What the nation Israel was doing prompted Jeremiah to give these blistering, purely condemning prophecies. That should have alerted the children of Israel to repent and take the Lord seriously – but – it didn't....

IV

1 If thou wilt return, O Israel, saith the LORD, return unto me: and if thou wilt put away thine abominations out of my sight, then shalt thou not remove.

2 And thou shalt swear, The LORD liveth, in truth, in judgment, and in righteousness; and the nations shall bless themselves in him, and in him shall they glory.

3 For thus saith the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem, Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns.

4 Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, and take away the foreskins of your heart, ye men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem: lest my fury come forth like fire, and burn that none can quench it, because of the evil of your doings.

~ Even with all of the false worship and phony piety, God still wanted to bring Israel back into a right relationship with Himself. God was willing to allow anyone who would turn to Him to remain in the land during the

Babylonian captivity; and that's what happened for Jeremiah. Jeremiah was never deported to Babylon. It was horrible to witness Jerusalem and the temple being destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar but, at least Jeremiah wasn't made a slave in a foreign land. God always keeps all of the promises He makes through His chosen men, friends.

Verse two is interesting because sowing the seed of the Word of God is a good thing to do – but the ground must be prepared *FIRST*. There's no use sowing among thorny ground. Jesus said, "*cast not your pearls before swine...*" Frankly, there are certain places where I see no point in sowing the seed of the Word of God. Even many churches today have long since past the place where they are going to learn and accept the Bible properly, correctly and completely. They insist on their ignorance, kingdom building, healing, and prosperity – and everything imaginable – *EXCEPT* for preaching sound doctrine and remission of sins! Well, that's pious nonsense, my friends. God says the fallow ground must be broken-up before the seed is planted, or you are wasting your time. These people had a front of a ceremony, but there was nothing genuine or sincere in their relationship with God....

V

~ That brings us to an impeachment of Israel by God, and yet another call to return to Him. This is part of Jeremiah's second message, by the way. They are going to continue to refuse Jeremiah's warning and clear foretelling of judgment to follow; and, believe me, Jeremiah is not going to mince words. In modern churches, we need *MUCH* more proper Biblical prophetic messages – with less emphasis on comfort and affluence – and certainly less on politics. Further, telling everyone they are called to teach and preach is simply wrong. America and, indeed, the world, is in great danger; yet all we do is sow on compacted and hardened ground. Most farmers are careful to avoid red clay soil, and they spread tremendous amounts of topsoil over it. We don't seem to understand that even the greatest of nations can fall in an instant. Babylon fell overnight. Alexander the Great was wiped out one night as he lay there drunk. The Roman Empire was great one day — gone the next.

It is fatal error to believe that the strength of the United States depends on our military and wealth. The American intellectual brain-trust label themselves big business and big thinkers – and big everything. Oh, we believe we are clever cookies – we’re *GREAT!* Well, we’re not very big on righteousness. We’re really only wise in doing evil. We sure are *GREAT* at profanity, pornography, and every imaginable form of wickedness — but we’re not great on holiness. Candidly, we have decayed like a rotten tooth. It just snaps off suddenly one day. Someone needs to say something about our moral awfulness and religious apostasy – and I just happen to be the man that doesn’t mind saying it – but no one seems to care. So very few are qualified to comment on the Bible – because they do not know God; yet, we have self-appointed theologians swarming like flies around a pile of dung. The church in this country, and around the world, *IS* thorny ground; and God specifically warns us against sowing there – just as He warned Israel about the coming of Babylon from the north in this chapter of Jeremiah.

Judah had seen the ten northern tribes taken into captivity by Assyria; and they should have heeded the warning. God allowed that to happen; and the northern kingdom didn’t even have a temple to pervert. Most people in that day had no way to get to Jerusalem to worship in the temple, but God still allowed them to be carried away as captives. I think God predetermined their captivity the moment the northern kingdom set up the two golden calves in Samaria – but I wouldn’t necessarily argue that point. Either way, God was raising up powers in the surrounding nations that would ultimately come down and destroy Israel – but Israel acted as if nothing were wrong. The people refused the True and Living God – and Israel still rejects Him today – but they act as if everything is alright. Well, everything is *not* alright in this world, friends; if you think it is, then you are not living in reality.

Further, as we see clearly here in Jeremiah, when a nation or a church or an individual rejects God, then God rejects them. Remember, when Jesus came to this world, He offered Himself to Israel as their King; but when they rejected Him He, in turn, rejected them. In Romans chapter one, Paul says *THREE TIMES* “.... God gave them up.” I’m not entirely sure how someone gets to the place where God gives up on them – but they can. When God

sends His man to a church, but that church either neglects or rejects God's chosen man, then God will shut the doors on that church; you can just write that down. Jesus told Israel, "*your house is left unto you desolate.*" Read the twenty-third chapter of Matthew. If that doesn't have an affect on you, then I don't think anything would. That's the "*Gentle Jesus*" speaking in Matthew chapter twenty-three.

Of course, you can deny the Lord if you want to – that's why you and I have a free will. Unfortunately, for those who choose to continue to reject Him, God has a program called election and predestination. God will have rejected you before you even know how to reject Him. You'll be out before you are in. When privileged people reject God, and He, in turn, rejects them, then all other men count them reprobate and refuse. That renders them worthless to anyone for anything at any time. This entire section of Scripture is serious business, my beloved. Won't you pray for wisdom, judgment and discernment, and then read all of these chapters in your own Bible very carefully today? ~

VI

19 Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it.

20 To what purpose cometh there to me incense from Sheba, and the sweet cane from a far country? your burnt offerings are not acceptable, nor your sacrifices sweet unto me.

21 Therefore thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will lay stumblingblocks before this people, and the fathers and the sons together shall fall upon them; the neighbour and his friend shall perish.

22 Thus saith the LORD, Behold, a people cometh from the north country, and a great nation shall be raised from the sides of the earth.

23 They shall lay hold on bow and spear; they are cruel, and have no mercy; their voice roareth like the sea; and they ride upon horses, set in array as men for war against thee, O daughter of Zion.

~ I cannot overemphasize that when man rejects the Word of God – even while they claim to believe it and love God – He rejects that person completely. Reprobate in this following and final verse of chapter six means polluted. These people were as silver that had more dross than precious metal. They were as proud, pious, and pretentious as the church is today. Most people say the United States is a Christian nation. Well, I say we're *not* a Christian nation – never have been. We think we're going to bring democracy to this world but the world doesn't look up to us – the world looks *DOWN* on us, my friends. The world despises us. Don't kid yourself. We're as heathen and as pagan as Russia or North Korea, quite frankly. It's safer to walk around the Middle East or thorough the jungle of Bolivia than it is to walk down Main Street in Chicago. You may disagree with all of that, but I'm here to tell you that the Bible, and the truth of Scriptures, have no place whatsoever in American contemporary society.

I know men are claiming Jesus as loud and as pompously as they possibly can today – but God isn't going to be claiming them. Christians are more hypocritical than the atheist in many ways. The Bible is the best-selling, best-known book that nobody reads or understands. The content of Scripture is recklessly abused by people who think everything is okay with God — and that they are just great little Sunday school boys and girls. Candidly, the church and most self-professing believers have turned the Word of God into a lie that makes absolutely no sense; not to them or to anyone else. They're not witnessing for God – they're witnessing for Satan. I know this isn't popular. Andrew C. Hunt is not going to win any Popular Man of the Year awards. Jeremiah was not popular in his day, either. Israel *HATED* Jeremiah and they *HATED* his message. I'm sure they even hated the way he looked and sounded when he talked. The message God had given him to give to them got deep under their skin. I highly suggest you examine yourself today. This is a solemn, sobering message Jeremiah is bringing us. Unfortunately, those who really need to hear it would *NEVER* read my reports – and they wouldn't study the Bible properly, correctly and completely if you paid them to do so, but I digress....

30 Reprobate silver shall men call them, because the LORD hath rejected them ~

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