

Jeremiah 14:4 – 17:27

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~ Our Spiritual Safari ended the last leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God with the beginning of a drought. Because a drought was one of the signs that predicted imminent judgment, in the Palestinian Covenant, found in Deuteronomy chapter twenty-eight verses twenty-three and twenty-four, and which was already partially fulfilled in the reign of King Ahab - and because a similar drought preceded the northern kingdom of Israel going into Assyrian captivity - this should have been a five alarm fire-bell warning to the southern kingdom of Judah. But naturally, they just shrugged it off in their insolence, indifference, and irreverence.

And that brings another scathing message from God, given through Jeremiah the prophet, from chapter fourteen through seventeen. This was, apparently, given during the reign of Jehoiakim; after the brief three-month reign and rule of Jehoahaz, both of which were very bad kings. We see Pharaoh Necho had placed whom he chose on the throne of Judah after killing Josiah down in Megiddo. Well, Jeremiah is mourning now as the nation Israel begins to drop back into idolatry. This is where a downward spiritual spiral became unmanageable. Israel was entering the full-blown judgment of God, and the earth was becoming as barren as the desert as a result. The ground became barren and cracked from dryness in the day in which we are studying – just as it is today. They had rejected the Water of Life – the Word of God – just as they continue to reject Christ as our Messiah as I type this report and you read it. It wasn't always that way, though, friends....

XIV

4 Because the ground is chapt, for there was no rain in the earth, the plowmen were ashamed, they covered their heads.

5 Yea, the hind also calved in the field, and forsook it, because there was no grass.

6 And the wild asses did stand in the high places, they snuffed up the wind like dragons; their eyes did fail, because there was no grass.

7 O LORD, though our iniquities testify against us, do thou it for thy name's sake: for our backslidings are many; we have sinned against thee.

8 O the hope of Israel, the saviour thereof in time of trouble, why shouldest thou be as a stranger in the land, and as a wayfaring man that turneth aside to tarry for a night?

9 Why shouldest thou be as a man astonished, as a mighty man that cannot save? yet thou, O LORD, art in the midst of us, and we are called by thy name; leave us not.

~ So, Jeremiah goes in and cries unto the Lord – confessing his sins and the sins of Israel. If you are going to confess the sins of your nation, friends, you're going to have to have your own sins all 'fessed up, too. This idea that we do not ALL need to confess our sins *daily* to the Lord is a terrible blunder. Many self-professing believers deny confession in prayer to their own detriment. If there is unconfessed sins in our life, then there is *NO WAY* you can have fellowship with the Father – impossible, according to Scripture. Jeremiah takes his place with the children of Israel as being just as guilty of a sinner as any of them were. It's so easy for God's saints to be hyper-critical of other saints. Many actually pray as the Pharisee did, saying, "... oh, Lord, God, I thank Thee that I am not like these other sinners." Most self-professing believers' vocabulary cannot even begin forming a complete sentence without "I" – "I do this" and "I don't do that" and "I am so good" and "I'm so worthy" – all of that other "I" will foolishness. They proclaim their goodness as being the nicest little Sunday school boys and girls you've ever met.

Well, even though these people called Jeremiah "*angry*" and "*arrogant*" because of his message – Jeremiah didn't pray against them. No, friends, he identified *WITH* them. Jeremiah knew they were *ALL* backslidden; and they all knew they had *ALL* sinned. See, only when we can take our rightful place with God's people, and go to Him to confess our sins as the sins of the nation, will we ever have a right to handle Holy Writ properly. The "*love*,

love, love” sloppy agape sentimental rot is destroying the church today, my beloved; you can just write that down. Only when our own sins are confessed, and we stand with our brothers in Christ, in their sinful and desperate backslidden condition, will God answer as He answered Jeremiah here....

10 Thus saith the LORD unto this people, Thus have they loved to wander, they have not refrained their feet, therefore the LORD doth not accept them; he will now remember their iniquity, and visit their sins.

11 Then said the LORD unto me, Pray not for this people for their good.

12 When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and an oblation, I will not accept them: but I will consume them by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence.

13 Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, the prophets say unto them, Ye shall not see the sword, neither shall ye have famine; but I will give you assured peace in this place.

14 Then the LORD said unto me, The prophets prophesy lies in my name: I sent them not, neither have I commanded them, neither spake unto them: they prophesy unto you a false vision and divination, and a thing of nought, and the deceit of their heart.

~ The myriad false prophets in Israel were predicting peace and prosperity – and promising that everything was going to be great again. Jeremiah was saying their lives were such that God was going to judge them now. Frankly, most Bible teaching today receives a passive condescending commendation for being so smart to have saved yourself by claiming God. That ridiculing patronization left Jeremiah utterly alone with the message from the True and Living God. Jeremiah wondered if he was even giving the correct message at this point. It seemed as if the false prophets just might be right. That was terribly disturbing to Jeremiah, friends; as it would be to us. Jeremiah was not quite sure of himself anymore. He was sure he was giving Gods Word – I know that – but he wasn’t sure of himself. That’s the picture of this prophet that we are studying. When Jeremiah took that problem to

the Lord, God assured him the false prophets were liars, and that God never sent any of them to say anything to anyone. God had sent Jeremiah – and him alone. Unfortunately, that only put Jeremiah right back on the firing line....

15 Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the prophets that prophesy in my name, and I sent them not, yet they say, Sword and famine shall not be in this land; By sword and famine shall those prophets be consumed.

16 And the people to whom they prophesy shall be cast out in the streets of Jerusalem because of the famine and the sword; and they shall have none to bury them, them, their wives, nor their sons, nor their daughters: for I will pour their wickedness upon them.

17 Therefore thou shalt say this word unto them; Let mine eyes run down with tears night and day, and let them not cease: for the virgin daughter of my people is broken with a great breach, with a very grievous blow.

~ Jeremiah was weeping profusely as he gave God's message concerning the imminent judgment of His people. See, God used a man that felt the way He felt about judgment. Jeremiah was God's man, giving God's message, while expressing his own personal thoughts and feelings. Today, God's children need to recognize that we are all witnesses. We are saying *something* by our lives and in our words. It is imperative that, when we speak the Word of God, our lives actually conform to our profession of faith by allowing the Holy Spirit to speak through us. Handing down judgment in a cold-hearted manner is no good. By the same token, talking about "love, love, love" - when you really have no love in your heart, is just so much blah. Unfortunately, that characterizes ninety-nine point six, six, six percent of all self-professing believers. There is something radically wrong in the church – the body of Christ – today; and that something is: a total and complete ignorance of the Word of God. I don't just mean some of it; no, I mean the whole thing....

18 If I go forth into the field, then behold the slain with the sword! and if I enter into the city, then behold them that are sick with famine! yea, both the prophet and the priest go about into a land that they know not.

19 Hast thou utterly rejected Judah? hath thy soul lothed Zion? why hast thou smitten us, and there is no healing for us? we looked for peace, and there is no good; and for the time of healing, and behold trouble!

20 We acknowledge, O LORD, our wickedness, and the iniquity of our fathers: for we have sinned against thee.

21 Do not abhor us, for thy name's sake, do not disgrace the throne of thy glory: remember, break not thy covenant with us.

22 Are there any among the vanities of the Gentiles that can cause rain? or can the heavens give showers? art not thou he, O LORD our God? therefore we will wait upon thee: for thou hast made all these things.

XV

1 Then said the LORD unto me, Though Moses and Samuel stood before me, yet my mind could not be toward this people: cast them out of my sight, and let them go forth.

~ Jeremiah wanted to pray for his people – the children of Israel. That’s fine, noble and right – but God frighteningly says, “*stop, I’m not listening.*” God was finished thinking about His chosen people at the time in which we are studying — verse one. They had crossed the line with God; and, my friends, we can cross the line with God as individuals into abject helplessness and hopelessness, too. That may sound contradictory to other portions of Scripture, but these people had simply gone too far in Baal worship. In Romans chapter one, Paul says three times, “... God gave them up.” If that Scriptural tenet of truth doesn’t make us want to bow down on our knees and confess our coldness and indifference to the things of Christ, nothing will.

God told Jeremiah not to worry; that He wasn’t hearing his prayer for Israel anymore. God tells Jeremiah, “*don’t be alarmed that I am not going to save these people.*” Even if Moses or Samuel had personally attempted to make intercession for Israel at this time, God would not have heard *them!* Moses

was a marvelous intercessor; he did it more than once. Remember, God said He would destroy the people and fulfill His covenant through Moses; but Moses answered God, “... *if you destroy them, then just destroy me, too.*” God withheld judgment at that time and brought them into the Promised Land. Samuel prayed for the people, and judgment was averted again and again and again as the result of his prayers. Well, that’s all over now, too. The line with God has been crossed and there was nothing ahead but judgment. If you are one who goes to God and weeps for your sins and promises to do better yet you continue in those sinful ways – you had better read the remainder of this chapter super-duper carefully....

2 And it shall come to pass, if they say unto thee, Whither shall we go forth? then thou shalt tell them, Thus saith the LORD; Such as are for death, to death; and such as are for the sword, to the sword; and such as are for the famine, to the famine; and such as are for the captivity, to the captivity.

3 And I will appoint over them four kinds, saith the LORD: the sword to slay, and the dogs to tear, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the earth, to devour and destroy.

4 And I will cause them to be removed into all kingdoms of the earth, because of Manasseh the son of Hezekiah king of Judah, for that which he did in Jerusalem.

5 For who shall have pity upon thee, O Jerusalem? or who shall bemoan thee? or who shall go aside to ask how thou doest?

6 Thou hast forsaken me, saith the LORD, thou art gone backward: therefore will I stretch out my hand against thee, and destroy thee; I am weary with repenting.

~ I am acutely aware that this so-called Spiritual Safari doesn’t make me a popular person. My Bible teaching style doesn’t win friends and influence people – and it doesn’t garner support for this ministry – not in my church or anywhere. I knew it would be this way *LONG* before I began publishing reports. People naturally do not like me. I do not know of a single convert I

have made. Well, Jeremiah never made any converts, either; but Jeremiah was giving God's message. I just happen to *KNOW* I am also giving God's message; as no one else seems to want to do. When I show up and comment on social media, others immediately think "... *here comes the troublemaker.*" I recognize that, friends. Do you think I am going to change the message God has given me to give you so you might like me a little bit better? Oh, no, trust me – that's never going to happen....

7 And I will fan them with a fan in the gates of the land; I will bereave them of children, I will destroy my people, since they return not from their ways.

8 Their widows are increased to me above the sand of the seas: I have brought upon them against the mother of the young men a spoiler at noonday: I have caused him to fall upon it suddenly, and terrors upon the city.

9 She that hath borne seven languisheth: she hath given up the ghost; her sun is gone down while it was yet day: she hath been ashamed and confounded: and the residue of them will I deliver to the sword before their enemies, saith the LORD.

10 Woe is me, my mother, that thou hast borne me a man of strife and a man of contention to the whole earth! I have neither lent on usury, nor men have lent to me on usury; yet every one of them doth curse me.

~ Jeremiah may have been a weepy prophet, but he had an acute sense of humor. Jeremiah knew that *NOBODY* liked him. I think Jeremiah took a shower every day, and stayed well-groomed, brushed his teeth, and used the best deodorant – but – they hated everything about him. I think they hated the mere sight of him. I know they hated his voice. Jeremiah's words were terrible to them. They didn't care for those words that were, actually, from God Almighty Himself! They had no realization about that. Jeremiah didn't loan out money, either; which is one sure way to lose friends. Frankly, I doubt he had any money to lend to anyone; and no one was going to give Jeremiah a loan, either. Still, they just hated him. They despised anything and everything about him – and every word he uttered was

ridiculed and opposed. They weren't the slightest bit interested in what he had to say....

11 The LORD said, Verily it shall be well with thy remnant; verily I will cause the enemy to entreat thee well in the time of evil and in the time of affliction.

12 Shall iron break the northern iron and the steel?

13 Thy substance and thy treasures will I give to the spoil without price, and that for all thy sins, even in all thy borders.

14 And I will make thee to pass with thine enemies into a land which thou knowest not: for a fire is kindled in mine anger, which shall burn upon you.

15 O LORD, thou knowest: remember me, and visit me, and revenge me of my persecutors; take me not away in thy longsuffering: know that for thy sake I have suffered rebuke.

16 Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

~ All Jeremiah had to lean on was the book of the law of the Lord – the Word of God – that his father, Hilkiyah, had found; the law which had been lost in the temple for so many decades. The only consolation in this life Jeremiah had left was to eat the Words of God Almighty. That means he digested it; and it became a part of him. If we are what we eat – Jeremiah WAS the Word of God – and he is. I cannot stress to you the criticality of getting into the Word of God in an educated, sincere, systematic, proper, correct and complete Bible teaching, under a man who is Spirit-filled and Spirit-led, truly loves the Lord Jesus Christ and the Word of God – and lives a life that reflects that love. A Bible teacher like that is unimpeachable. You can trust them, if you can find one.

The surface and superficial dabbling in the Bible that I see going on around this forum on which I teach is eventually going to bring more sorrow and consternation than we can know. Mark my words on that. Adopting a few rules and regulations that give the appearance that we are some sort of super-duper saint will literally destroy us, my friends. You may want to think about that very carefully today; not because Andrew C. Hunt said so – because God said so – right here in His Word that you claim to believe and trust and love and follow. This is no joke. This is what's real. Only when we learn what we are talking about will God ever bring joy and rejoicing to our heart; and only the Word of God can do that for us....

17 I sat not in the assembly of the mockers, nor rejoiced; I sat alone because of thy hand: for thou hast filled me with indignation.

18 Why is my pain perpetual, and my wound incurable, which refuseth to be healed? wilt thou be altogether unto me as a liar, and as waters that fail?

19 Therefore thus saith the LORD, If thou return, then will I bring thee again, and thou shalt stand before me: and if thou take forth the precious from the vile, thou shalt be as my mouth: let them return unto thee; but return not thou unto them.

20 And I will make thee unto this people a fenced brasen wall: and they shall fight against thee, but they shall not prevail against thee: for I am with thee to save thee and to deliver thee, saith the LORD.

21 And I will deliver thee out of the hand of the wicked, and I will redeem thee out of the hand of the terrible.

~ Remember, Jeremiah has been run out of his own hometown of Anathoth at this time; and even his own family was turning against him. The days are getting dark and difficult. The nation is coming to its end; and is within ten years of the Babylonian captivity, and utter destruction of Jerusalem – and the temple – at this particular time, as far as the record is concerned. God says, “*stay the course, Jeremiah.*” This is also where God tells Jeremiah to cut all ties with the nation, and not to marry or have

children. God instructs Jeremiah to step up the severity of the message to the ninth degree. This chapter is beyond horribly ugly. We're in a section of Scripture the modern church has no clue is even in the Bible; and couldn't teach this if they wanted to....

XVI

1 The word of the LORD came also unto me, saying,

2 Thou shalt not take thee a wife, neither shalt thou have sons or daughters in this place.

3 For thus saith the LORD concerning the sons and concerning the daughters that are born in this place, and concerning their mothers that bare them, and concerning their fathers that begat them in this land;

4 They shall die of grievous deaths; they shall not be lamented; neither shall they be buried; but they shall be as dung upon the face of the earth: and they shall be consumed by the sword, and by famine; and their carcasses shall be meat for the fowls of heaven, and for the beasts of the earth.

5 For thus saith the LORD, Enter not into the house of mourning, neither go to lament nor bemoan them: for I have taken away my peace from this people, saith the LORD, even lovingkindness and mercies.

6 Both the great and the small shall die in this land: they shall not be buried, neither shall men lament for them, nor cut themselves, nor make themselves bald for them:

7 Neither shall men tear themselves for them in mourning, to comfort them for the dead; neither shall men give them the cup of consolation to drink for their father or for their mother.

8 Thou shalt not also go into the house of feasting, to sit with them to eat and to drink.

9 For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will cause to cease out of this place in your eyes, and in your days, the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride.

10 And it shall come to pass, when thou shalt shew this people all these words, and they shall say unto thee, Wherefore hath the LORD pronounced all this great evil against us? or what is our iniquity? or what is our sin that we have committed against the LORD our God?

11 Then shalt thou say unto them, Because your fathers have forsaken me, saith the LORD, and have walked after other gods, and have served them, and have worshipped them, and have forsaken me, and have not kept my law;

12 And ye have done worse than your fathers; for, behold, ye walk every one after the imagination of his evil heart, that they may not hearken unto me:

13 Therefore will I cast you out of this land into a land that ye know not, neither ye nor your fathers; and there shall ye serve other gods day and night; where I will not shew you favour.

14 Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that it shall no more be said, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt;

~ Thank God for this bright spot in this chapter. Without it, this section of Scripture would be blacker than ink. Each of the prophets saw the light in the dark night; and the darker the night became, the brighter the light became. God always makes remembrance of the remnant that He promised to bring back into the land. I believe God is going to teach this United States and, indeed, the world, that He is the Lord. Even though all nations have turned their backs on Him – and He has definitely turned His backs on us – there are still a few genuine saints alive who have not bowed their knee to Baalim in this country and in this world. I know that's difficult to imagine – but I have to believe it's true. Mankind doesn't believe God is

on the Throne today. Because God doesn't judge the world, man thinks God is dead. Unfortunately, I'm afraid that when God makes Himself known, it's going to be catastrophic and devastating; in fact, I *KNOW* it will be exactly that – God tells us so — through the prophet Jeremiah....

15 But, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither he had driven them: and I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers.

16 Behold, I will send for many fishers, saith the LORD, and they shall fish them; and after will I send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks.

17 For mine eyes are upon all their ways: they are not hid from my face, neither is their iniquity hid from mine eyes.

18 And first I will recompense their iniquity and their sin double; because they have defiled my land, they have filled mine inheritance with the carcasses of their detestable and abominable things.

19 O LORD, my strength, and my fortress, and my refuge in the day of affliction, the Gentiles shall come unto thee from the ends of the earth, and shall say, Surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and things wherein there is no profit.

20 Shall a man make gods unto himself, and they are no gods?

21 Therefore, behold, I will this once cause them to know, I will cause them to know mine hand and my might; and they shall know that my name is The LORD.

XVII

1 The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron, and with the point of a diamond: it is graven upon the table of their heart, and upon the horns of your altars;

2 Whilst their children remember their altars and their groves by the green trees upon the high hills.

3 O my mountain in the field, I will give thy substance and all thy treasures to the spoil, and thy high places for sin, throughout all thy borders.

4 And thou, even thyself, shalt discontinue from thine heritage that I gave thee; and I will cause thee to serve thine enemies in the land which thou knowest not: for ye have kindled a fire in mine anger, which shall burn for ever.

5 Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.

~ These people had become evil in everything they did – even in their religion. Verse five might be a good motto for us to put up if we think certain men are to be trusted and depended upon to make everything great again. Politicians and parties can never work out the problems of this world, friends. Believing that anything is going to change in this country or in this world is an abject idiots dream. You are utterly under a curse if you trust in some man for *ANYTHING*, my beloved. I don't care what that something is.

This is the day we are to trust the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior to lead us — and glorify God our Father who has provided. We all have a *VERY BAD* case of heart trouble, my dear readers – and the Lord Jesus just happens to be the only cardiologic specialist in this universe Who has ever performed a successful heart transplant. People say, “... *I have given my heart to the Lord.*” Well, guess what? – God doesn't want that old filthy and deceitful thing from you. Don't try to give that to the Lord – He won't even accept it. No, God wants to give you a new heart. And even so, God says He intends to judge. We will give an account of our lives. Do you believe Him? Our Spiritual Safari trusts – and believes – God – literally – at His Word ~

6 For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited.

7 Blessed is the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.

8 For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

11 As the partridge sitteth on eggs, and hatcheth them not; so he that getteth riches, and not by right, shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool.

12 A glorious high throne from the beginning is the place of our sanctuary.

~ So, this leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God ends in the sanctuary. The sanctuary is the place of worship, of course; but it is also a place of peace, protection, safety, asylum – and joy! Remember, David laid hold of the horns of the altar in the sanctuary. God also gave cities of refuge for sanctuary – and that’s where the priests lived. Every country and nation has a city of refuge. Out in the Hawaiian Islands, they have a sanctuary city of refuge; and they had it long before any missionaries washed up on shore, by the way. We live in difficult days. I know you may be thinking we’re going to be great again – but – the darkest and most dangerous days we have ever seen in the history of the world are in our immediate future. Frankly, war is inevitable in this day and age. The only place we have to turn now is to the high throne of the Lord God Almighty. If you come to Him, you will be broken. But if you refuse to come

to Him, you will be consumed. If you don't believe me, then believe Jeremiah....

13 O LORD, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, and they that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living waters.

14 Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise.

15 Behold, they say unto me, Where is the word of the LORD? let it come now.

16 As for me, I have not hastened from being a pastor to follow thee: neither have I desired the woeful day; thou knowest: that which came out of my lips was right before thee.

17 Be not a terror unto me: thou art my hope in the day of evil.

18 Let them be confounded that persecute me, but let not me be confounded: let them be dismayed, but let not me be dismayed: bring upon them the day of evil, and destroy them with double destruction.

19 Thus said the LORD unto me; Go and stand in the gate of the children of the people, whereby the kings of Judah come in, and by the which they go out, and in all the gates of Jerusalem;

20 And say unto them, Hear ye the word of the LORD, ye kings of Judah, and all Judah, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, that enter in by these gates:

21 Thus saith the LORD; Take heed to yourselves, and bear no burden on the Sabbath day, nor bring it in by the gates of Jerusalem;

22 Neither carry forth a burden out of your houses on the sabbath day, neither do ye any work, but hallow ye the sabbath day, as I commanded your fathers.

23 But they obeyed not, neither inclined their ear, but made their neck stiff, that they might not hear, nor receive instruction.

24 And it shall come to pass, if ye diligently hearken unto me, saith the LORD, to bring in no burden through the gates of this city on the sabbath day, but hallow the sabbath day, to do no work therein;

25 Then shall there enter into the gates of this city kings and princes sitting upon the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, they, and their princes, the men of Judah, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: and this city shall remain for ever.

26 And they shall come from the cities of Judah, and from the places about Jerusalem, and from the land of Benjamin, and from the plain, and from the mountains, and from the south, bringing burnt offerings, and sacrifices, and meat offerings, and incense, and bringing sacrifices of praise, unto the house of the LORD.

27 But if ye will not hearken unto me to hallow the sabbath day, and not to bear a burden, even entering in at the gates of Jerusalem on the sabbath day; then will I kindle a fire in the gates thereof, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it shall not be quenched ~

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