

Life-Study of Jeremiah Summary – Messages 11 to 15

Israel's Sin Against Jehovah and Jehovah's Punishment Upon Israel

Jeremiah chapters 7-9 is a picture indicating that Israel had degraded to such an extent that, with them, the divine revelation was in the sunset. Actually **they were already in darkness and had no light**. Jehovah came in to correct His hypocritical worshippers, and Jeremiah reacted to Jehovah's correction of Israel. Certain portions of chapters 8-10 show us that the prophet's reaction was very tender, sympathetic, and compassionate. In chapter 9 we see not only Jehovah's correction to Israel, His hypocritical worshippers, but also **His feeling** concerning Israel's suffering of His correction.

Jer 9:18 – Let them hasten and take up a **wailing for us**,/That our eyes may shed tears/And **our eyelids may pour forth water**.

In Jer. 17-18 the words “us” and “our” indicate that Jehovah joined Himself to the suffering people and was one with them in their suffering. **The sympathetic God who punished was also among His punished people**. He joined Himself to them and stayed with them. Eventually, those who wailed were wailing not only for Israel but also for Jehovah.

Jeremiah 11-13 give us a fuller picture of Israel's breaking of the covenant. The law of the Ten Commandments was given to test man and expose man as to his genuine nature and condition. Jehovah's covenant with Israel was not by man's faith in God but by man's works in himself. **Israel broke the covenant of the law** by their idolatrous worship and their evil conduct.

Although God's intention in giving Israel His law was to test and expose them, He still needed to punish them for the sake of His **righteousness** and **holiness**. Eventually God will return to them and have compassion on them and bring them back from their captivity. Jehovah's punishing Israel with drought was a curse for Israel's breaking of Jehovah's covenant. The curse of drought was the ceasing of God's heavenly supply to the earth. As a punishment, **God's nourishment to His people was cut off**.

In chapters 14-15 we have Jeremiah's intercession. In his intercession Jeremiah confesses that they have sinned against Jehovah. Their iniquities testify against them, and their apostasies have become many. Nevertheless, he prays that Jehovah will act for His name's sake. Jehovah refused to listen to the prophet's intercession. Instead of accepting the people, He said that He would remember their iniquity and punish their sins.

Jer 14:17 – And you shall speak this word to them,/Let my eyes run down with tears/Night and day, and let them not cease;/For the virgin daughter of my people is broken with great brokenness,/A very grievous wound.

Jeremiah 14:17-18 reveal the reaction of the prophet, who was **one with the punishing Jehovah**. The prophet was one with the punishing God to sympathize with the people. On the one hand, God punished them; on the other hand, God was still sympathetic, and the prophet was one with Him in being sympathetic.

Jehovah's word to Jeremiah in chapter 16 was a restriction to him. This indicates **that if would be a mouthpiece of God and speak for Him, we must be restricted**. Others may have the freedom to do certain things, but we will not have such freedom. If we do not speak for God, we may not encounter problems. But speaking for God will bring problems. The more we speak for Him, the more problems we will have. However, **our speaking for God should not depend on our choice**. On the contrary, our speaking for God should always depend on God's revelation.

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