

Life-Study of Jeremiah Summary – Messages 11 to 15

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

In 16:10-18 we have a record of Israel's inquiry concerning their sins that caused Jehovah's visitation in the great evil against them, and Jehovah's answer to them. In answer the inquiry of the people, Jehovah also made a promise to them regarding their restoration. The conversation in these verses is very human. The people inquired of God in a human way, and He responded also in a human way.

Jer 16:7 – Blessed is the man who trusts in Jehovah/And whose trust Jehovah is.

In 17:5-8 we see the curse of trusting in man and the blessing in trusting in Jehovah. These verses can be understood according to the natural understanding or according to God's economy. According to the natural understanding, these verses seem to indicate only that if we trust in God, we will be blessed, mainly in a material way. However, according to God's economy, the one who trusts in God is like a tree planted by water, signifying God as the fountain of living waters. In order to receive the divine dispensing, we as the trees must absorb God as the water. God is the living water to be dispensed into our being in order to become our very constituent.

A Full Picture of God's Economy by His Dispensing

Jer 15:16 – Your words were found and I ate them,/And Your word became to me/The joy and rejoicing of my heart,/For I am called by Your name, O Jehovah, God of hosts.”

Jer. 15:16 indicates that the word of God is good for us to enjoy. God's word makes our heart joyful. What is crucial here is the revelation that God's word is the divine supply as food to nourish us. God's intention in His economy is to be the fountain, the source, of living waters to His chosen people for their enjoyment. The food, the water, the very God, and the fountain of living waters—all these are one. How marvelous it is that in a portion of the Word concerned with God's chastisement of His sinful and evil people, we have such a full picture of God's economy by His dispensing.

In 17:19-27 we have a word about keeping Jehovah's Sabbath. The way to keep God's Sabbath is to enjoy Him, to rest in Him, and to be satisfied in Him as the fountain of living waters. We should not do anything in ourselves or of ourselves. Rather, we should simply rest in this fountain and enjoy this fountain.

Jehovah as the Potter and Israel as the Pottery

As the Potter our God has the absolute right over us. Regarding us, He has the right to do whatever He likes. The breaking of Israel as a potter's earthenware jar was illustrated in the valley of the son of Hinnom at the entrance of the potsherd gate. This breaking would take place because of Israel's evils.

Jehovah's Condemnation of and Punishment Upon the Kings and Prophets of Judah

In chapters 21 to 23 we have a word regarding Jehovah's punishment upon the kings of Judah with their people. The kings of Judah with their people forsook the covenant of Jehovah their God and worshipped other gods and served them. Jehovah pronounced woe to the kings of Judah and He intended to visit upon them the evil of their deeds.