

A Trek Through Jeremiah 8 - 4:19-31

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For today:

Judgment from the north 4:5 - 6:26

- Logic and limits of the judgment 4:5-31
 - Destroyer on the way 4:5-22
 - ...
 - Anguished cry 4:19-21
 - Diagnosis 4:22
 - Desolation 4:23-31
 - Creation reversed 4:23-26
 - Reflection 4:27-28
 - Desolate land 4:29
 - Desolate nation 4:30-31

Destroyer on the way 4:5-22

- Contains oracle about the coming judgment, reactions by Jeremiah, appeal to repent, divine reflection on the cause of the judgment.
- Expands prophecy of the boiling pot (1:13-16)

Anguished cry 4:19-21

Jeremiah 4:19–21 (LSB)

19My soul, my soul! I am in anguish! Oh, my heart! My heart is pounding in me; I cannot be silent Because you have heard, O my soul, The sound of the trumpet, The shout of war.

20Destruction upon destruction is called out, For the whole land is devastated; Suddenly my tents are devastated, My curtains in an instant.

21How long must I see the standard And hear the sound of the trumpet?

- V19a Anguish
 - My soul, my soul! I am in anguish!.
 - Jeremiah's emotional reaction to his vision. Shows his sensitivity and love for his people.
 - Oh, my heart! My heart is pounding in me
 - Physiological reaction
 - I cannot be silent
 - Too much to hold in. His concern for his people overcomes his fear.
 - 1:7 ...All that I command you, you shall speak
 - Not coerced.
 - Yahweh using means to bring Jeremiah to speak of his own will
- V19b-20 Prophetic experience
 - Because you have heard, O my soul, The sound of the trumpet, The shout of war.
 - Sensed in his soul the coming invasion
 - One day all Judah would experience what Jeremiah is experiencing.
 - Destruction upon destruction is called out, For the whole land is devastated;
 - Wave after wave of destruction is summoned by Yahweh.
 - Everything everywhere is destroyed.
 - Suddenly my tents are devastated, My curtains in an instant.
 - Tents. Dwellings
 - Curtains. Privacy
 - Jeremiah experiences his shelter and privacy removed instantly
- V21 Unbearable
 - How long... Unbearable and unending.

Diagnosis 4:22

Jeremiah 4:22 (LSB)

22“For My people are ignorant fools, They know Me not; They are simpleminded children And have no understanding. They are wise to do evil, But to do good they do not know.”

- For My people are ignorant fools.
 - Yahweh's diagnosis of His people's condition
 - Ignorant fool.
 - Heb ewil. One who lacks wisdom because he despises it; will not accept instruction or correction.
 - Pr 1:7 The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of knowledge; Ignorant fools despise wisdom and discipline.
 - They see no value in wisdom so they have none
 - They see no value in discipline so they do not learn from it.
 - Thus they have no fear of Yahweh.
 - Pr 12:15 The way of an ignorant fool is right in his own eyes...
 - They reject instruction and discipline
 - Pr 14:0 Ignorant fools scoff at guilt...
 - They are guilty but not ashamed
- Three results
 - They know Me not.
 - As the transcendent almighty God
 - Is 50:21 “These things you have done and I kept silent; You thought that I was just like you; I will reprove you and state the case in order before your eyes.
 - See Yahweh as a created being like them.
 - They are simpleminded children And have no understanding.
 - Simpleminded. Sottish. Dull-witted from intoxication. Immature
 - No understanding. No ability to act wisely or prudently.
 - They are wise to do evil, But to do good they do not know.”
 - Sophisticated in the ways of the world because of much practice.
 - Ignorant in the ways of Yahweh
 - Kidner: “They know nothing worth knowing; they do nothing worth doing.”

Desolation 4:23-31

Creation reversed 4:23-26

Jeremiah 4:23–26 (LSB)

23I saw on the earth, and behold, it was formless and void; And to the heavens, and they had no light.

24I saw on the mountains, and behold, they were quaking, And all the hills moved to and fro.

25I saw, and behold, there was no man, And all the birds of the sky had fled.

26I saw, and behold, the fruitful orchard was a wilderness, And all its cities were torn down Before Yahweh, before His burning anger.

- Poem describing a vision of the coming judgment in apocalyptic terms
- I saw on the earth, and behold, it was formless and void.
 - Same word as before creation began (Gen 1:2). Creation reversed.
 - Depiction of Ja 1:15 ...when sin is fully matured, it brings forth death
- And to the heavens and they had no light.
 - Before the creation of light (Gen 1:3)
- I saw on the mountains, and behold, they were quaking, And all the hills moved to and fro
 - All stability gone
- I saw, and behold, there was no man
 - Yahweh's greatest creation gone
- And all the birds of the sky had fled
 - Birds (all animals) gone
- I saw, and behold, the fruitful orchard was a wilderness
 - Orchard: all human endeavors
 - Once fruitful now like Sinai
- all its cities were torn down
 - All human civilization gone
- Before Yahweh, before His burning anger.
 - Done by Yahweh.
 - Burning anger. 2x for emphasis.
 - Because of the condition of His people (4:22) expressed in their actions (4:18)
 - Ro 2:4-6 Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance? But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who WILL REPAY TO EACH ACCORDING TO HIS WORKS:
 - Thought lightly of Yahweh's patience
 - Did not repent
 - Stored up wrath for themselves
 - Now will see Yahweh's righteous judgment

Reflection 4:27-28

Jeremiah 4:27–28 (LSB)

27For thus says Yahweh, “The whole land shall be a desolation, Yet I will not execute a complete destruction.

28“For this the earth shall mourn And the heavens above be dark Because I have spoken; I have purposed, And I will not relent, nor will I turn from it.”

- For thus says Yahweh. Prose confirmation from Yahweh of the vision
- The whole land shall be a desolation, Yet I will not execute a complete destruction.
 - Executing the deserved judgment. Ex 34:7 ...not leave the guilty unpunished.
 - But they are still His people. Jer 5:10 ...But do not make a complete destruction.
 - Contrast Sodom and Gomorrah
 - 2 Pet 2:6 ...He condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to destruction by reducing them to ashes, having made them an example to those who would live ungodly lives thereafter
 - Lot removed then complete destruction.
 - Only because they were not elect.
 - God’s “Yet” is the only thing keeping His people from what they deserve.
 - As Eph 2:1, 4 And you were dead in your transgressions and sins...But God, being rich in mercy because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
 - Both God’s wrath and His mercy show His faithfulness and determination to complete His work in His people.
- For this the earth shall mourn And the heavens above be dark
 - Heavens and earth personified lament the judgment of Yahweh’s people.
 - Contrast Ps 26:11-13 Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; Let the sea roar, as well as its fullness; Let the field exult, and all that is in it. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy Before Yahweh, for He is coming, For He is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness And the peoples in His faithfulness.
 - Yahweh comes to judge in righteousness and faithfulness.
 - His elect are saved because they have Jesus’ righteousness.
 - The heavens and earth rejoice when Yahweh finally accomplishes His purpose for His people.
- Because I have spoken; I have purposed, And I will not relent, nor will I turn from it.
 - Fulfilled in 586 BC.

Desolate land and city 4:29-31

Jeremiah 4:29-31 (LSB)

29At the sound of the horseman and bowman every city flees; They go into the thickets and climb up among the rocks; Every city is forsaken, And no man inhabits them.

30And you, O devastated one, what will you do? Although you dress in scarlet, Although you decorate yourself with ornaments of gold, Although you enlarge your eyes with paint, In vain you make yourself beautiful. Your lovers despise you; They seek your life.

31For I heard a sound as of a woman in labor pains, The distress as of one giving birth to her first child, The sound of the daughter of Zion gasping for breath, Stretching out her hands, saying, "Ah, woe is me, for my soul faints before murderers."

- V29 Desolate land
 - the horseman and bowman. Babylonian army.
 - every city flees. No refuge in the fortified cities.
 - They go into the thickets and climb up among the rocks. Refugees.
- V30-31 Desolate city
 - O devastated one. Jerusalem
 - Although you dress in scarlet...
 - 1st illustration: the harlot
 - She beautifies herself to allure her enemies. A picture of diplomacy
 - Diplomacy fails. Yahweh has brought her enemies to destroy her.
 - For I heard a sound as of a woman in labor pains...
 - 2nd illustration: miscarriage and murder
 - A woman in labor pains with her first child.
 - Her lovers around her to murder her.

Application: Reaping what we have not sown

Jer 4:27 Yet I will not execute a complete destruction.

- Judah deserved complete destruction but Yahweh would preserve a remnant.

Gal 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.

- God is not mocked.
- What one sows, that he reaps

We have all sown corruption but have reaped eternal life.

How is this possible? God's gracious gift in Christ Jesus

- Ro 3:23-24 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;

Application: God's will for me

Jer 4:19 My soul, my soul! I am in anguish! Oh, my heart! My heart is pounding in me; I cannot be silent Because you have heard, O my soul, The sound of the trumpet, The shout of war.

- Jeremiah is not being coerced to speak. Rather he speaks of his own will because of his concern for the people he loves.

Acts 21:13 Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, crying and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but even to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

- Paul on his way to Jerusalem to deliver the offering.
- Jerusalem is suffering from famine. He sees the offering as a way to unify the Jewish and Gentile churches.
- He goes even though he will be bound there.

When have we been brought to do something for our Lord that was unpleasant?

Have we ever refused? How did that turn out?

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