

A Trek Through Jeremiah 7 - 4:5-18

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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
 - Coming destruction 4:5-9
 - Interruption 4:10
 - Coming destruction 4:11-13
 - Appeal to repent 4:14-15
 - Coming invasion 4:16-17
 - Diagnosis 4:18

Judgment from the north 4:5 - 6:26

- A series of oracles describing the coming judgment interspersed with reflections by Yahweh on the reasons for the judgment, reactions by Jeremiah, calls to repent and be saved.
- Example
 - 4:5-7 Oracle from Yahweh
 - 4:8 Reaction by Jeremiah
 - 4:9 Oracle continues
 - 4:10 Reaction by Jeremiah
 - 4:11-13 Oracle continues
 - 4:14 Call to repent
 - 4:15-17 Oracle continues
 - 4:18 Reflection by Yahweh
- Ch 4 more oracles, ch 5 & 6 more reflections
- Jeremiah's reactions reveal his heart.

Logic and limits of the judgment 4:5-31

- Reasons for the judgment and its extent.

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)

Coming destruction 4:5-7

Jeremiah 4:5–7 (LSB)

5 Declare in Judah and make it heard in Jerusalem and say, “Blow the trumpet in the land; Call out, make your voice full, and say, ‘Gather yourselves, and let us go into the fortified cities.’

6 “Lift up a standard toward Zion! Seek safety, do not stand still, For I am bringing evil from the north, And great destruction.

7 “A lion has gone up from his thicket, And a destroyer of nations has set out; He has gone out from his place To make your land a desolation. Your cities will be turned into ruins Without inhabitant.

- First oracle from Yahweh
- V5-6 Announcement
 - Declare in Judah and make it heard in Jerusalem and say, “Blow the trumpet in the land; Call out, make your voice full, and say
 - Delivered in Jerusalem to the nation.
 - Blow the trumpet. Sound the alarm.
 - Declare...make it heard...call out...make your voice full. Ensure they hear.
 - And say, Yahweh giving Jeremiah His word for the nation (1:7...all I command you, you shall speak)
 - Gather yourselves, and let us go into the fortified cities.’ “Lift up a standard toward Zion! Seek safety, do not stand still,
 - Judah’s fortified cities & Jerusalem were places of refuge from an invasion.
 - Jeremiah includes himself with his people.
 - For I am bringing evil from the north, And great destruction.
 - I am bringing. Yahweh, Lord of history
 - Evil which will result in great destruction. His purpose
 - From the north. Typical invasion route. Using the means of the world to accomplish His purpose.
 - Fulfilled in the Babylonian invasion.
- V7 Illustration from nature
 - Lion. Irresistible predator.
 - Gone up from his thicket. To hunt his prey. Summoned by Yahweh.
 - Destroyer of nations. World power named for what he does.
 - Has set out. Immediate to Jeremiah even though the Babylonian invasion would not happen for another 30y.
 - To make your land a desolation. Purpose is destruction.
 - Your cities will be turned into ruins
 - Presently fortified and strong. What Judah is depending on.
 - False security. Ps 127:1 ... Unless Yahweh watches the city, The watchman keeps awake in vain. But Yahweh intends to destroy Judah’s cities.
 - Without inhabitant. Either killed or sent into exile.

Lament 4:8

Jeremiah 4:8 (LSB)

8“For this, I gird myself with sackcloth, Lament and wail; For the burning anger of Yahweh Has not turned back from us.”

- I gird myself with sackcloth, Lament and wail.
 - Signs of mourning
 - Maybe literal: Jeremiah reacting to the oracle.
 - Maybe figurative: picturing the scene as the invader approaches
- For the burning anger of Yahweh Has not turned back from us.
 - Burning anger. Lit burning anger nose. 2x for emphasis.
 - The nation sought for Yahweh to (once again) set aside His anger but He has not.

Lost heart 4:9

Jeremiah 4:9 (LSB)

9“It will be in that day,” declares Yahweh, “that the heart of the king and the heart of the princes will perish; and the priests will be appalled, and the prophets will be astonished.”

- It will be in that day. When Judah is devastated.
- Four types of leaders of Judah. Same as 2:8.
- the heart of the king and the heart of the princes will perish
 - Civil leaders
 - All courage and will gone.
 - The destroyer of nations approaches and the promised peace is not happening.
 - Described in the Lachish letters written during the Babylonian siege.
 - Part of the covenant curse (Dt 28:25 Yahweh shall cause you to be defeated before your enemies; you will go out one way against them, but you will flee seven ways before them)
 - As Rahab described to the spies in Josh 2:11 ...our hearts melted, and a courageous spirit no longer rose up in any man because of you; for Yahweh your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath. But now Yahweh is against Judah.
- and the priests will be appalled.
 - Appalled. Desolate, horrified.
 - Temple upon which they placed their hopes would be destroyed.
 - Livelihood ended.
 - Ministry shown to be false. They had not stood for Yahweh but had accepted the idolatry.
- and the prophets will be astonished.
 - They had been prophesying, “Peace, peace.” when there was no peace; telling the people what they wanted to hear.
 - They believed what they were saying, but would be shown to be utterly wrong.

Interruption 4:10

Jeremiah 4:10 (LSB)

10 Then I said, "Ah, Lord Yahweh! Surely You have utterly deceived this people and Jerusalem, saying, 'You will have peace'; whereas a sword touches the throat."

- Then I said, "Ah, Lord Yahweh!"
 - Jeremiah reacting to the oracle.
 - Ah. Exclamation of pain.
 - Lord Yahweh. Acknowledging His sovereignty
- Surely You have utterly deceived this people and Jerusalem, saying, 'You will have peace';
 - The false prophets were prophesying peace.
 - Maybe saying that Yahweh allowed the prophets to proclaim lies.
 - Maybe saying that Yahweh sent a false spirit to the prophets.
 - 1 Ki 22:21-23 Prophet Micaiah tells how Yahweh had sent a lying spirit to the other prophets to lure Ahab to his death.
- whereas a sword touches the throat."
 - Picture of an execution
 - Jeremiah knew the truth about what was coming.

Coming destruction 4:11-13

Jeremiah 4:11–13 (LSB)

11 In that time it will be said to this people and to Jerusalem, "A scorching wind from the bare heights in the wilderness along the way of the daughter of My people—not to winnow and not to cleanse,

12 a wind too full for these things—will come for My purpose; now I will also speak judgments against them.

13 "Behold, he goes up like clouds, And his chariots like the whirlwind; His horses are swifter than eagles. Woe to us, for we are devastated!"

- Yahweh makes no reply to Jeremiah but continues with the oracle.
- V11-12 A scorching wind
 - The sirocco was a hot desert wind which came from the Arabian Desert. Parched crops, dried up water sources, caused much discomfort.
 - Not to winnow and not to cleanse – a wind too full for these things
 - Illustration from agriculture: in a gentle wind grain was winnowed to remove chaff.
 - This wind would blow everything (good and worthless) away.
 - will come for My purpose. Accomplishing Yahweh's purpose of judgment.
 - now I will also speak judgments against them. Yahweh will ally with the invader against His people.
- V13 A military illustration
 - Behold, he goes up like clouds, And his chariots like the whirlwind; His horses are swifter than eagles.
 - he goes up. The invader goes to war.
 - Clouds...whirlwind. Desert windstorm. Irresistible.
 - Swifter than Eagles. Fast-moving.
 - Woe to us, for we are devastated!. Exclamation of despair. All is lost!

Appeal to repent 4:14-15

Jeremiah 4:14–15 (LSB)

14Wash your heart from evil, O Jerusalem, That you may be saved. How long will your wicked thoughts lodge within you?

15For a voice declares from Dan, And makes wickedness heard from Mount Ephraim.

- V14 Appeal
 - That you may be saved. In the midst of the oracle of judgment, an appeal to repent and be saved.
 - Wash your heart from evil...wicked thoughts.
 - True change in heart and mind.
 - Return to the covenant.
- V15 Urgency
 - Declare. Tell about a matter of life and death.
 - Dan. City in the north of Israel.
 - Mount Ephraim. North border of Judah near Jerusalem.
 - Wickedness. Of the invader. Can also mean “calamity”.
 - Messengers come from the north warning of the coming invasion.
 - Little time left. But Judah may still be saved.

Coming invasion 4:16-17

Jeremiah 4:16–17 (LSB)

16“Make mention of it to the nations, saying, ‘Behold!’ Make it heard over Jerusalem, ‘Besiegers come from a far country, And give forth their voices against the cities of Judah.

17‘Like watchmen of a field they are against her round about Because she has rebelled against Me,’ declares Yahweh.

- Make mention of it to the nations, saying, ‘Behold!’ Make it heard over Jerusalem,
 - Call to both the nations and Judah to pay attention to a matter of importance.
- Besiegers come from a far country, And give forth their voices against the cities of Judah. Like watchmen of a field they are against her round about
 - Yahweh’s people and land are being destroyed.
 - Watchmen to ensure that none escape.
- Because she has rebelled against Me
 - Judah’s rebellion has removed her protector.
- Why tell Judah? So she will know the cause of her destruction.
- Why tell the nations?
 - Israel is Yahweh’s chosen people.
 - Through Judah’s destruction and exile He reveals Himself to them.
 - He is holy and sovereign.
 - He chooses a people to be His own and is faithful to them even when they reject Him.
 - When they disobey, He is patient with them but also jealous, not allowing them to remain away from Him.
 - He disciplines them but never rejects them entirely.

Diagnosis 4:18

Jeremiah 4:18 (LSB)

18“Your ways and your deeds Have done these things to you. This is your evil. How bitter! How it has touched your heart!”

- Reflection by Yahweh
- Your ways and your deeds Have done these things to you.
 - True cause of the coming judgment.
 - Opposite of 1 Pet 3:14 But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed
- This is your evil. How bitter! How it has touched your heart!”
 - Done by themselves to themselves.
 - Not pleasant as obedience would have been.
- How it has touched your heart!
 - In Babylon the Jews did not adopt the worship of the Babylonian gods.

Application: True security

4:7 ...Your cities will be turned into ruins Without inhabitant.

- The wrong way.
- Judah was depending on their fortified cities for refuge from invaders.
- Yahweh was going to destroy their refuge.

Ps 28:7 Yahweh is my strength and my shield; My heart trusts in Him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart exults, And with my song I shall thank Him.

- The right way
- I make the Lord my strength and my shield
- Trouble comes. I trust in Him and am helped
- My heart exults
- I thank Him

What are we depending upon for our security?

The Lord will destroy every false security to bring us to depend on Him alone.

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