

A Trek Through Jeremiah 10 - 5:20-31

Bruce Pike

November 9, 2025

For this week: Why should I pardon? 5:1-31

- Ch 4 described the judgment to come.
- Ch 5 addresses why the judgment is coming.
- Theme in v7: Why should I pardon you? Repeated in v9, 29
- Search for justice and faithfulness v1-6
- Five reasons to not pardon
 - Last week
 - Faithlessness 5:1-6
 - Idolatry and immorality 5:7-9
 - Denial of Yahweh as Ruler 5:10-19
 - This week
 - Denial of Yahweh as Creator 5:20-25
 - Social injustice. 5:26-29
 - Challenge: What will you do? 5:30-31

Denial of Yahweh as Creator 5:20-25

Jeremiah 5:20–25 (LSB)

20“Declare this in the house of Jacob And cause it to be heard in Judah, saying,

21‘Now hear this, O people who are simpleminded fools and without a heart of wisdom, Who have eyes but do not see, Who have ears but do not hear.

22‘Do you not fear Me?’ declares Yahweh. ‘Do you not tremble in My presence? For I have placed the sand as a boundary for the sea, A perpetual statute, so it cannot cross over it. Though the waves toss, yet they cannot prevail; Though they roar, yet they cannot cross over it.

23‘But this people has a stubborn and rebellious heart; They have turned aside and gone away.

24‘They do not say in their heart, “Let us now fear Yahweh our God, Who gives rain in its season, Both the early rain and the late rain, Who keeps for us The appointed weeks of the harvest.”

25‘Your iniquities have turned these away, And your sins have withheld good from you.

- V20 Command
 - From Yahweh to Jeremiah: speak My word to the house of Jacob in Judah.
- V21 Condition of the people
 - Simpleminded fools. As 4:22. Don’t know and don’t want to know.
 - Without a heart of wisdom. No skill for living.
 - Cannot see or hear.
 - No perception
 - Result of idolatry. Ps 135:15-18 The idols of the nations are silver and gold, The work of man’s hands. They have mouths, but they do not speak; They have eyes, but they do not see; They have ears, but they do not hear, Surely, there is not any breath in their mouths. Those who make them will be like them, All who trust in them.
- V22-24 The Creator
 - Two examples
 - V22-23 I have placed a boundary for the sea.
 - The One who orders all things. The powerful sea is kept within the bounds of the weak sand.
 - Sea represents chaos. ME religions saw history as a battle between their gods and chaos. But Yahweh is sovereign over all; chaos is under His control.
 - Unlike nature, Yahweh’s people do not obey Him. They turn aside from the right way and go away.
 - V24 Who gives rain in its season...keeps the appointed weeks of the harvest.
 - The One who provides the rains and the harvest.
 - Canaanites looked to Baal to provide fertility. But Yahweh is the true Provider.
 - Your iniquities have turned these away. May have been a drought / famine.
- But Judah did not fear their Creator (v22, 24)

Social wickedness. 5:26-29

Jeremiah 5:26–29 (LSB)

26'For wicked men are found among My people; They watch like fowlers lying in wait; They set a trap; They catch men.

27'Like a cage full of birds, So their houses are full of deceit; Therefore they have become great and rich.

28'They are fat, they are sleek; They also excel in deeds of evil; They do not plead the cause, The cause of the orphan, that they may succeed; And they do not render justice for the poor.

29'Shall I not punish these people?' declares Yahweh, 'On a nation such as this Shall I not avenge Myself?'

- V26-28 Behaviors
 - Another manifestation of Judah's unfaithfulness was social injustice.
 - Oppression. Illustration from bird hunting.
 - Deceit. To make themselves rich.
 - Injustice. Towards the poor and orphans.
- V29 Question
 - Repeating the theme from v7, 9.

What will you do? 5:30-31

Jeremiah 5:30–31 (LSB)

30'A horrible and appalling thing Has happened in the land:

31The prophets prophesy with lying, And the priests have dominion by their own hand; And My people love it so! But what will you do at the end of it?

- V30-31c Diagnosis
 - A horrible and appalling thing Has happened in the land
 - Judah has rejected the covenant while in the land of promise.
 - The prophets prophesy with lying. Not speaking the words of Yahweh.
 - And the priests have dominion by their own hand. Not serving according to the covenant. Hand in hand with the prophets.
 - And My people love it so! Comfortable with the whole situation.
- V31d Challenge: But what will you do at the end of it?
 - The people think that the situation will continue indefinitely.
 - But Yahweh will be faithful to bring the promised judgment.
 - Judah will be destroyed.
 - However, there will be a remnant preserved.
 - 2 Pet 3:1-13

Application: Nothing ever changes

Jer 5:31 But what will you do at the end of it?

- Judah would not repent of their wickedness. Judgment was coming.

2 Pet 3:1-15

- V2 Remember the words of the prophets and apostles.
- V3-4 Mockers will come saying all continues as before.
- V5-7 Previously the world was destroyed by water. Judgment by fire is coming.
- V8-9 The Lord is patient, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.
- V10-13 The heavens and earth will be destroyed by fire but a new heavens and earth is coming. We should practice holy conduct and righteousness
- V14-15 Look for these things. Be diligent to be found spotless and blameless. Consider the patience of the Lord as salvation.

The unsaved think all will go on as before unless mankind is destroyed by an existential threat (climate change, nuclear war, etc).

They have no fear of the Lord but also no hope.

Let us not be like them.

Review: What have we learned?

About Yahweh

- His character
 - Holy and faithful: 9:9b “Shall I not punish these people,” declares Yahweh, “And on a nation such as this Shall I not avenge Myself?”
- His word:
 - My people have sinned: 2:13 “For My people have done two evils: They have forsaken Me, The fountain of living waters, To hew for themselves cisterns, Broken cisterns That can hold no water.
 - Judgment is coming: 5:15a “Behold, I am bringing a nation against you from afar, O house of Israel,” declares Yahweh.
 - It will not be complete: 5:18 “Yet even in those days,” declares Yahweh, “I will not make you a complete destruction.
 - Return to Me: 3:22 “Return, O faithless sons; I will heal your faithlessness.” “Behold, we come to You, For You are Yahweh our God.

About His people

- Faithless 5:1 “Roam to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, And see now and know, And seek in her open squares, If you can find a man, If there is one who does justice, who seeks faithfulness, Then I will pardon her.
- Exchanged Yahweh for idols . 2:13 “For My people have done two evils: They have forsaken Me, The fountain of living waters, To hew for themselves cisterns, Broken cisterns That can hold no water.

About Jeremiah

- His mission: 1:7 But Yahweh said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am a youth,’ Because everywhere I send you, you shall go, And all that I command you, you shall speak.
- His character: 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.

References

Baker, Warren, *The Complete Word Study Old Testament*, AMG, 1994

Baker, Warren, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary Old Testament*, AMG, 2003

Feinberg, Charles L., *Jeremiah* in The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Zondervan, 1986

Harrison, R. K., *Jeremiah and Lamentations* in Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries, Tyndale Press, 1973

Kidner, Derek, *Jeremiah*, InterVarsity Press, 1987

Thompson, J. A., *The Book of Jeremiah* in Eerdman's Classic Biblical Commentaries, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1980