

A Trek Through Jeremiah 11 - 6:1-15

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Overview

Judgment from the north 4:5 - 6:26

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Today

- The coming judgment and its causes (part 1) 6:1-15

Jerusalem destroyed 6:1-5

Jeremiah 6:1–5 (LSB)

1“Flee for safety, O sons of Benjamin, From the midst of Jerusalem! Now blow a trumpet in Tekoa And raise a signal over Beth-haccerem, For evil looks down from the north, As well as great destruction.

2“The comely and delicate one, the daughter of Zion, I will ruin.

3“Shepherds and their flocks will come to her; They will pitch their tents around her; They will pasture each in his place.

4“Set yourselves apart for war against her; Arise, and let us go up at noon. Woe to us, for the day declines, For the shadows of the evening stretch out!

5“Arise, and let us go up by night And destroy her palaces!”

- V1 No longer a refuge
 - Flee for safety...From the midst of Jerusalem!
 - In 4:5 Jeremiah said, “Gather yourselves, and let us go Into the fortified cities.”. But now he sees that the fortified cities are not a refuge.
 - O Sons of Benjamin.
 - Jeremiah’s tribe.
 - When the kingdom split, Benjamin was the only tribe besides Judah to remain loyal to the Davidic king. But now there is no refuge in the Davidic king.
 - Now blow a trumpet in Tekoa And raise a signal over Beth-haccerem
 - Trumpet...signal. Calls to flee.
 - Tekoa is 5 mi south of Jerusalem on the edge of the Judean wilderness. Beth-haccerem is 2 mi south of Jerusalem. The invasion is coming from the north so flee to the south.
 - Evil looks down from the north. The destroyer personified.
- V2-3 Yahweh’s intent for Jerusalem
 - The comely and delicate one, the daughter of Zion, I will ruin.
 - NASB, LSB: ruin. Jerusalem I will ruin. Shepherds will pasture their flocks among the ruins.
 - KJV, NKJV: liken. Have I likened Jerusalem to a good pasture? Shepherds and their flocks (enemy kings and their armies) will come plunder the good pastures.
 - Heb nawah: nomadic term for temporary pasture.
 - Each shepherd has his assigned place.

- V4-5 Commitment and urgency
 - Set yourselves apart for war against her
 - In Middle East warfare was sacred. Priests offered sacrifices before each battle. The army was set apart for the purpose of victory.
 - A pagan army but Yahweh is using them to achieve His purpose.
 - Arise, and let us go up at noon. Woe to us, for the day declines, For the shadows of the evening stretch out! Arise, and let us go up by night And destroy her palaces!
 - Noon was usually a time for rest but the enemy presses the attack.
 - Armies usually did not attack at night but the job was not done.
 - Urgent purpose: destroy her palaces!

Evil heart 6:6-8

Jeremiah 6:6–8 (LSB)

6 For thus says Yahweh of hosts, "Cut down her trees And cast up a siege against Jerusalem. This is the city to be punished, In whose midst there is only oppression.

7 "Like a well keeps its waters fresh, So she keeps fresh her evil. Violence and devastation are heard in her; Sickness and wounds are continually before Me.

8 "Heed discipline, O Jerusalem, Lest My soul become disgusted at you, Lest I make you a desolation, A land not inhabited."

- V6a Yahweh's intent
 - For thus says Yahweh of hosts. Lord of history.
 - Cut down her trees And cast up a siege against Jerusalem.
 - Typical military tactics: besiege the city until it surrendered or the wall was breached. Romans used the same tactics in 70 AD.
 - Trees removed. Land made barren. Part of the judgment.
 - Authorized by Yahweh.
 - This is a city to be punished.
 - Intent is discipline for His people. Not complete destruction.
- V6b-7 Four descriptions of Jerusalem's wickedness
 - In whose midst there is only oppression.
 - No justice.
 - Like a well keeps its waters fresh, So she keeps fresh her evil.
 - Well: cistern fed by springs.
 - Evil continually refreshed.
 - Violence and devastation are heard in her.
 - Violence against the divine order (covenant laws) resulting in ruin.
 - Sickness and wounds are continually before Me.
 - Medical illustration. Moral illness.
 - Is 1:5-6 Where will you be stricken again, As you continue in your rebellion? The whole head is sick, And the whole heart is faint. From the sole of the foot even to the head There is nothing sound in it, Only bruises, wounds, and raw wounds, Not pressed out, not bandaged, Not softened with oil.
 - Stricken
 - Because of rebellion against Yahweh.
 - Not treated.

- V8 Plea
 - Heed discipline, O Jerusalem.
 - Plea for repentance even as the destroyer approaches.
 - Lest My soul become disgusted at you,
 - My soul. Inner being.
 - Become disgusted. Reject, be severed from, turn away from
 - Hos 1:8-10 And she conceived and gave birth to a son. And Yahweh said, "Name him Lo-ammi, for you are not My people, and I am not your God." Yet the number of the sons of Israel Will be like the sand of the sea, Which cannot be measured or numbered; And it will be that in the place Where it is said to them, "You are not My people," It will be said to them, "You are the sons of the living God."
 - Gomer's son named Lo-ammi as a sign: Israel was rejected (not My people).
 - But one day: You are sons of the living God.
 - Lest I make you a desolation, A land not inhabited.
 - City destroyed. People gone.

Unhearing people 6:9-10

Jeremiah 6:9–10 (LSB)

9Thus says Yahweh of hosts, “They will thoroughly glean as the vine the remnant of Israel; Pass your hand again like a grape gatherer Over the branches.”

10To whom shall I speak and give warning That they may hear? Behold, their ears are uncircumcised, And they cannot give heed. Behold, the word of Yahweh has become a reproach to them; They have no delight in it.

- V9 What is about to happen
 - Thus says Yahweh of hosts. Repeated from 6:6 for emphasis.
 - They will thoroughly glean as the vine the remnant of Israel.
 - What the destroyer will do. The law specified that some of the harvest should be left in the field for the afflicted and sojourner (Lev 19:9-10). But the destroyer will take everything.
 - Pass your hand again like a grape gatherer Over the branches.
 - Command to Jeremiah: look again for righteous ones in Jerusalem; if any can be found the Yahweh will pardon the city (5:1).
- V10 Protest
 - Jeremiah protests: none will hear me. First hint that the nation is not heeding his words.
 - Two characteristics of the people
 - Behold, their ears are uncircumcised, And they cannot give heed.
 - Uncircumcised. Covering not removed.
 - 2 Cor 4:3-4 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
 - Gospel veiled
 - Minds blinded by Satan
 - Cannot see the light of the gospel
 - Unable to give heed
 - Behold, the word of Yahweh has become a reproach to them; They have no delight in it.
 - Reproach. Shame because they have not obeyed it.
 - No delight. No desire to obey. Not Ps 37:4 Delight yourself in Yahweh; And He will give you the desires of your heart.

Greed and deceit with no shame 6:11-15

Jeremiah 6:11–15 (LSB)

11But I am full of the wrath of Yahweh; I am weary of holding it in. "Pour it out on the infants in the street And on the gathering of choice men together; For both husband and wife shall be captured, The aged with the one full of days.

12"Their houses shall be turned over to others, Their fields and their wives together, For I will stretch out My hand Against the inhabitants of the land," declares Yahweh.

13"For from the least of them even to the greatest of them, Everyone is greedy for gain, And from the prophet even to the priest Everyone practices lying.

14"They have healed the brokenness of My people superficially, Saying, 'Peace, peace,' But there is no peace.

15"Were they ashamed because of the abomination they have done? They were not even ashamed at all; They did not even know how to feel dishonor. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; At the time that I punish them, They shall be cast down," says Yahweh.

- V11 Silent no longer
 - But I am full of the wrath of Yahweh; I am weary of holding it in.
 - Spoken by Jeremiah.
 - Full of the message of Yahweh's judgment for the sins of 6:13-20.
 - Can hold it in no longer.
 - Wants to remain silent but cannot.
 - 1:7 ...everywhere I send you, you shall go, And all that I command you, you shall speak.
 - Pour it out...
 - On everyone from children to the aged

- V12 What is coming
 - Everything turned over.
 - All they have given to another. Dt 28:30-34 “You shall betroth a wife, but another man will violate her; you shall build a house, but you will not live in it; you shall plant a vineyard, but you will not use its fruit. “Your ox shall be slaughtered before your eyes, but you will not eat of it; your donkey shall be torn away from you and will not be returned to you; your sheep shall be given to your enemies, and you will have none to save you. “Your sons and your daughters shall be given to another people, while your eyes look on and yearn for them all the day long; but there will be nothing you can do. “A people whom you do not know shall eat up the produce of your ground and all your labors, and you will never be anything but oppressed and crushed all your days. “And you shall be driven mad by the sight of what your eyes see.
 - Houses. Where they live
 - Fields. Livelihood
 - Wives. Families
 - For I will stretch out My hand Against the inhabitants of the land,” declares Yahweh.
 - Take action against His people.
 - Done by Yahweh through the Babylonians.

- V13-14 Diagnosis
 - Two iniquities
 - For from the least of them even to the greatest of them, Everyone is greedy for gain
 - All the people
 - Greedy for personal gain. Col 3:5 ...and greed, which is idolatry.
 - And from the prophet even to the priest Everyone practices lying.
 - Religious leaders
 - Speaking and going along with lies. 5:31 The prophets prophesy with lying, And the priests have dominion by their own hand; And My people love it so!
 - They have healed the brokenness of My people superficially, Saying, 'Peace, peace,'
 - The lie: peace, peace. The destroyer will not come.
 - 28:11 And Hananiah spoke in the sight of all the people, saying, "Thus says Yahweh, 'Even so will I break within two full years the yoke of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon from the neck of all the nations.'"
 - The result: superficial healing.
 - Made them feel better. But no true repentance.
 - They needed to break new ground not plant among the thorns (4:3-4)
 - But there is no peace
 - The truth.
 - Is 48:22 "There is no peace for the wicked," says Yahweh.
- V15 Outcome
 - Were they ashamed because of the abomination they have done?
 - They. Prophets and priests
 - Ashamed. Convicted in their conscience that they had not kept the covenant that they had agreed to.
 - Abomination. Not speaking the true words of Yahweh.
 - They were not even ashamed at all. They did not even know how to feel dishonor.
 - Conscience is seared (1 Tim 4:2)
 - No fear of the Lord so no true knowledge or wisdom (Pr 1:7, 9:10)
 - Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; At the time that I punish them, They shall be cast down," says Yahweh.
 - Fall. Die.
 - Be cast down. Stumble and fall over God's word (the covenant)

Application: Stricken

Jer 6:7 Sickness and wounds are continually before Me.

- Moral illness caused by rebellion against Yahweh

1 Cor 11:28-32 But a man must test himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly. For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep. But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world.

- Context: Lord's Supper by Corinthian believers
- The Corinthians were not testing themselves for sins. They were not appreciating the significance of the body and blood of Christ given for them.
- Thus many were weak and sick (both spiritually and physically), some had died. This was discipline from the Lord.
- Better to judge themselves rightly and avoid the discipline

1 Jn 1:8-10 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

- Wrong ways
 - V8 Say we have no sin. No sin nature
 - V10 Say we have not sinned. No acts of sin
- Right way
 - V9 Confess our sins. Judge ourselves rightly. Avoid His discipline. Be forgiven and cleansed.

Are we like the Corinthians or like the Apostle John?

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