

## A Trek Through Jeremiah 12 - 6:16-30

Bruce Pike

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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 2) 6:16-26
- The assayer 6:27-30

The coming judgment and its causes 6:1-26

Rejecting the good way 6:16-21

The good way 6:16-17

Jeremiah 6:16–17 (LSB)

16Thus says Yahweh, “Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, Where the good way is, and walk in it; And you will find rest for your souls. But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’

17“And I set watchmen over you, saying, ‘Give heed to the sound of the trumpet!’ But they said, ‘We will not give heed.’

- v16 Crossroads
  - Stand by the ways. At a crossroads.
  - See. Examine each path
  - Ask. Seek counsel.
  - The ancient paths, where the good way is.
    - Two characteristics: ancient, good
    - The Sinai covenant.
  - And walk in it. Follow the good way. Keep the covenant.
  - Rest for your souls.
    - Blessings promised in the covenant
    - Lev 26:3-12
      - V3 Condition:
      - V4-5 Promise of plenty
      - V6 Promise of peace
      - V7-8 Promise of victory
      - V9 Promise of many people (Abrahamic covenant fulfilled)
      - V11-12 Promise of God with them
    - Quoted by Jesus in Mt 11:28-29 “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.
- But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’
  - Judah’s response: willful rejection of the covenant
  - Contrast Ex 19:8 And all the people answered together and said, “All that Yahweh has spoken we will do!”
  - Even though they knew the consequences
    - Lev 26:14-39
      - 2.5x more curses than blessings
      - “Seven times” 4x. Anticipating their disobedience.

- V17 Watchmen
  - And I set watchmen over you, saying, "Give heed to the sound of the trumpet!"
    - Yahweh's response to the peoples' rejection of the covenant: post watchmen (prophets) to warn them
    - Ezek 3:17 "Son of man, I have given you as a watchman to the house of Israel; so you will hear a word from My mouth, and you shall warn them from Me.
  - But they said, 'We will not give heed.'
    - Heed. Hear and obey.
    - Judah's response: disregard the warnings

Hear ye! 6:18-19

Jeremiah 6:18–19 (LSB)

18"Therefore hear, O nations, And know, O congregation, what is among them.

19"Hear, O earth: behold, I am bringing evil on this people, The fruit of their plans, Because they have not given heed to My words, And as for My law, they have rejected it also.

- Therefore hear...and know...Behold.
  - Yahweh speaking
  - Become aware of and understand.
  - Pay attention because this is important.
- O nations...congregation...earth. All nations.
- What is among them. What Yahweh is doing and why
- What Yahweh is doing
  - I am bringing evil on this people.
    - Coming judgment.
    - This people. Not My people
  - The fruit of their plans.
    - Result of premeditated actions
    - Consequences as specified in the covenant.
- Why
  - they have not given heed to My words
    - Not heard and obeyed Yahweh's words spoken in the covenant and by the prophets
  - And as for My law, they have rejected it also
    - Not fulfilled their responsibility under the covenant

Worthless worship 6:20

Jeremiah 6:20 (LSB)

20“For what purpose does frankincense come to Me from Sheba And the sweet cane from a distant land? Your burnt offerings are not acceptable, And your sacrifices are not pleasing to Me.”

- What Judah was doing: temple ritual
  - Frankincense...sweet cane.
    - Elements used in the temple worship
    - Costly because brought from far away. Frankincense from Sheba in SW Arabia. Sweet cane from India.
  - Burnt offerings...sacrifices. Temple rituals.
- What was Yahweh's reaction
  - Reaction of the superior to the inferior.
  - Not acceptable. Not meeting the requirements of the covenant
  - Not pleasing. Not what Yahweh desired

The fruit of their way 6:21

Jeremiah 6:21 (LSB)

21Therefore, thus says Yahweh, “Behold, I am laying stumbling blocks before this people. And they will stumble against them, Fathers and sons together; Neighbor and friend will perish.”

- I am laying stumbling blocks before this people and they will stumble against them.
  - Stumbling blocks. Babylonians
  - Laid by Yahweh to destroy Judah
  - Because they chose the not-good way (v16)
- Fathers and sons together; Neighbor and friend will perish
  - All people will be destroyed

The destroyer comes 6:22-26

The destroyer 6:22-23

Jeremiah 6:22–23 (LSB)

22Thus says Yahweh, “Behold, a people is coming from the land of the north, And a great nation will be aroused from the remote parts of the earth.

23“They take hold of bow and spear; They are cruel and have no compassion; Their voice roars like the sea, And they ride on horses, Arranged as a man for the battle Against you, O daughter of Zion!”

- A people is coming...will be aroused.
  - By the Lord of history
  - Certain in His time
- Description of the destroyer (Babylon). Expanding on 5:15-17
  - From the land of the north, a great nation, from far away
  - Armed with bow and spear, ride on horses
  - Arranged in orderly ranks, advancing with a roar
  - Cruel with no compassion
- Identification of the victim: against you, O daughter of Zion
  - The destroyer descends on a helpless young woman.

#### Distress 6:24-25

##### Jeremiah 6:24–25 (LSB)

24We have heard the report of it; Our hands are limp. Distress has taken hold of us, Pain as of a woman in childbirth.

25Do not go out into the field And do not walk on the road, For the enemy has a sword; Terror is on every side.

- We have heard the report of it. News of the coming invasion reaches Jerusalem.
- Our hands are limp.
  - No spirit to fight.
  - When Israel was walking in the covenant this was the condition of their enemies. Rahab in Jericho Josh 2:11 “Indeed we heard it, and 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.
  - Now Judah is under the covenant curses Lev 26:36-37 ‘As for those of you who may remain, I will also bring weakness into their hearts in the lands of their enemies. And the sound of a driven leaf will pursue them, and even when no one is pursuing they will flee as though from the sword, and they will fall. ‘They will therefore stumble over each other as if running from the sword, although no one is pursuing; and you will have no strength to stand up before your enemies.
- Distress has taken hold of us, Pain as of a woman in childbirth. Painful. Comes in its time. Unstoppable.
- Do not go out into the field And do not walk on the road, For the enemy has a sword; Terror is on every side. No safe place.

#### Mourning 6:26

##### Jeremiah 6:26 (LSB)

26O daughter of my people, gird yourself with sackcloth And roll in ashes; Mourn as for an only son, A lamentation most bitter. For suddenly the destroyer Will come upon us.

- Jerusalem personified as a mother mourning for her only son.
- A lamentation most bitter. In the ME loss of an only son was a social catastrophe: no one to support the mother or to carry on the family name.
- For suddenly the destroyer Will come upon us. Certain since Judah will not repent.

The assayer 6:27-30

Jeremiah 6:27–30 (LSB)

27“I have made you a tester of metals and an assayer among My people, That you may know and test their way.”

28All of them are rebelliously stubborn, Going about as a slanderer. They are bronze and iron; They, all of them, are corrupt.

29The bellows blow fiercely; The lead is consumed by the fire; In vain the refining goes on, But the evil ones are not separated.

30They call them rejected silver Because Yahweh has rejected them.

- Epilogue to ch 6.
- V27 Jeremiah’s new role
  - I have made you a tester of metals and an assayer. One who tests precious metals for purity.
  - among My people That you may know and test their way. Externally they look good. Jeremiah is to reveal their hearts.
- V28 Yahweh’s diagnosis
  - rebelliously stubborn. Rejecting the covenant and will not change.
  - slanderer. Telling malicious lies.
  - bronze and iron. Not precious metal.
  - Corrupt. Full of impurities.
- V29-30 Refining and its result
  - The bellows blow fiercely; The lead is consumed by the fire.
    - Ancient refining process. Lead was added as a flux to remove impurities.
  - In vain the refining goes on, But the evil ones are not separated.
    - From the time when Israel began to worship idols Yahweh sent discipline and prophets.
    - Judah refused to reject their idols and return to Him.
  - They call them rejected silver Because Yahweh has rejected them.
    - Rejected...rejected. Wordplay: worthless, loathsome...put away.
    - All the nations have been called to witness (v18-19) because through His people Yahweh is manifesting Himself to the world. It is known that the Jews are Yahweh’s people and precious to Him and that in the past He acted powerfully for them. However, they have rejected Him and now He has rejected them and Judah is destroyed. Everyone sees that they are rejected silver.
    - Thus they have now seen Yahweh’s holiness (not abiding sin), His longsuffering (patiently waiting for His people to repent), His faithfulness (finally not allowing His people to continue in their sin), and His sovereignty (using the Babylonians as His rod). And the story is not complete. They will see more of His faithfulness as He preserves a remnant of His people and through them brings the promised Messiah.

Application: Rejected silver

Jer 6:30 They call them rejected silver Because Yahweh has rejected them.

- Israel was given the Sinai covenant on which to build a nation.
- They rejected the covenant and built a nation unacceptable to Yahweh.
- Thus the nation was destroyed. But a remnant of the people was preserved.

1 Cor 3:11-15 For no one can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident, for the day will indicate it because it is revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

- As NT believers we build on the foundation of Christ.
- Only acceptable work brings a reward. Unacceptable work is burned up.

What are we building?

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