

## A Trek Through Jeremiah 13 - 7:1-20

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Today

- The temple message 7:1-15
- Wasted prayer 7:16-20

The temple message 7:1-15

- Given in the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim. Josiah dead. Jehoahaz deposed by Pharaoh Neco, replaced with Jehoiakim. Canaanite worship reappearing.
- Also described in Jer 26. Jer 7 gives the content; Jer 26 describes the subsequent events.

Call to prophesy 7:1-2

Jeremiah 7:1–2 (LSB)

1The word that came to Jeremiah from Yahweh, saying,

2“Stand in the gate of the house of Yahweh, and you shall call out there this word, and you shall say, ‘Hear the word of Yahweh, all you of Judah, who enter by these gates to worship Yahweh!’”

- The word that came to Jeremiah from Yahweh, saying,
  - Command from Yahweh to Jeremiah
- Stand in the gate of the house of Yahweh, and you shall call out there this word
  - Where to go and what to say.
  - Positioned in the gate where all entering and leaving would hear.
- Hear the word of Yahweh, all you of Judah, who enter by these gates to worship Yahweh!
  - To all of Judah coming to worship Yahweh.
  - Worship.
    - Lit bow down. Prostrate oneself before a superior to whom allegiance and obedience is owed. Acknowledge dependence. Accept covenant responsibility. Both secular and religious.
  - The word of Yahweh. Condemning their false worship.
  - Hear. Hear and repent.

Appeal to the conscience 7:3-7

Jeremiah 7:3–7 (LSB)

3Thus says Yahweh of hosts, the God of Israel, "Make your ways and your deeds good, and I will let you dwell in this place.

4"Do not trust in lying words, saying, 'This is the temple of Yahweh, the temple of Yahweh, the temple of Yahweh.'

5"For if you truly make your ways and your deeds good, if you truly do justice between a man and his neighbor,

6if you do not oppress the sojourner, the orphan, or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place, nor walk after other gods to your own evil demise,

7then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers forever and ever.

- V3 Covenant requirement
  - Yahweh of hosts. Lord of history. Lord of nations.
  - The God of Israel.
    - In covenant with them. To be feared and obeyed.
    - Who they have rejected.
    - Who is jealous for them. Not willing to leave them in idolatry.
  - Make your ways and your deeds good, and I will let you dwell in this place.
    - Summary of the covenant.
    - Ways and deeds. Manner of life and resulting works
    - Good. According to the covenant. Appeal to their conscience.
    - I will let you dwell.
      - Yahweh promised Israel the land and brought them into it.
      - They think it is theirs forever
      - Yahweh is reminding them of their responsibility under the covenant
        - Lev 26:3, 6 'If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments so as to do them...I shall also give you peace in the land.
  - Another offer of mercy if they repent. But the repentance must be real.
    - Jer 4:3 Break up your fallow ground, And do not sow among thorns.

- V4 Warning
  - Do not trust in lying words. From the false prophets and priests
  - 'This is the temple of Yahweh, the temple of Yahweh, the temple of Yahweh.'
    - Temple theology of the false prophets. 3x: repeated over and over.
    - The temple stood on the location selected by Yahweh (2 Sam 28:14); had been built by Solomon according to His direction through David; had been inhabited by His glory. Yahweh had designated Jerusalem as the place where He would dwell among His people and had promised that a Davidic king would sit on a throne there and rule forever (Ps 139:10-14)
    - Thus the false prophets said that Judah was secure from any enemy since Yahweh would never allow the city and temple to be captured or destroyed. As proof they pointed to Yahweh's rescue of Jerusalem from the Assyrians (Is 37:33-36).
    - Judah was using the temple as a magic talisman to ward off danger. As 1 Sam 4:3 Then the people came into the camp, and the elders of Israel said, "Why has Yahweh defeated us today before the Philistines? Let us take to ourselves from Shiloh the ark of the covenant of Yahweh, that it may come among us and save us from the power of our enemies."
- V5-6 Repeating the covenant requirement
  - For if you truly make your ways and your deeds good. General statement from v3
  - Requirements expanded
    - if you truly do justice between a man and his neighbor,
    - if you do not oppress the sojourner, the orphan, or the widow.
    - do not shed innocent blood in this place. Judicial murder.
    - nor walk after other gods. Last because the basis of all the others.
  - to your own evil demise. Outcome of continuing in their evil.
- V7 Outcome of keeping the covenant
  - I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers forever and ever.
  - Paradox: The land is promised to them forever and ever. However they can only dwell in it if they keep the covenant. But they are unable to keep the covenant. Has God lied?
  - Resolved in the gospel. Jesus kept the law and then paid the penalty for breaking the law for all believers, Jew and Gentile. The law is satisfied and all of Abraham's true descendants can inhabit the new Jerusalem forever and ever.

Appeal to reason 7:8-11

Jeremiah 7:8–11 (LSB)

8“Behold, you are trusting in lying words to no avail.

9“Will you steal, murder, and commit adultery and swear while lying, and burn incense to Baal and walk after other gods that you have not known,

10then come and stand before Me in this house, which is called by My name, and say, ‘We are delivered!’—that you may do all these abominations?

11“Has this house, which is called by My name, become a robbers’ den in your sight? Behold, I, even I, have seen it,” declares Yahweh.

- V8 Warning
  - V4 repeated
  - To no avail. Lying words will fail.
- V9-10 Nonsense and insult
  - Will you steal, murder, and commit adultery and swear while lying, and burn incense to Baal. List of their evils
  - walk after other gods that you have not known
    - Walk after. Submit to and obey
    - Other gods that you have not then come and stand before Me in this house, which is called by My name
      - Pretending allegiance
  - and say, ‘We are delivered!’—that you may do all these abomination
    - Delivered from consequences so that they may do more evil.
- V11 No refuge
  - Robbers’ den. As limestone caves in Judah. A place to which robbers could retreat for safety and then come out to do more evil.
  - Behold, I, even I, have seen it,” declares Yahweh.
    - Repeated for emphasis
    - Yahweh will deal with them.

Appeal to history 7:12-15

Jeremiah 7:12–15 (LSB)

12“But go now to My place which was in Shiloh, where I made My name dwell at the first, and see what I did to it because of the evil of My people Israel.

13“And now, because you have done all these works,” declares Yahweh, “and I spoke to you, rising up early and speaking, but you did not hear, and I called you but you did not answer,

14therefore, I will do to the house which is called by My name, in which you trust, and to the place which I gave you and your fathers, as I did to Shiloh.

15“I will cast you out of My presence, as I have cast out all your brothers, all the seed of Ephraim.

- Two examples from history
- V12-14 Yahweh’s place rejected
  - Shiloh. Abode of the ark and tabernacle during the time of Eli. When Israel was defeated by the Philistines, the men of Israel brought the ark from Shiloh because they thought it would give them the victory. Instead the ark was captured and Shiloh destroyed (1 Sam 4).
  - And now because you have done all these works...and I spoke to you but you did not hear. Judah’s rejection of the covenant and refusal to listen to the prophets.
  - I will do to the house which is called by My name, in which you trust, and to the place which I gave you and your fathers, as I did to Shiloh.
    - Just being named “Yahweh’s place” does not provide security if the peoples’ hearts are not right.
- V15 Yahweh’s people rejected
  - as I have cast out all your brothers, all the seed of Ephraim.
    - Ephraim represents the northern kingdom of Israel. Jeroboam made golden calves for the people to worship (1 Kin 12). Later kings of Israel walked in his sins. Ahab and Jezebel brought in Baal worship (1 Ki 16-20). Conquered by Assyria and removed from the land.
    - Just being named “Yahweh’s people” does not provide security from consequences of sin.

End of the temple message. After Jeremiah delivered the message, he was seized by the prophets and priests to be put to death. But the officials of Judah and the people and Ahikam the son of Shaphan (prominent from the days of Josiah) kept him from being killed.

Wasted prayer 7:16-20

Jeremiah 7:16–20 (LSB)

16“As for you, do not pray for this people and do not lift up a cry of lamentation or prayer for them and do not intercede with Me, for I am not hearing you.

17“Are you not seeing what they are doing in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem?

18“The children gather wood, and the fathers make the fire burn, and the women knead dough to make cakes for the queen of heaven; and they pour out drink offerings to other gods in order to provoke Me.

19“Do they provoke Me?” declares Yahweh. “Is it not themselves they provoke to the shame of their own face?”

20Therefore thus says Lord Yahweh, “Behold, My anger and My wrath will be poured out on this place, on man and on beast and on the trees of the field and on the fruit of the ground; and it will burn and not be quenched.”

- V16 Prohibition
  - Do not pray...do not lift up a cry of lamentation...do not intercede
    - Jeremiah cared for his people, was interceding for them.
  - I am not hearing you.
    - Will not grant Jeremiah's request. Yahweh knows the peoples' hearts. They have passed the point of no return and will not repent. Best for them to not be allowed to continue in their sin.
    - As God drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden in Gen 3:22-23 Then Yahweh God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us to know good and evil; and now, lest he send forth his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat and live forever”— therefore Yahweh God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken.
      - Did not want them to remain in their sin forever.
  - Repeated in 11:14, 14:11. Likely Jeremiah resumed prayer.
- V17 Comprehension
  - Are you not seeing what they are doing...
    - Comprehending their evil
    - Jeremiah's love for his people is blinding him to their offense against their God.
- V18 What they are doing
  - Queen of heaven. Ishtar, goddess of love and fertility worshipped in Assyria and Babylon. Worship in the home primarily by the women with the husbands and children helping. The women made cakes in the shape of a woman, crescent moon, star (symbols of Ishtar) and poured out drink offerings to other gods. Likely not reached by Josiah's reforms since it occurred in the privacy of the home.

- V19 Provocation
  - Do they provoke Me?
    - By intentionally rejecting the covenant (1st commandment: no other gods).
    - By exalting other gods; putting Yahweh down. Pagans thought that gods lost their glory if not worshipped. As Acts 19:26-27 “And you see and hear that not only in Ephesus, but in almost all of Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away a considerable crowd, saying that things made with hands are not gods. “And not only is there danger that this trade of ours fall into disrepute, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis be considered as worthless and that she, whom all of Asia and the world worship, is even about to be brought down from her majesty.”
  - Is it not themselves they provoke to the shame of their own face?
    - But Yahweh’s glory does not depend on man’s worship. Rather than reducing Yahweh’s glory by rejecting Him, they show themselves as shameful.
    - Jn 3:18 “He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.
      - One’s character is shown by their reaction to Jesus
- V20 Consequences
  - My anger and my wrath will be poured out...
    - Avenging the dishonoring of His name.
    - The people and the land will suffer the judgment. But the destruction will not be complete.

Application: Growing up

Jer 7:18-19 “The children gather wood, and the fathers make the fire burn, and the women knead dough to make cakes for the queen of heaven; and they pour out drink offerings to other gods in order to provoke Me. “Do they provoke Me?” declares Yahweh. “Is it not themselves they provoke to the shame of their own face?”

- The families in Judah were worshipping the Queen of Heaven and other gods.
- They were exalting the other gods and putting down Yahweh.
- Did that provoke Him by reducing His glory? No, Yahweh’s glory does not depend on man’s worship.
- They were not bringing Him down; they were bringing themselves down.

As the Corinthians in 1 Cor 3:3 ...For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?

- Jealousy and strife were bringing them down to the level of mere men.
- Likewise our sins reduce us to the same level as the unbelievers around us.

Our goal should be to walk worthy of the calling with which we have been called...until we all attain ... to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. (Eph 4:1, 13)

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