

A Trek Through Jeremiah 15 - 8:4-17

Bruce Pike

December 14, 2025

Rebukes, appeals, reflections, warnings, and prayers 7:16 - 10:25

- ...
- No knowing, no wisdom 8:4-12
- Coming judgment 8:13-17

No knowing, no wisdom 8:4-12

No knowing 8:4-7

Jeremiah 8:4–7 (LSB)

4“You shall say to them, ‘Thus says Yahweh, “Do men fall and not get up again? Does one turn away and not turn back?

5“Why then has this people, Jerusalem, Turned away in continual faithlessness? They hold fast to deceit; They refuse to return.

6“I have given heed and heard, They have spoken what is not right; No man regretted his evil, Saying, ‘What have I done?’ Everyone turned to his course, Like a horse charging into the battle.

7“Even the stork in the sky Knows her seasons; And the turtledove and the swift and the crane Keep the time of their migration; But My people do not know The legal judgment of Yahweh.

- What Jerusalem is doing goes against the natural order.
- V4 Illustration
 - You shall say to them. Jeremiah to Judah. Told what to say.
 - Two illustrations
 - Do men fall and not get up again? Trip and fall and get up again.
 - Does one turn away and not turn back? Get off the right path and return to it. No learning from their mistakes.
 - Wordplay: turn...turn back.
- V5-6 Reality
 - What Jerusalem is doing.
 - Turned away in continual faithlessness. Rejecting the covenant
 - They hold fast to deceit. No truth.
 - They refuse to return. No repentance
 - <They> turn away...hold fast...refuse. Willful rebellion and unrepentance.
 - I have given heed and heard, They have spoken what is not right.
 - Yahweh graciously listened. No truth only lies.
 - No man regretted his evil, Saying, ‘What have I done?’
 - No repentance.
 - Everyone turned to his course, Like a horse charging into the battle.
 - Eagerly with vigor; no hesitation,
- V7 Comparison
 - Legal judgment. Yahweh’s ordinances. For animals: instinct. For Judah: covenant.
 - Animals know to obey Yahweh’s ordinances but Judah does not.
 - Is 1:2-3 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; For Yahweh speaks, “Sons I have reared and raised up, But they have transgressed against Me. “An ox knows its owner, And a donkey its master’s manger, But Israel does not know; My people do not perceive.”

No wisdom 8:8-12

The word rejected 8:8-9

Jeremiah 8:8–9 (LSB)

8“How can you say, ‘We are wise, And the law of Yahweh is with us’? But behold, the lying pen of the scribes Has made it into a lie.

9“The wise men are put to shame; They are dismayed and captured; Behold, they have rejected the word of Yahweh, And what kind of wisdom do they have?

- V8 Distorting the law of Yahweh
 - How can you say, ‘We are wise, And the law of Yahweh is with us’?
 - Thinking themselves wise because they had the written law. Maybe the book of the law that was found in the temple during Josiah’s reforms (2 Ki 22)
 - But behold, the lying pen of the scribes Has made it into a lie.
 - Scribes. Professional order from the time of Moses. Predecessors to the scribes of Jesus’ day. Copied, interpreted, taught the written law.
 - Distorted the meaning to make it a lie.
 - 2 Pet 3:16 ...which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.
 - Example of Corban in Mk 7:10-13 “For Moses said, ‘HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER’; and, ‘HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER, IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH’; but you say, ‘If a man says to his father or his mother, whatever you might benefit from me is Corban (that is to say, given to God),’ you no longer leave him to do anything for his father or his mother; thus invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that.”
- V9 Rejecting the word of Yahweh
 - The wise men are put to shame; They are dismayed and captured
 - Wise men. Those versed in the law.
 - Put to shame. Shown to be worthless.
 - Dismayed. Broken, terrified.
 - Captured. Taken captive.
 - In the coming judgment.
 - Behold, they have rejected the word of Yahweh
 - Not Yahweh’s law vs Yahweh’s word
 - Those who wrongly understood the law of Yahweh refused to listen to His word of correction given by the true prophets like Jeremiah.
 - And what kind of wisdom do they have?
 - Pr 9:10 The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom....
 - The wise men did not fear Yahweh. Jer 2:19 ...the dread of Me is not in you.
 - Thus they did not have even the beginning of true wisdom.

Deceit 8:10-11

Jeremiah 8:10–11 (LSB)

10“Therefore I will give their wives to others, Their fields to new possessors, Because from the least even to the greatest Everyone is greedy for gain; From the prophet even to the priest Everyone practices lying.

11“They heal the brokenness of the daughter of My people superficially, Saying, ‘Peace, peace,’ But there is no peace.

- V10-12 repeats 6:12-15 almost word for word.
- V10 Judgment & reasons for it
 - Everything taken by the destroyer
 - Reasons
 - Everyone is greedy for gain
 - Everyone practices lying. From the prophet to the priest: religious leaders
- V11 The lie
 - Heal. Make better.
 - Brokenness. Affliction, pain.
 - The daughter of My People. Jerusalem. Belonging to Yahweh but not cared for by their shepherds.
 - Peace, peace. The lie. Repeated again and again.
 - There is no peace.
 - The truth.
 - No peace with men or with God.
 - Is 48:22, repeated in 57:21 There is no peace for the wicked,” says Yahweh

No repentance 8:12

Jeremiah 8:12 (LSB)

12“Were they ashamed because of the abomination they had done? They certainly were not ashamed, And they did not know how to feel dishonor; Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; At the time of their punishment they shall be brought down,” Says Yahweh.

- No shame...did not know how to feel dishonor. Seared conscience.
- They shall fall among those who fall. Among those whom they lied to.
- They shall be brought down. Shown to be worthless.

Judgment, panic, despair 8:13-17

Judgment 8:13

Jeremiah 8:13 (LSB)

13“I will surely gather them up,” declares Yahweh; “There will be no grapes on the vine And no figs on the fig tree, And the leaf will wither; And what I have given them will pass away.” ’ ”

- Inclusio with 8:17
- Illustrations from agriculture
- I will surely gather them up. As Jn 15:6 parable of the vine and branches: If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.
- There will be no grapes...no figs...the leaf will wither. The nation destroyed.
- And what I have given them will pass away.
 - The covenant blessings: land, prosperity, peace, victory (Lev 26).
 - Not rejecting them as His people.

Panic and despair 8:14-16

Jeremiah 8:14–16 (LSB)

14Why are we sitting still? Gather yourselves, and let us go into the fortified cities And let us be silent there Because Yahweh our God has silenced us And given us poisoned water to drink, For we have sinned against Yahweh.

15We waited for peace, but there was no good; For a time of healing, but behold, terror!

16From Dan is heard the snorting of his horses; At the sound of the neighing of his valiant steeds The whole land quakes; And they come and devour the land as well as its fullness, The city and its inhabitants.

- V14 Panic
 - The invasion is underway. In panic the people take refuge in the fortified cities but they know that there is no hope because they have sinned against their God. Fear but no repentance.
 - Silence (v14)
 - May be “made quiet”: No more “Peace, peace” or “The temple of Yahweh, the temple of Yahweh.”
 - May be “put to death”: We are doomed, Yahweh has doomed us.
- V15 False assurance found out
 - We waited for peace, but there was no good.
 - Peace. Shalom: complete wellness. As promised in the covenant.
 - Good. That which pleases and benefits. Part of peace.
 - For a time of healing, but behold, terror!
 - Healing.
 - Remediating current ills to get to peace.
 - Did not see afflictions as Yahweh's discipline.
 - Rather expecting healing without repentance.
 - Terror. Realization that healing and peace are not happening; rather they are receiving the curses of the covenant and are helpless to escape them.
- V16 The destroyer is here
 - Dan. Far northern part of Israel
 - The invader's army makes the land quake.
 - City of Dan and its land devoured. What is coming for Jerusalem and Judah. As promised (5:17; 8:16)
 - Too late for repentance

V17 Judgment

Jeremiah 8:17 (LSB)

17“For behold, I am sending serpents against you, Vipers, for which there is no charm, And they will bite you,” declares Yahweh.

- For behold, I am sending serpents against you. Yahweh to Judah: Pay attention. This affliction is from Me.
- for which there is no charm
 - They cannot be seduced. 4:30 In vain you make yourself beautiful. Your lovers despise you; They seek your life.
 - They cannot be pretended away. 5:12 They have dealt falsely about Yahweh And said, “Not He; Calamity will not come on us, And we will not see sword or famine.
- And they will bite you
 - “Beyond healing” from v18 likely goes with this verse: “And they will bite you beyond healing.” With no remedy.
 - Not as Num 21:4-9: The people complained; God sent fiery serpents to bite them; Moses prayed; Yahweh told him to make a bronze serpent and put it on a standard; Those who looked at the bronze serpent lived.
 - Num 21 pictures salvation.
 - Jer 8:17 pictures discipline of Yahweh’s people.

Application: No terror

Jer 8:15

- God's people were in terror because the promised judgment was upon them. How can we avoid this?

What they did

Reject Yahweh's word

Jer 8:8-9

- They had a wrong understanding of God's law. They rejected the covenant then the scribes rewrote the law to make them righteous.
- They rejected His word both of the covenant and of correction through the prophets

Refused to repent

Jer 8:5

- Turned away in continual faithlessness
- They hold fast to deceit;
- They refuse to return.

How can we do better?

Walk worthy

Col 1:9-12

- Be filled with the full (true) knowledge of the Lord's will
- Walk in a manner worthy of the Lord to please Him in all respects
 - bearing fruit in every good work
 - multiplying in the full knowledge of God;
 - being strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience;
 - joyously giving thanks to the Father

Confess

1 Jn 1:9

- Confess our sins

Repent

Eph 4:22-24

- Put off the old man
- Be renewed in the spirit of our mind
- Put on the new man

Trials may still come but we can rejoice in them (Ja 1:2-4)

References

- Baker, Warren (Editor), *The Complete Word Study Old Testament*, AMG, 1994
- Baker, Warren (Editor), *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 Eerdmans's Classic Biblical Commentaries, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1980