

Exile 10:17-18

Jeremiah 10:17–18 (LSB)

17Gather up your bundle from the ground, You who inhabit a land under siege!

18For thus says Yahweh, “Behold, I am slinging out the inhabitants of the land At this time, And will cause them distress, That they may find it.”

- V17 Refugees
 - Gather up your bundle from the ground. Picture of displaced refugees. As Gaza today.
 - You who inhabit a land under siege! Yahweh’s people whose land is about to be laid waste.

Point 1: Exile. The people of Judah thought they were secure in their land and their temple. But their God removed them from their security.

- V18 Why
 - For thus says Yahweh. Explanation of what is happening,
 - Behold, I am slinging out the inhabitants of the land.
 - As a stone from a sling. Vigorous, quick, to go far away.
 - Being put out of their comfort zone.
 - At this time.
 - At the optimum time
 - for Yahweh’s glory before the nations and before Judah.
 - 4:16 “Make mention of it to the nations, saying, ‘Behold!’ Make it heard over Jerusalem...
 - For Judah’s good. Ro 12:2 God’s will good and pleasing and perfect.
 - According to Yahweh’s predetermined plan. Spoken years before it happened.
 - And will cause them distress.
 - Fall of the nation, destruction of cities and land, loved ones gone, belongings gone, removed from the land, temple and ritual removed.
 - Done by their God.
 - That they may find it.
 - Purpose: That Judah may find repentance, holiness, fear of Yahweh, return to the covenant. After the exile, the Jews never again worshipped idols.
 - Heb 12:7, 10-11 It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?...He disciplines us for our benefit, so that we may share His holiness. And all discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful, but to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

Point 2: Distress. Yahweh applied painful discipline to His people for their good, to bring them to share His holiness.

Destruction 10:19-22

Jeremiah 10:19–22 (LSB)

19Woe is me, because of my injury! My wound is desperately sick. But I said, “Truly this is a sickness, And I must bear it.”

20My tent is destroyed, And all my ropes are torn out; My sons have gone from me and are no more. There is no one to stretch out my tent again Or to set up my curtains.

21For the shepherds have become senseless And have not sought Yahweh; Therefore they have not prospered, And all their flock is scattered.

22The sound of a report! Behold, it comes— A great quaking out of the land of the north— To make the cities of Judah A desolation, a haunt of jackals.

- V19 Acceptance
 - Woe is me
 - Lament by Jeremiah identifying with his people.
 - because of my injury! My wound is desperately sick.
 - Injury. A breaking.
 - Wound. Carnage, slaughter
 - Desperately sick. Weak unto death. Action which brings to completion.
 - Curse for breaking the covenant.
 - Dt 28:58-61 “If you are not careful to do all the words of this law which are written in this book, to fear this glorious and fearsome name, Yahweh your God, then Yahweh will bring wondrous plagues on you and plagues on those who are your seed, even great and enduring plagues, and miserable and enduring sicknesses. “And He will bring back on you all the diseases of Egypt of which you were afraid, and they will cling to you. “Also every sickness and every plague, which is not written in the book of this law, Yahweh will bring on you until you are destroyed.
- But I said, “Truly this is a sickness, And I must bear it.
 - Truly this is a sickness. Discipline is painful.
 - I must bear it.
 - Endure under. Imperfect: repeated, ongoing.
 - Accepting the discipline as inevitable and deserved but still trusting in his God.
 - Job 5:17 “Behold, how blessed is the man whom God reproves, So do not reject the discipline of the Almighty.

Point 3: Acceptance. Jeremiah chose to accept Yahweh’s discipline and endure it rather than reject it.

- V20 Lament
 - Illustration from nomadic life: mother lamenting the loss of shelter and family.
- V21 Cause
 - Why Judah is broken
 - For the shepherds have become senseless
 - Shepherds. Kings, civil and religious leaders.
 - Like brute beasts. No longer able to comprehend Yahweh's word.
 - And have not sought Yahweh
 - Do not understand or know Him (9:24).
 - Therefore they have not prospered,
 - They thought they were ok. King Jehoiakim burned the scroll of Jeremiah's words (Jer 36).
 - Contrast Lev 26:3-13 blessings of the covenant: plenty, peace, victory, fruitful and multiplied, God with them.
 - And all their flock is scattered.
 - Into exile
 - Consequence of the leaders' failure.
- V22 Report
 - Repeating 8:16, 9:11
 - Messengers from the north of Judah: The destroyer is upon them.
 - Make the cities of Judah a desolation. Archeologists have not found a Judean town that was inhabited continuously through the period of the exile.

Point 4: Consequences. Judah's leaders were senseless and did not seek Yahweh. Thus their nation suffered the curses of the covenant.

Appeal 10:23-25

Jeremiah 10:23–25 (LSB)

23I know, O Yahweh, that a man's way is not in himself, Nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps.

24Discipline me, O Yahweh, but with justice; Not with Your anger, lest You bring me to nothing.

25Pour out Your wrath on the nations that do not know You And on the families that do not call Your name, For they have devoured Jacob; They have devoured him and consumed him And have made desolate his abode.

- V23 Confession

- Pr 16:9 The heart of man plans his way, But Yahweh directs his steps.
- Judah expected that they were secure in their land and temple but Yahweh is sovereign and directed differently.

- V24 Plea
 - Discipline me
 - Accepting Yahweh's judgement as deserved discipline according to the covenant. 3x in Lev 26.
 - Trusting that His discipline is for our good that we may share His holiness (Heb 12:10).
 - But with justice
 - Not receiving what is due for breaking the law.
 - According to the covenant
 - Ex 6:7 while in Egypt: Then I will take you for My people, and I will be your God. Unconditional.
 - Lev 26:3-40
 - If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments so as to do them...blessing
 - If you do not obey Me and do not do all these commandments...curses
 - If they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers...then I will remember My covenant.
 - Conditional
 - Lev 26:44...I will not reject them, nor will I so loathe them as to bring an end to them, breaking My covenant with them; for I am Yahweh their God. Unconditional.
 - Not with Your anger, lest You bring me to nothing.
 - Pleading for mercy not what is due for breaking the law.
 - Ps 7:11 God is a righteous judge, And a God who has indignation every day.
 - For hundreds of years Judah had transgressed Yahweh's law daily and stored up wrath for themselves.
 - That wrath was deserved and terrifying (Heb 10:31).
 - Ps 6:1, 4 O Yahweh, do not reprove me in Your anger, Nor discipline me in Your wrath...Return, O Yahweh, rescue my soul; Save me because of Your lovingkindness.
 - Not according to His anger
 - According to His lovingkindness (covenant love).
 - What about His anger? Poured out on His Son.

Point 5: Mercy. Jeremiah pleaded that Yahweh would keep the covenant even if His people had not.

- V25 Imprecation
 - Pour out Your wrath on the nations. Call for judgment
 - Three reasons
 - They do not know You.
 - Not Yahweh's people. Do not render Him the fear He deserves
 - Ex 5:2 But Pharaoh said, "Who is Yahweh that I should listen to His voice to let Israel go? I do not know Yahweh, and also, I will not let Israel go."
 - They do not call Your name
 - Don't put their trust in Him
 - They have devoured Jacob
 - Treated His people wrongly.
 - Valid under the old covenant of the law but not valid under the new covenant of grace
 - Eph 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.
 - Now our enemies are not people but spiritual forces of darkness.
 - Rather than condemning people we rescue them from the darkness by bringing them to Christ.
 - After the age of grace those who choose the forces of darkness rather than Christ will be punished along with them (Rev 20:15)

Point 6: Urgency. Jeremiah called for Yahweh's wrath to be poured out on the nations who were not His people. Today anyone can join His people by accepting Christ. Our job is to bring them to Him. But time is short. At the end of the age of grace whoever is not of God's people will have His wrath poured out on them.

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Point 2: Distress. Yahweh applied painful discipline to His people for their good, to bring them to share His holiness.

Point 3: Acceptance. Jeremiah chose to accept Yahweh's discipline and endure it rather than reject it.

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Application: Accepting discipline

Gen 4:13, 16 And Cain said to Yahweh, "My punishment is too great to bear...Then Cain went out from the presence of Yahweh.

- Cain refused to accept Yahweh's discipline and left His presence.

2 Cor 12:7-10 Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself! Concerning this I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might leave me. And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast in my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions and hardships, for the sake of Christ, for when I am weak, then I am strong.

- Paul was given a thorn in the flesh to keep him from exalting himself.
- He was well-content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions and hardships, for the sake of Christ.
- Are we content in our afflictions?

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