

A Trek Through Jeremiah 20 - 11:1-17

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Today: Jeremiah and the covenant 11:1 - 12:17

- Preaching mission 11:1-8
- Judah's rebellion 11:9-17

Preaching mission 11:1-8

Call to preach 11:1-5

Jeremiah 11:1–5 (LSB)

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

2“Hear the words of this covenant, and you shall speak to the men of Judah and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem

3and say to them, ‘Thus says Yahweh, the God of Israel, “Cursed is the man who does not hear the words of this covenant

4which I commanded your fathers in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, from the iron furnace, saying, ‘Listen to My voice, and do according to all which I command you; so you shall be My people, and I will be your God,’

5in order to establish the oath which I swore to your fathers, to give them a land flowing with milk and honey, as it is this day.” ’ ” Then I answered and said, “Amen, O Yahweh.”

- V1-3a Command to speak
 - The word which came to Jeremiah from Yahweh. Told where to go and what to say.
 - this covenant
 - Josiah’s covenant to renew the Sinai covenant. Read 2 Ch 34
 - V1 Josiah becomes king at age 8 and reigned 31 years.
 - V2 A godly king
 - V3-7 Starting at age 16 he cleanses Judah and Jerusalem of idols
 - V8-13 At age 26 he rebuilds the house of Yahweh
 - V14 Hilkiah the priest finds the book of the law of Yahweh given by the hand of Moses.
 - Likely Deuteronomy
 - V15-19 Hilkiah gives the book to Shaphan the scribe. Shaphan reads it to the king. When Josiah hears it he tears his clothes.
 - V20-22 Josiah sends a delegation to Huldah the prophetess to inquire of Yahweh.
 - Recognizes the danger. Goes to Yahweh.
 - V24-28 Huldah speaks Yahweh’s reply
 - Yahweh’s wrath will be poured out on Judah.
 - Josiah would be spared from seeing it.
 - V29-30 Josiah reads the book of the law to all Judah.
 - He takes action even though he is ok. Not like Hezekiah.
 - V31-32 Josiah stands to make a covenant with Yahweh to keep the covenant written in the book. He makes all those in Jerusalem and Benjamin to stand with him.
 - Forced compliance.
 - V33 summary
 - Josiah removed all the idols from the Judah.
 - During his lifetime, he made all worship Yahweh.
 - 35:5 After Josiah’s death Jehoiakim became king and did what was evil in the sight of Yahweh.

- Hear the words of this covenant, and you shall speak to the men of Judah and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and say to them
 - Addressed to Jeremiah but verb tenses inconsistent: hear plural; speak plural in some versions, singular in others; say singular
 - Two interpretations
 - Speak singular. "Hear the words of this covenant" is a header for the message.
 - Speak plural. Command for the people to hear and speak to each other. Seeking to change their hearts.
- V3b-5a What to say
 - Thus says Yahweh, God of Israel. Personal relationship through the covenant.
 - Cursed is the man who does not hear the words of this covenant
 - Quoting the words of Moses (Dt27:26)
 - Hear. Heb shama. Harken to and obey. Used in v 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14.
 - Which I commanded your fathers. Superior to subordinate.
 - in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt,
 - from the iron furnace. Furnace for smelting iron. Affliction and distress.
 - Listen to My voice, and do according to all which I command you; so you shall be My people, and I will be your God,
 - Summarizing the covenant.
 - What Israel would do: hear and obey.
 - What Israel would receive: be Yahweh's people
 - Yahweh creating the relationship between Him and His chosen people.
 - in order to establish the oath which I swore to your fathers, to give them a land flowing with milk and honey, as it is this day.
 - To fulfill Yahweh's promise to the patriarchs: to Abraham (Gen 13:14-15, 17:8), to Isaac (Gen 26:2-5), to Jacob (Gen 28:13-15, 35:12)
 - He had been faithful to fulfill His promise.
- V5b Jeremiah's response
 - Then I answered and said, "Amen, O Yahweh."
 - Agreeing with all that Yahweh said: covenant established with requirements for each party, blessings for obedience, curses for disobedience, Yahweh's faithfulness to fulfill His requirements, His justice in applying curses for disobedience
 - Conflict between his love for his people and his faithfulness to his God.

Warnings and response 11:6-8

Jeremiah 11:6–8 (LSB)

6And Yahweh said to me, “Call out all these words in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, saying, ‘Hear the words of this covenant so that you will do them.

7‘For I solemnly warned your fathers in the day that I brought them up from the land of Egypt, even to this day, rising up early and warning, saying, “Listen to My voice.”

8‘Yet they did not listen or incline their ear, but walked, each one, in the stubbornness of his evil heart; therefore I brought on them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded them to do, but they did not.”

- V6 Repeating the call
 - Repeating v2-3 for emphasis.
- V7 Warnings
 - For I solemnly warned your fathers. Of the consequences of their apostasy
 - in the day that I brought them up from the land of Egypt, even to this day
 - Over hundreds of years
 - rising up early and warning
 - Idiom: with great diligence
 - saying, “Listen to My voice.”
 - The basic requirement: harken and obey.
 - My voice. In the words of the covenant and the words of many prophets.
- V8 Response and consequence
 - Yet they did not listen or incline their ear, but walked, each one, in the stubbornness of his evil heart.
 - Judah’s response: to reject Yahweh’s voice and follow their evil heart.
 - Each one. Each person.
 - Stubbornness of his evil heart.
 - Out of the evil heart comes that which defiles (Mt 15:18-19).
 - But Jeremiah will speak of a new covenant and new hearts (Jer 31:33)
 - therefore I brought on them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded them to do, but they did not.
 - Consequence: Judah received the covenant curses for disobedience
 - Yahweh faithful and just to apply the curses. But Judah is still His people

Judah's rebellion 11:9-17

Conspiracy 11:9-13

Jeremiah 11:9–13 (LSB)

9Then Yahweh said to me, "A conspiracy has been found among the men of Judah and among the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

10"They have turned back to the iniquities of their ancestors who refused to hear My words, and they have walked after other gods to serve them; the house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken My covenant which I cut with their fathers."

11Therefore thus says Yahweh, "Behold, I am bringing calamity on them which they will not be able to get out of; and they will cry to Me, yet I will not listen to them.

12"Then the cities of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem will go and cry to the gods to whom they burn incense, but they surely will not save them in the time of their calamity.

13"For your gods are the number of your cities, O Judah; and the number of the streets of Jerusalem are the altars you have set up to the shameful thing, altars to burn incense to Baal.

- V9-10 Conspiracy
 - Conspiracy.
 - Unlawful alliance for treason: rejecting the covenant.
 - 5:31 The prophets prophesy with lying, And the priests have dominion by their own hand; And My people love it so! But what will you do at the end of it?
 - They have turned back
 - From Josiah's reforms. Likely refers to renewed apostasy under Jehoiakim.
 - to the iniquities of their ancestors...broken My covenant.
 - Refused to hear the words of Yahweh. Act of the will.
 - Walked after other gods. Way of life.
- V11 Consequences
 - Calamity that they cannot get out of
 - Cries not heard
- V12 Futility
 - False gods are powerless.
- V13 Evidence
 - Apostasy blossoming under Jehoiakim.
 - For your gods are the number of your cities. Canaanite Baals were thought to be associated with a particular place.
 - the number of the streets of Jerusalem are the altars you have set up. False worship everywhere.
 - Shameful thing. Baal worship.

Do not intercede 11:14

Jeremiah 11:14 (LSB)

14“But as for you, do not pray for this people, nor lift up a cry of lamentation or prayer for them; for I will not listen when they call to Me because of their calamity.

- But as for you. To Jeremiah.
- Do not pray for this people...for I will not listen when they call to Me because of their calamity.
 - Jeremiah is forbidden to join in Judah's intercession to be delivered.
 - Yahweh knew their hearts. They were not truly repentant; they wanted to be delivered from the consequences of their apostasy.
 - Heb 12:16-17 ... like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal. For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.

Three illustrations 11:15-17

Jeremiah 11:15–17 (LSB)

15“What possession has My beloved in My house When she has done many schemes of wickedness? Can the flesh, which is set apart as holy, take away from you your calamity, So that you can exult?”

16Yahweh called your name, “A green olive tree, beautiful in fruit and form”; With the noise of a great tumult He has kindled fire on it, And its foliage has an evil demise.

17Yahweh of hosts, who planted you, has spoken forth evil against you because of the evil of the house of Israel and of the house of Judah, which they have done to provoke Me to anger by burning incense to Baal.

- Heb obscure.
- What possession has My beloved in My house When she has done many schemes of wickedness?
 - Illustration from marriage. Yahweh is a jealous God. Judah is Yahweh's beloved but she cannot expect to remain in His house if she goes after other lovers.
- Can the flesh, which is set apart as holy, take away from you your calamity, So that you can exult?
 - flesh, which is set apart as holy. Sacrifices.
 - Empty temple ritual will not spare Judah from calamity so that she can rejoice in her apostasy.
- Yahweh called your name, “A green olive tree, beautiful in fruit and form”; With the noise of a great tumult He has kindled fire on it, And its foliage has an evil demise.
 - Illustration of a tree struck by lightning.
 - Yahweh planted her to be beautiful in fruit and form.
 - Because of her apostasy He is bringing fire upon her.
 - Her branches and leaves (Judah's nation and traditions) will be burned up. A stump (remnant) will remain.

Application: Listen to My Voice

Jer 11:7 'For I solemnly warned your fathers in the day that I brought them up from the land of Egypt, even to this day, rising up early and warning, saying, "Listen to My voice."

- Yahweh spoke to His people again and again, to hear His voice and obey His commands.

Ro 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS WILL LIVE BY FAITH."

- Under the new covenant, the gospel is God's word to us.
- Will we harken and obey?

Application: Speaking the truth

Jer 11:2 "Hear the words of this covenant, and you shall speak to the men of Judah and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem

- "Hear" is plural. "Speak" is singular in some versions; plural in others.
- Two interpretations
 - "Speak" singular: "Hear the words of this covenant" is a heading emphasizing the main point of the message.
 - "Speak" plural: Jeremiah was to call upon the people themselves to hear the truth of the covenant and speak it to each other and thus adopt Josiah's reform in their hearts.

Eph 4:11-16

- V11-12 Pastors and teachers given to equip the saints for the work of service
- V13 So that all attain to
 - the unity of the faith
 - the full knowledge of the Son of God
 - a mature man
 - the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ,
- V14 No longer children
- V15a All the saints to speak the truth in love
- V15b-16
 - We are to grow up into Christ
 - Col 2:18-19 Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, going into detail about visions he has seen, being puffed up for nothing by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.
 - True growth is from God
 - Not like false teachers puffed up by their fleshly mind.
 - The whole body joined together.
 - Each doing their part/
 - The body builds itself up in love.

Application: The necessity of obedience

Jer 11:3-4 and say to them, 'Thus says Yahweh, the God of Israel, "Cursed is the man who does not hear the words of this covenant which I commanded your fathers in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, from the iron furnace, saying, 'Listen to My voice, and do according to all which I command you; so you shall be My people, and I will be your God,'

- Yahweh, of HIs own will, made a covenant with Israel that they would be HIs people.
- He demonstrated HIs faithfulness to them by rescuing them from terrible affliction and bondage in Egypt.
- They have forgotten what He did for them and have rejected Him and gone after other gods.
- Jeremiah calls them to return to Him and obey the covenant.
- If they will not then they will receive the curses of the covenant.

2 Pet 1:2-11

- V9 We have been rescued from bondage to sin through Christ. But we can forget this.
- V8-11
 - One who remembers what Jesus did for him is diligent in the faith, is useful and fruitful in full knowledge, has assurance, does not stumble, has abundant entrance into the kingdom.
 - One who forgets what Jesus did for him is not diligent, is useless and unfruitful, lacks full knowledge, has no assurance, stumbles, has meager entrance into the kingdom.
- Peter calls us to remember and return to Christ.

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