

A Trek Through Jeremiah 17 - 9:10-26

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

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- Covenant forsaken 9:10-16
- Lament and mourning 9:17-22
- The true boast 9:23-24
- A sacrament skin-deep 9:25-26

Covenant forsaken 9:10-16

Ruin 9:10-11

Jeremiah 9:10–11 (LSB)

10“For the mountains I will take up a weeping and wailing, And for the pastures of the wilderness a funeral lamentation, Because they are turned into ruin so that no one passes through, And the lowing of the cattle is not heard; Both the birds of the sky and the beasts have fled; they are gone.

11“I will make Jerusalem a heap of ruins, A haunt of jackals; And I will make the cities of Judah a desolation, without inhabitant.”

- V10 Jeremiah speaks
 - I will take up a weeping and wailing...a funeral lamentation. Jeremiah lamenting what he sees coming.
 - Mountain...pastures of the wilderness. Where Judah's flocks were pastured.
 - Because they are turned into ruin. Why the lament: country devastated by the destroyer.
 - No one passes through, and the lowing of the cattle is not heard. No herdsmen, no herds
 - Both the birds of the sky and the beasts have fled; they are gone. No animal life left.
- V11 Yahweh speaks
 - Parallel statements
 - I will make Jerusalem a heap of ruins, A haunt of jackals.
 - Jerusalem destroyed. Only scavengers remain.
 - Mt 24:1-2 Jesus speaking of the temple's destruction: Truly I say to you, not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down.”
 - And I will make the cities of Judah a desolation, without inhabitant. Fortified cities of Judah destroyed. No people remain.

Point 1 Lamentation: God's punishment brings sorrow to His people.

Why 9:12-16

Jeremiah 9:12–16 (LSB)

12Who is the wise man that may understand this? And who is he to whom the mouth of Yahweh has spoken, that he may declare it? Why has the land perished, turned into ruin like a desert, so that no one passes through?

13Yahweh said, “Because they have forsaken My law, which I set before them, and have not listened to My voice nor walked according to it,

14but have walked after the stubbornness of their heart and after the Baals, as their fathers taught them,”

15therefore thus says Yahweh of hosts, the God of Israel, “behold, I will feed them, this people, with wormwood and give them poisoned water to drink.

16“I will scatter them among the nations, whom neither they nor their fathers have known; and I will send the sword after them until I have consumed them.”

- V12 Question

- Who is the wise man that may understand this? And who is he to whom the mouth of Yahweh has spoken, that he may declare it?
 - Sarcastic against the false prophets.
 - Spoken after the destruction.
- Why has the land perished, turned into ruin like a desert, so that no one passes through?
 - They had said, “Peace, peace.”
 - They were shown to be false. Dt 18:22 “When a prophet speaks in the name of Yahweh, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which Yahweh has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.

- V13-14 Answer

- Yahweh said. Jeremiah is a true prophet. He speaks the real words of Yahweh about the reasons for the judgment.
- Because they have forsaken My law, which I set before them.
 - Rejected Yahweh. Broke the covenant.
- and have not listened to My voice nor walked according to it.
 - Spoken in the covenant and by the true prophets
- but have walked after the stubbornness of their heart and after the Baals.
 - Walked after false gods. Refused to repent.
- as their fathers taught them.
 - Idolatry began with the 2nd generation after Joshua (Jdg 2:10-12); about 500y earlier: ~20 generations. 2x as old as America.
 - Note Yahweh's longsuffering waiting for them to repent. But judgment did finally come. Likewise for us: the Lord is patient not wanting any to perish but judgment is coming (2 Pet 3:9-10)

- V15-16 Consequences
 - therefore thus says Yahweh of hosts, the God of Israel
 - Lord of nations, Lord of history
 - Personal God of Israel
 - Behold. All the nations are watching.
 - I will feed them, this people, with wormwood and give them poisoned water to drink
 - This people. Not My people.
 - Wormwood...poisoned water. Bitter and deadly. Figurative for punishment.
 - I will scatter them among the nations, whom neither they nor their fathers have known.
 - Exile to the distant land of Babylon
 - I will send the sword after them until I have consumed them.
 - Using nations to accomplish the punishment.
 - Consumed. Faithful remnant will remain.

Point 2 Unfaithfulness: God punishes His people when they are unfaithful and don't repent.

Lament and mourning 9:17-22

Lament 9:17-19

Jeremiah 9:17–19 (LSB)

17Thus says Yahweh of hosts, “Carefully consider and call for the mourning women, that they may come; And send for the skillful women, that they may come!

18“Let them make haste and take up a wailing for us, That our eyes may shed tears And our eyelids flow with water.

19“For a voice of wailing is heard from Zion, ‘How we are destroyed! We are put to great shame, For we have left the land Because they have cast down our dwellings.’”

- Carefully consider. Realize that the judgment is inevitable and imminent.
- call for the mourning women, that they may come; And send for the skillful women, that they may come! Professional mourners.
- A voice of wailing is heard from Zion. Prophetically.
- How we are destroyed! We are put to great shame, For we have left the land Because they have cast down our dwellings.
 - Quoting their lament.
 - We are put to great shame. Know that their confidence was false. But most did not repent.
 - For we have left the land. Exile
 - They have cast down our dwellings. Jerusalem and the cities of Zion in ruin (v11).

Grim reaper 9:20-22

Jeremiah 9:20–22 (LSB)

20Indeed, hear the word of Yahweh, O you women, And let your ear receive the word of His mouth; Teach your daughters wailing, And everyone her neighbor a funeral lamentation.

21For death has come up through our windows; It has entered our palaces To cut off the infants from the streets, The choice men from the open squares.

22Speak, “Thus declares Yahweh, ‘The corpses of men will fall like dung on the open field And like the sheaf after the reaper, But no one will gather them.’”

- V20 Lament by all.
 - Teach your daughters wailing, And everyone her neighbor a funeral lamentation. All will mourn.
- V21 Grim reaper
 - Death personified.
 - Visiting all, from the common people to the rulers, from the weak infants to the strong young men.
- V22 Reaped but not gathered
 - Two illustrations from agriculture:
 - Animal dung left in the field.
 - Reaping. Typically the reaper cut the grain stalks, other laborers gathered them into sheaves. But Judah’s men will be cut down and remain on the ground because there will be no one to bury them.

Point 3 Grim reaper: God’s punishment comes to all: poor and rich, weak and strong.

The true boast 9:23-24

Jeremiah 9:23–24 (LSB)

23Thus says Yahweh, “Let not a wise man boast in his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast in his might; let not a rich man boast in his riches,

24but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am Yahweh who shows lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,” declares Yahweh.

- Yahweh seeks Judah's repentance by telling them what true boasting looks like. As 4:1-4 where He described true repentance.
- V23 False boasting
 - Let not. Wrong way
 - Boast. Praise, celebrate, glory in.
 - Wisdom, might, riches. What each man was strong in. But all these failed and were swept away by the destroyer.
- V24 True boasting
 - But. Right way.
 - Let him who boasts boast in this. Ok to boast in what is worthy of boasting.
 - that he understands and knows Me.
 - The true boast
 - Understand. Intellectual comprehension
 - Know.
 - Definition
 - Intimate knowledge through experience.
 - Relationship (covenant)
 - Commitment demonstrated in actions.
 - Parallel with
 - Fearing Him
 - 1 Ki 8:43 Solomon's prayer: ...in order that all the peoples of the earth may know Your name to fear You
 - Serving Him
 - 1 Ch 28:9 David to Solomon: As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and a delighted soul...
 - Trusting Him
 - Is 43:10 Yahweh to Israel: ...So that you may know and believe Me And understand that I am He.

- How Yahweh had made Himself known to His people
 - By His name (Ex 34:6-7)
 - By His word (Ps 1:2). In the covenant and from the prophets.
 - By His actions (Dt 4:35)
- Judah did not understand or know Yahweh.
 - Ps 50:16-22 But to the wicked God says, "What right have you to recount My statutes And to take My covenant in your mouth? "For you hate discipline, And you cast My words behind you. "When you see a thief, you are pleased with him, And you associate with adulterers. "You let your mouth loose in evil And you harness your tongue for deceit. "You sit and speak against your brother; You slander your own mother's son. "These things you have done and I kept silent; You thought that I was just like you; I will reprove you and state the case in order before your eyes. "Now consider this, you who forget God, Lest I tear you in pieces, and there will be none to deliver. "He who offers a sacrifice of thanksgiving glorifies Me; And he who orders his way, I shall show the salvation of God."
 - Judah thought Yahweh was just like them.
 - They were in danger of being torn to pieces.
 - But if they would order their way they would see the salvation of God.
- that I am Yahweh. God of the covenant (Ex 20:2)
- who shows lovingkindness, justice, and righteousness on earth
 - Covenant qualities
 - Lovingkindness. Continuing in steadfast love and faithfulness based upon the covenant
 - Justice: Rendering a proper verdict as specified in the covenant.
 - Righteousness. Keeping His part of the covenant.
- for I delight in these things," declares Yahweh.
 - How to please Yahweh rather than provoke Him.

Point 4 True boast: True boasting comes by understanding and knowing God.

A sacrament skin-deep 9:25-26

Jeremiah 9:25–26 (LSB)

25“Behold, the days are coming,” declares Yahweh, “that I will punish all who are circumcised and yet uncircumcised—

26Egypt and Judah, and Edom and the sons of Ammon, and Moab and all those inhabiting the desert who clip the hair on their temples; for all the nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised of heart.”

- all who are circumcised. Pagan nations who practiced circumcision. Those inhabiting the desert who clip the hair on their temples were Arab tribes who honored Bacchus.
- Judah is listed with them because her circumcision was totally external.
- She would be punished along with them. However, a remnant would be preserved.

Point 5 Heart: Ritual which is not of the heart is worthless.

Points

Point 1 Lamentation: God's punishment brings sorrow to His people.

Point 2 Unfaithfulness: God punishes His people when they are unfaithful and don't repent.

Point 3 Grim reaper: God's punishment comes to all: poor and rich, weak and strong.

Point 4 True boast: True boasting comes by understanding and knowing God.

Point 5 Heart: Ritual which is not of the heart is worthless.

Application: Just like them

Jer 9:25-26 “Behold, the days are coming,” declares Yahweh, “that I will punish all who are circumcised and yet uncircumcised— Egypt and Judah, and Edom and the sons of Ammon, and Moab and all those inhabiting the desert who clip the hair on their temples; for all the nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised of heart.”

- Judah was circumcised and yet uncircumcised: they worshipped Yahweh externally but in their heart they rejected Him and His covenant. In His eyes they were just like the pagan nations.

Jn 2:24 But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men,

- Our Lord knows our heart.

At New Life, what are some rituals that we practice?

- Church attendance, communion, singing, verse memory, Bible reading, original languages, notetaking, Giving

Can these be merely external?

How can we do them from the heart? Perform them to understand and know our Lord (v24).

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