

## Book of Jeremiah

### Lesson 3: The Rejection of Impenitent Israel

**Reading:** Jeremiah 5:1-6:30

#### **Review**

Jeremiah's message was given primarily to the southern kingdom of Judah to

- Warn the people of God's impending judgment via the kingdom of Babylon
- Call the people to repentance and spiritual restoration,
- Deliver God's promise of a return to the land after 70 years of captivity, and
- Remind the remnant left in Canaan to remain faithful to God

In chapter 1, Jeremiah is called by God to be a "prophet to the nations" and is given a position of authority over the nations as God's messenger. God gives him two visions to confirm his calling and provide promises of divine protection. In chapter 2, God presents His indictment against Israel by reminding them of their devotion to God in the years following Egyptian slavery, and demonstrating how rejection of the One True God for idols is unprecedented and leads to disastrous consequences. He then describes Israel's incurable appetite for idols through 7 analogies, including a degenerate plant and a wild donkey in heat. In spite of this, Israel is in denial and does not believe it is guilty. In chapters 3 and 4, God calls Judah to repentance and shows how Israel's captivity had no effect on Judah. God invites Israel to return to Him and describes a restoration that brings both Israel and Judah back as a spiritual kingdom. Jeremiah depicts the nation in true repentance as an unfaithful wife and identifies what is required for Israel's salvation. However, because the people have failed to "circumcise their hearts" the kingdom of Babylon will come from the North and destroy the land as a dry, scorching wind. Throughout all of this, false prophets tell the people there will be peace, and the priests fail to teach the people. Hence, the people believe that no calamity will befall them, but Jeremiah attempts to "wake them up" before Babylon invades.

1. How extensive and complete was the corruption and wickedness of the nation, and why did such wickedness require the punishment that God would deliver through Babylon (5:2-9)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. In the midst of such punishment, how is God's mercy revealed (5:10)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How had Judah lied about God in its unfaithfulness (5:12-13)?

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4. How would Jeremiah be vindicated against those who claimed his prophecy was not from God (5:14-18)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. How had the people of Judah demonstrated themselves to be "foolish" (5:20-25)? How might this passage apply to our society today?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What role did the leaders play in the people's wickedness (5:30-31)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. What does 6:8 tell us about God's ultimate desire for Judah, and how might this apply to our society today (II Peter 3:9)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. How is the spiritual condition of Judah described, and how might the description apply to our society today (6:10-15)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. How had Judah's condition deteriorated to such an extent that their calamity and judgment from God was certain (6:19-20)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. What analogy is used to describe the wickedness and corruption of the people, and of the need for them to be tested and refined from corruption (6:27-30)?