Lesson 5: Covenant Disloyalty and the Consequences

Reading: Jeremiah 11:1-13:27)

Review

Jeremiah is called by God to be a "prophet to the nations" and to speak primarily to the kingdom of Judah for the purpose of

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

In spite of God's indictment of Judah's idolatry and spiritual unfaithfulness, the people fail to realize their spiritual condition and fail to respond to the Lord's chastening. Furthermore, the priests have failed in their duty to teach the people, and the prophets have failed to carry the message of God by preaching a message of peace that the people desire to hear. However, God still urges Judah to return to Him and repent, warning that a failure to repent will result in God's judgment coming via the kingdom of Babylon.

Chapter 5 shows that the dichotomy of God's righteous character and Judah's wicked condition require judgment against "such a nation as this", where Judah resembles the nations around her in its idolatrous practices. Chapter 6 portrays a powerful enemy coming from the north, and an appeal is made to repent and walk in the "old paths" that have been handed down. However, the people refuse to listen, and God's attempts to refine the people of their wickedness have failed. Therefore, as "rejected silver", Judah is set to face God's wrath at the hands of Babylon.

Chapters 7-10 give one of Jeremiah's "temple addresses" in which Jeremiah describes how the people have misplaced their trust in the temple, in sacrifices, and in their wisdom of the Law. Judah's obstinate nature and resistance to repent is contrasted with the migration of birds. Jeremiah's mourns over the people's hopeless condition as he sees what could have been had the people returned to God. Instead the people have put their trust in idols that cannot help them, and the only lessons they are capable of learning will be provided through God's judgment.

- 1. What covenant did God make with the nation of Israel and how did this relate to Abraham (11:1-5)?
- 2. How does Judah's reaction to the calamity that God would bring show that Josiah's reforms had not resulted in a change of heart (Jeremiah 2:27-28; Jeremiah 11:11-13; II Chronicles 34:29-33)?

Book of Jeremiah

3.	What is the contrast between the character of Jeremiah and the men of Anathoth who seek his life (11:18-20)?
4.	What age-old question does Jeremiah ask God (12:1-4; Habakkuk 1:1-4)?
5.	What is God's answer to Jeremiah's question (12:5-6)?
6.	How is God's mercy demonstrated to Judah and all nations in His punishment of evil (12:14-17; Isaiah 42:1)?
7.	What is the meaning of the symbol of the linen sash, and what is the message to Judah (13:1-11)?
8.	What is the meaning of the symbol of the wine bottles (13:12-14)?
9.	How is Judah's condition summarized in 13:20-23?