

Book of Jeremiah

Lesson 8: Revelation on the Occasion of Drought II

Reading: Jeremiah 14:1-17:27

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 to repent. 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. God’s righteous nature cannot abide Judah’s wickedness and requires judgment against “such a nation as this”. That judgment is set to come at the hands of the Babylonians who will ravage the land and leave it a heap of ruins, fit only for jackals.

Jeremiah’s message to the people includes warning them of the false confidence they have in the temple, in sacrifices, and in their wisdom of the Law. Their failure to obey God highlights how their outward manifestations of worship did not include the condition of heart required for them to truly repent and return to God. Judah’s obstinate nature and trust in idols are so ingrained that the only lesson they are capable of learning is the one provided through God’s judgment. Hence, Judah’s fate is sealed – prayers and pleas will not save the people from judgment. Nevertheless, Jeremiah continues to plead on behalf of the people and deliver God’s message in spite of his own life being sought by his own countrymen. God uses the symbols of a linen sash and wine bottles to demonstrate how Judah will be humbled through invasion by the enemy, destruction of the land, and dispersion into a foreign land.

1. How is the condition of Judah described in 14:10, and what is their fate?

2. What two lies do the false prophets tell the people (14:13), and what will be their outcome (14:15)?

Book of Jeremiah

3. What three-fold appeal for mercy is made in 14:21?
4. What four forms of destruction were appointed for the people of Judah (15:3)?
5. How does Jeremiah describe his dejection, and what is God's response (15:10-12)?
6. What three commands does God give Jeremiah, and how is the ruin of Israel described in each (16:1-9)?
7. How will the restoration of Israel be a fundamental change in the nation's identity (16:14-15)?
8. How is trust in man contrasted with trust in the Lord (17:5-8)?