

# Jeremiah 2

## Jeremiah 2.1-3 – The arraignment of Israel

**V1**– God was going to give Jeremiah his first sermon, his first message to the people

Notice the poetry form beginning at this point (in the more modern translations)

-So Jeremiah preached in the form of poetry (like Homer's *Iliad*)

-The form of poetry cannot be translated from one language to another, only the words can, but it is interesting to note that Jeremiah preached in poetry form

**V2**– **What did God remember about the 12 Tribes?** Their love for him when they were young (as a race)

-**Epecially, what did he remember?** Their love for him, leaving Egypt and in the wilderness

-Interesting: they were not all that faithful in the wilderness, but it was better than the way they were now

**V3** – Israel had been holy, sanctified, and set apart

-**What was the purpose of Israel in the plan of God?** To prepare the world for the coming of the Messiah (through the Ten Commandments, the prophecies about Christ, the many forerunners of Christ)

## Jeremiah 2.4-8

**V4** – Sounds like the great preacher V. E. Howard – He would frequently say in his sermons, "Are you listening?"

-Jeremiah: "Are you listening?" In other words, listen up – this is important.

**V5**– **What was God's question to the people?** How did I mistreat you? How was I unfair to you?

**V6** – **What were the fathers not interested in?** Finding the Lord

-Notice the description of the wilderness (Sinai)

**V7** – **What had God done for them?** Brought them into the Land of Canaan

-**What did they do to the Land of Canaan?** Divided the land, "my land" – yet they had turned their inheritance into an abomination

**V8** – **Did the priests see the Lord?** No

-The experts in the law ("lawyers") did not know God

-The prophets worked for Baal

-They all walked after things that did not profit

-Very interesting: the people today are also pursuing things that do not profit

-Every Sunday morning in the summer months, when we are driving to the church building, we pass people getting their boats ready to take out on the lake, or cutting the grass, or jogging, or laying out in the sun – doing things that do not profit

-So also the Israelites were doing things that do not profit

## **Jeremiah 2.9-13**

**V 9** – **Why would God continue to plead with Israel?** Because there is always hope that people will repent and change

**V 10** – Kittim actually refers to the west (literally Cyprus)

- Kedar is the name of a tribe of Arabs to the east of Southern Kingdom of Israel
- God is amazed at what had happened to his people

**V 11** – **What had happened?** They exchanged the one true God for false gods  
-Notice again: "for that which does not profit"

**V 12** – God is appalled at what had happened

**V 13** – **What are the two charges against Israel?**

1. They had forsaken the only true and living God
  2. They had replaced him with broken cisterns
- What is the value of a cistern if it has a crack in it?** No value whatsoever

## **Jeremiah 2.14-19**

**V 14** – Jeremiah started talking about the Northern Kingdom of Israel (destroyed in 721 BC)

-It is a good object lesson

**-Meaning of the questions: Did I abuse the Northern Kingdom of Israel? Were they slaves?**

Answer: Of course, not – God had blessed them in many ways

**V 15** – **But what did the Assyrians do to the Northern Kingdom of Israel?** Turned it into a land of waste

-It was a deserted land (except for a few caretakers of the vineyards, who intermarried with a few stragglers from the Assyrian army, and they later became the Samaritans)

**V 16** – Addressed to the Southern Kingdom of Israel: they had been defeated by the Egyptians at the battle of Megiddo (*2Kings 23.29-30*) – King Josiah had been killed in the battle

-It was a terrible defeat for the Southern Kingdom of Israel

**V 17** – **Why was the Southern Kingdom of Israel defeated by the Egyptians?** Because of their wickedness – a foretaste of what was coming

**V 18** – There was a pro-Egyptian party in the Southern Kingdom of Israel – they wanted to compromise with the Egyptians and seek their aid

-There was also a pro-Assyrian party in the Southern Kingdom of Israel – they wanted to compromise with the Assyrians

**V 19** – The Southern Kingdom of Israel would be corrupted by its own wickedness

-There is justice in the universe (and usually in this life)

-People may think they are getting away with it, but in the long run things work out so that the wicked are punished

**-What was Jeremiah's summary of what was wrong with the Southern Kingdom of Israel?**  
They didn't dread God (no fear of God, just as it is today)

## **Jeremiah 2.20-25**

**V 20** – Had God rescued Israel in the past? Yes

-When? Out of Egypt

-What was the reaction of Israel to the rescue? Rebellion

**V 21** – What other symbol that Jeremiah use? Israel was a choice vine

-But what had happened? They had turned into a degenerate vine

**V 22** – What had Israel tried to do? Cleanse itself without God (using lye and soap)

-Did it work? No

-Humanism today – this philosophy tries to cleanse the human heart by removing the guilt, but it doesn't work

**V 23** – What was Israel's view of its sin? “What sin?”

-God's reply? Just look around at all the statues of Baal

-A young female camel – very stubborn, especially when she is in heat

**V 24** – Next illustration that Jeremiah used? A wild donkey in heat – nothing can hold her, because she will mate, regardless of what humans might want her to do

**V 25** – What did God want to do for the Southern Kingdom of Israel? Give them shoes and fresh water to drink

-Their reply? No way

## **Jeremiah 2.26-28**

**V 26** – Who was involved in the sins of the Southern Kingdom of Israel? The leaders of the people (as well as the people themselves)

**V 27** – How is idolatry a foolish religion? Bowing down to a tree or a rock

-What is ironic about the Israelites worshipping idols? In a time of need, they turned to God

**V 28** – Challenge from God? Go to your gods in a time of trouble

## **Jeremiah 2.29-37**

**V 29** – They had not learned anything as the children of God

**V 30** – Were there victims of their idolatry? Yes – the prophets of God

**V 31** –**What was the cry of the people?** Freedom (sounds so modern)

-We can do what we want to do

**V 32** –**Do young ladies forget the kind of clothes that they wear?** No

-This is possibly a reference to clothing worn by virgins – When Amnon raped Tamar, Tamar tore the sleeves off her blouse, a symbol that she was no longer a virgin – **Read 2 Samuel 13.18**

-**Do women ever forget their wedding dress?** Never – It is usually stored upstairs in the attic or in a closet, but it is not discarded

-**The lesson?** As impossible as it sounds, they had forgotten God

**V 33** – They were so wicked that they had even taught evil people about being evil

**V 34** –They had the blood of innocent people on their hands

**V 35** – **What did they claim?** To be innocent: “We didn’t do anything wrong”

**V 36** – Egypt would put Southern Kingdom of Israel to shame (as Assyria had done to the Northern Kingdom of Israel)

**V 37** –**What would be the result of their morality?** Hands on head (a line of captives going to Babylon)

**Lessons from this chapter:**

-Think about the effect of this sermon on the people

-The charge was literally made that Jeremiah was not patriotic

"Patriotism is the last refuge of cowards" – still true today

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