

Jeremiah 6

Jeremiah 6.1-8 – The Babylonians were getting closer and closer to Jerusalem

V 1– Jeremiah can see a siege coming – there is a sense of urgency in his voice here

- He knows what is coming, but the people will not listen to his warning
- Beth-haccerem: a high spot north of Jerusalem, used for spotting the enemy
- What Old Testament prophet was from Tekoa?** Amos
- Tekoa was noted for a lot of caves, so the people could flee there (if they perceived a danger)

V 2– The women were not going to be safe

V 3 – **What should be happening as the enemy approached?** The shepherds should bring in their flocks closer to the city

V 4 – **Jeremiah is taking the part of the Babylonians (the Neo-Chaldeans)**

- They delay for one day, but there is no way to put off the plans of God for the destruction of Jerusalem

V 5– **Their next plan?** To attack at night

V 6– Again, nothing will stop the attack

- The enemy will cut down trees to use against Jerusalem

V 7 – Simile – fresh water in a well = fresh wickedness in Jerusalem, right up to the end

V 8 – God continues to warn his people

Jeremiah 6.9-15

V 9 – **Who is the “they”?** The enemy

- To what is Israel compared?** A vineyard
- What will happen to the vineyard?** It will be gleaned and thoroughly cleaned (no occupation of Jerusalem from 586 BC until 536 BC)

V 10 – **What was the biggest problem that Jeremiah had?** Nobody would listen

- We face the same problem today – it does not impress God when people brag about all the baptisms they are having – the question: Is the complete gospel being preached?
- Some areas of the world are different from others, but at least here in the United States, people are not listening

V 11 – **What was Jeremiah tired of doing?** Holding in the message of God (preaching to people who did not want to listen)

- Who were about the only ones who would listen?** The children and young people

V 12 – The families of Israel would be taken into captivity

V 13 – In addition to not listening, what other problem did Jeremiah face? Greed
-How extensive was the greed? The prophet and the priest all dealt falsely with each other

V 14 – What were the prophets and priests saying to the people? Peace, peace (quoted by Patrick Henry in his speech to the Virginia Convention)
-so the message was: There will be peace - everything will work out
-Chamberlain to Great Britain just before the outbreak of World War II: "There will be peace in our time"

V 15 – Just how bad was the immorality in Southern Kingdom of Israel? They had forgotten how to blush
-Comments about today?
-Bumper sticker: "How much sin can I commit and still go to heaven?"
-Bumper sticker seen in a parking lot: "Save water/Drink more beer"
Review: The charges against them: They would not listen to Jeremiah; they were greedy and could not blush anymore

Jeremiah 6.16-21

V 16 – Jeremiah's advice? Go back to the ancient paths
-The ancient paths were not right just because they were old, but because they were the paths of God
-This was a passage that was used a lot during the Restoration Movement in America – to go back to the ancient way (Jerusalem 33 AD)
-What was the reaction of the people to what Jeremiah said? Not interested

V 17 – What had God done to encourage them to return to the ancient paths? He had sent them prophets who had sounded the trumpet of warning

V 18 – Listen up...

V 19 – Disaster was coming for the Southern Kingdom of Israel, because they did not listen and they rejected the laws of God

V 20 – They were using spices and perfumes from faraway places
-Was God impressed? Not at all
-God rejected their burnt offerings and sacrifices (as with the sacrifices of Saul)

V 21 – So God was going to bring the nation down by putting stumbling blocks in front of them

Jeremiah 6.22-26

V 22 – The enemy will be aroused from sleep by the enemy from the north (Babylonians)

V 23 – How did Jeremiah describe the Babylonians? Fierce fighters

V 24 – Had the people of Jerusalem already heard about the Babylonians? Yes
-What was their opinion of them? Terrified – hands limp, like woman in childbirth

V 25 – They were afraid to get too far away from Jerusalem, because of the Babylonians

V 26 – Jeremiah's advice to the people? Show signs of repentance
-Notice the word *lamentation* in this verse (name of next book that Jeremiah wrote)

Jeremiah 6.27-30

V 27 – What did God tell Jeremiah? He would be the assayer, the tester of the people
-What is an assayer? A person who tests ore for its precious metal content

V 28 – How did God describe the people? Stubborn as iron and bronze

V 29 – The refining process had failed
-What is Jeremiah talking about here? Precious metal can be separated from the lead, but God cannot separate his people from the wickedness of their day

V 30 – It was “rejected silver,” because it could not be refined

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