

Jeremiah Study

Chapters 4 – 6 (~35 min)

Chapter 4

(4:3) “don’t sow among thorns” = stop trying to fit in with the world

- Break up your “Fallow Ground” (Your soil is ready)

	Cultural Context Fallow ground is ground that has been plowed & tilled, but not planted for 1 or more vegetation cycles. This allows the soil to rest, regain nutrients & disrupt pest cycles. Ultimately, it improves the future crop yield
	Symbolism: Thorns Often represents sin, suffering, trials, cares of this world

In short, “Your soil is ready to plant, but stop trying to fit in with the rest of the world”.

(4:4) Circumcise your heart. (Abide the convenient in your heart, not just in flesh)

(4:21) Babylon comes swift & with power, but it takes ~ 19 years (3 waves) before Jerusalem is finally destroyed.

(4:22) How much time & effort were the people putting in to learning & following all of these false gods & rituals?

	Examine <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How much time do we put into entertainment, hobbies, or things of this world?• How much time (and intention) do we put into God’s kingdom?
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Chapter 5

(5:1) God does not destroy the just with the unjust

- Remember Abraham bargaining with God before He destroyed Sodom & Gomorrah? (Genesis see 18:16-33)

(5:2) Using the Lord’s name in vain?

(5:3) Rejecting God’s judgement is dangerous & we see in Ezekiel, this will result in the 7x curse.

- - See Leviticus 26

(5:6) Symbolism

	Symbolism <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Lion = strength, courage, power (Can mean royalty)2. Wolf = Danger, Destruction, Deceit3. Leopard = speed, agility
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(5:8-12) Isreal was a testimony of God. The God who rescued them from slavery in Egypt, lead them through the desert, gave them the promised land. Backsliding Isreal was still a testimony of God to those around them, just a *really bad one*.

	Examine <p>We are a testimony of the God that we serve. We think of ministry as being “church” or “worship team”, but our lives (24/7) are a ministry.</p> <p>What we don’t execute in intention will be executed with the unintentional.</p> <p>For Example: When we’re standing in line at the grocery store, or driving to work Monday morning what does our ministry look like? Does it speak well about the God that we serve?</p>
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(5:27-28) Greed

(5:31) Warning for Today

- When ministers tell people what they want to hear rather than speaking God’s word in truth

Chapter 6

(6:4) “noon” – to attack in the heat of the day suggests a strong confidence in switch victory

(6:5) “night” – ancient armies preferred the light of day, so, to attack at night would suggest determination to “get-it-done” swiftly.

(6:8) It would have been difficult for them to imagine this land as desolate. (It’s extremely fruitful & beautiful at this time). However, over time, it does become desolate.

(6:13-14) False prophesy/ministry is dangerous. It may give temporary relief, but it sets for the path of destruction.

(6:23) Babylonians were very cruel when they conquered a people

- Kill the leader’s children in front of them
- Kill the rulers, leaders & powerful people (instill fear in the common folk)
- Give land to the poorest & say “hey, this is all yours, just be a good Babylonian & pay taxes”
- Took captives, “Hey, this the fault of your evil leaders (not *your* fault). Be a good Babylonian & we will take great care of you”. (Assimilate)