

Jeremiah Study

Chapters 7-9 (~55 min)

- This section starts the Temple Discourses
- New King (Ch 7 - 10), Jehoiakim 609BC - 598 BC

Chapter 7

(7:1-7) God's Goal : "Amend your ways"

- Specifically:
 - Thoroughly execute judgement (fairness, judgement, integrity)
 - Do not oppress: strangers, fatherless, widows
 - Do not shed innocent blood
 - Do not walk after other gods

(7:8-11)

	<p>Modern Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unfortunately, we've seen this in modern Christianity as well where church attendance gets prioritized above walking in God's word all week long.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ i.e. "Church on Sunday, live like hell the rest of the week".• This is a poor testimony of God's Grace to the rest of the world. Like the Israelites were lacking the relationship with God, sadly, so do some Christians today.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ It's the love for God that makes us want to do better, be better. That love and relationship allow God to work in and on our lives.• Have you heard the debate around "Free from sin" vs "Free to sin"? This is something that trips up non-believers.
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(7:12-15) Shiloh is where the tabernacle was setup for hundreds of years before the Temple was built. In 150 BC, Shiloh was destroyed by the Philistines (See Psalm 78:56-60)

(7:23) When we walk in God's commandments, it "is well" with us.

(7:25) "Rising Early"

	<p>Symbolism : "Rising Early"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Diligence: It often signifies a commitment to hard work and diligence in one's duties.• Spiritual Preparation: Rising early is associated with seeking God through prayer and meditation before the day's distractions.• Wisdom: Proverbs highlights that early risers are often seen as wise and prudent in their actions.• Opportunity: It reflects the idea of seizing opportunities and making the most of the day ahead.• Discipline: The practice emphasizes self-discipline and the importance of establishing a routine.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biblical Examples: Figures like Abraham and Jesus are noted for rising early to fulfill their missions or pray.
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(7:27) God tells Jeremiah that they won't listen, but to speak these words anyway. Even call to them.

(7:30-31) Child Sacrifice is an Abomination.

idol	Primary culture	What it represented
Moloch	Canaanites	(Bulls head) Strength & Fertility
Chemosh	Moabites	Victory in battles
Baal	Canaanites	Agricultural Abundance (wealth), storms, rain, fertility
Tammuz	Babylon	Agriculture, Fertility, Changing of seasons

(7:33) Corpses scattered & food for the birds

	<p>Cultural Context</p> <p>Jewish tradition was very particular about how they handled their dead, and they wanted their bones to be together, often with family, & in a special place. (typically tombs)</p> <p>The idea of their bodies scattered out to be eaten by wildlife would have been a horrifying thought to them.</p>
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Chapter 8

(8:1-3) God expands on the scattered bones. Interestingly, this seems like a physical representation of what These people have already done spiritually.

- By worshiping idols:
 - they have "scattered" their soul so to speak.
 - They have chosen death (even if unintentionally)
 - They have become "part of this world"
- By scattering their bones as "refuse" (trash):
 - They are physically separated from themselves
 - They are dead
 - They become "Trash/waste" of the earth, exposed & part of all the things they worshiped

(8:4-10)

- (v9) Wisdom REQUIRES God's Word. (You can't be wise without out)

- False Teachings
 - What God Found HORRIBLE:
 - Lying Prophets (Telling the people what they want to hear)
 - Priests doing their own thing (motivated by power & authority)
 - The people loved it that way. (wanting God bent to *their* will)
 - Why did they do those things? "A: Covetousness" (see v10)

	<p>Examine</p> <p>What parallels do we have today in modern Christianity with the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lying Prophets 2. Priests doing their own thing 3. People loving it that way?
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(8:11) - This is almost word-for-word what we read in Chapter 6:13-14

(8:12-14) - "They were not at all ashamed"

- This points to a culture that is so deeply rooted in idol worship, that they can't even fathom that there is anything wrong with what they are doing. (Similar to the "Harlot's Forehead" we discussed in chapter 3:3)

	<p>Examine</p> <p>What sins in our culture have become so deeply rooted that we stopped apologizing for it as a society?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How about, as the "Church"?
	<p>Cultural Context: "Water of gall"</p> <p>The water of "gall" was bitter like bile.</p>

(8:15-17) "snorting of Horses" & "Vipers that cannot be charmed"

	<p>Cultural Context: Horses</p> <p>This is another concept that would have been terrifying to the people of this time. The Jewish people weren't really "horse" people. So the idea of an army so large they could "hear them from Dan" full of fast-moving strong horses would be a symbol of agility, power & strength.</p>
	<p>Cultural Context: Vipers</p> <p>Often symbolizes deceit, treachery, danger, presence of evil, spiritual blindness, judgement.</p>

(8:18-22) This introduces us to the heartbreak that God feels

Chapter 9

(9:1-6) God's heartbreak

- God is a loving Father who does NOT delight in punishing His children
- He weeps for the calamity that they bring on themselves
- He wants His children to "know Him"

NOTE: Satan knows that he cannot defeat God. He knows that he has already lost but he keeps fighting, why? Because it *hurts* God's heart to see his children lost or hurt.

(9:7-16)

- (v7) punishment is "refining" (correction)
- Why is this happening?
 - They have forsaken God's Law
 - Have not obeyed God's Voice
 - They did not WALK in God's Ways
 - INSTEAD:
 - they WALKED after their *own* desires
 - they WALKED after idols



Examine

What does it mean to "WALK" in God's ways?
What does that look like for us today?

(9:17-22) The people will Mourn



Cultural Context: Wailing Women

These were professionals that were hired to mourn & literally wail, often for funerals.

- We see an example of this in Matthew 9:23-25 when Jesus kicks out the mourners so that he can heal the girl that "is not dead, just sleeps".

V20 here instructs these professionals to "Teach your daughters", suggesting that everyone will mourn (not just hire it out)

(9:23-24)

- Do NOT:
 - Glory in wisdom
 - Glory in might
 - Glory in wealth
- DO:
 - Glory in UNDERSTANDING God

- Glory in KNOWING God (to “intimately know”)
- God Delights in:
 - Loving kindness
 - Justice
 - Righteousness

(9:25-26) These people are no better than the uncircumcised nations & will suffer with them.

- God’s pointing out that His people bear His mark on their flesh, but refuse to carry this mark in their heart.
 - This seems like a hint of entitlement. A people *expecting* to inherit the blessings of Abraham because their flesh was marked when they were a baby. (8 days old). Kind of like a mentality that they don’t want anything to do with God. They don’t want to hear His words. They don’t want to follow His direction. In fact, they want to do all the things He said *not* to do, but think they are fine (even better than other nations) because they bear the fleshy mark & an inherited promise made to Abraham.
 - That didn’t work out so well for them. While God *does* keep his promise to Abraham (God ALWAYS keeps his promises), He does this by saving a remnant. The rest suffered greatly, circumcised or not.



Examine

What parallels can we draw to modern Christianity & the rest of the world?
 What is the importance of “Knowing God”?

Could this concept be the same as what we see in Matthew 7:21-23?

Matthew 7:21-23 (ESV)

21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ 23 And then will I declare to them, ‘I **never knew you**; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’