

Jeremiah Chapter 7

Dec. 3, 2008 – Pastor Ronnie Wolfe

CONDEMNATION OF GOD’S HOUSE

God had chosen Jerusalem and the temple to place his name in Israel. This was the most holy place on earth. Judah has at this time profaned the house of God by listening to false prophets and offering false sacrifices in the temple, sacrifices to other gods.

I. AMENDMENT AT GOD’S HOUSE (7:1-4)

A. Jeremiah was to stand in the primary gate of the Lord’s house and proclaim God’s word.

1. “there were seven gates belonging to the court, three on the north, three on the south, and one in the east, the chief of all, as Kimchi, Abarbinel, and Ben Melech observe; and this agrees with the account in the Misna (k). The names of them were these; on the south side were these three, the watergate, the gate of the firstlings; or the gate of offering, and the gate of kindling; on the north were these three, the gate Nitzotz, called also the gate of the song, the gate Korban, sometimes called the gate of women, and Beth Moked; and the gate in the east was the gate Nicanor, and this gate was the most frequented; and therefore Jeremiah was ordered to stand here, and deliver his message.” (John Gill)
2. The seven gates are these:
 - a. South:
 - (1) Watergate
 - (2) Offering Gate
 - (3) Gate of Kindling
 - b. North:
 - (1) Song Gate
 - (2) Gate of Women
 - (3) Gate of Beth Moked
 - c. East (Main Gait): Gate Nicanor

B. The People Were To Amend Their Ways

1. They were not to perfect the sacrifices in the temple, for this is not what God wants
2. They were to amend “their ways”
3. Many know how to act and what to do in church, but they do not act outside of church in an honorable way.
4. 1 Sam. 15:22 *And Samuel said, Hath the LORD [as great] delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey [is] better than sacrifice, [and] to hearken than the fat of rams.*
5. God wanted them to obey the laws of Moses, not to perfect their sacrifices.
6. It was their personal lives, not their church life that needed amended.

C. They Are Not To Trust In The Temple

1. “The temple of the LORD” is mentioned three times here indicating the worship of the Jews three times per day.

2. They put much trust in the temple for their forgiveness. They thought they could live in whatever way they desired as long as they did their three-time-daily worship at the temple of Jehovah.
3. The words “are these” indicates a finger pointing to the gates of the temple where the people faithfully and regularly entered for worship.
4. To trust in the temple and its worship is to trust in lying words.

II. ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOD’S PROMISE (7:5-7)

A. Five “ifs”

1. If you thoroughly amend your ways and doings
2. If you thoroughly execute judgment
3. If you oppress not the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow
4. If you do not shed innocent blood
5. If you do not walk after other gods

B. One Promise

1. God will cause them to dwell in this land.
2. This is the promise given to their fathers: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob.

III. ANGER OF THE LORD SHOWN (7:8-20)

A. Pronouncement of Judah’s Sins, 8-11

1. Robbery, murder, adultery, lying
2. Burning incense to Baal, and walk after other gods they do not know.
3. Come into God’s house and say “We are delivered,” as if that makes everything right.
4. God’s house has become a “den of robbers.”

B. Presentation of an Example, 12

1. Shiloh is the place where the tabernacle was first set up after Israel entered Canaan.
2. The ark of the Covenant was there in place
3. But, if Judah would go there, just a few miles from Jerusalem, they would know (even if they went there in their minds) that Shiloh’s place of worship is trodden down and no longer exists. Only a remnant of the foundation could be found.
4. This is God’s judgment because of sin, and this is what will happen to Judah’s temple if they do not amend their ways.

C. Prediction of God’s Anger, 13-20

1. Because of their sins, God has called them by the voice of the prophets, but they did not answer the call to repentance., 13
2. So God will do to the temple the same that was done to the ark in Shiloh, 14
3. God will cast Judah out just as he did the 10 northern tribes (Ephraim), 15
4. God tells Jeremiah not to pray for this people—it is too late. God will not hear, 16
5. Jeremiah, do you not see what they do in the streets of Jerusalem? 17-18
 - a. They gather wood and kindle fire to make cakes for the “queen of heaven.”
 - b. Gill thinks the “queen of heaven” is the moon, which they worshiped.
 - c. They pour out drink offerings to other gods (ones they do not know), unknown gods.
6. Judah does more than provoke God to anger; they provoke themselves to their own

shame, 19

7. God's anger will be poured out on every living thing, 20

IV. ACQUIESCENT OBEDIENCE (7:21-28)

A. Folly Of Sacrifices, 21

1. They were encouraged to give more and more sacrifices, because they mean nothing to God.
2. The more they give, the more God is angered

B. Fruitfulness of Obedience, 22-23

1. Judah's fathers were not commanded to give many sacrifices
2. They were commanded to "Obey my voice."
3. If they obey, "it may be well with you."

C. Folly of Disobedience, 24-28

1. Their fathers did not listen, 24
2. They went backward, and not forward, 24
3. They did worse than their fathers, 25-26
4. Judah will not answer the call to repentance, 27
5. The truth is perished, 28

V. ASCENDANCE OF JUDAH'S DESTRUCTION, 7:29-34

A. Cutting Off The Hair, 29-31

1. Cutting the hair was a symbol of mourning – Job 1:20 *Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped,*
2. They were to mourn, because God had rejected them, 29
3. The "generation of his wrath" is the present generation in Jeremiah's day who had turned away from their God.
4. They sat their abomination in God's house, 30
5. They built the high places of Tophet – (Gill) "Where was the idol Moloch; and which place had its name . . . from the beating of drums, that the parents of the children that were burnt might not hear the cry of them: which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom; a valley near Jerusalem, and lay to the south of it," 31

B. Coming Of The Days Of Judgment, 32-34

1. "Behold, the days come," 32 – the days are sure to come just as surely as in our day the coming of Jesus Christ is sure.
2. The name of the place will no longer be called Tophet (place of fire) but will be called "Gah Haraygah" (the Valley of Slaughter).
3. Those who are not buried will be eaten by the fowls, 33
4. These things will cease from Jerusalem:
 - a. The voice of mirth (joy)
 - b. The voice of gladness
 - c. The voice of the bridegroom
 - d. The voice of the bride
5. The land shall be desolate (empty)