

Jeremiah Chapter 8

December 10, 2008 – Pastor Ronnie Wolfe

I. **SHOWING OF THE BONES** (8:1-5)

- A. The word “they” refers to the Chaldeans (Babylon) as they came in to destroy Jerusalem.
- B. They uncovered all the bones of the, 1
 - 1. Princes, who led Israel according to God’s good way
 - 2. Priests, who represented Israel before the Lord
 - 3. Prophets, who warned Israel (Judah) against their wickedness that would result in God’s judgment.
- C. The Chaldeans took their bones and laid them out before the sun, the moon and the stars (host of heaven). These were the subjects of the Chaldeans’ worship, denying the Lord God and challenging him against their own idol gods, 2
- D. After this, death was chosen rather than life for those who remained alive, 3
- E. Judah was in a perpetual backsliding, 4. It is normal for a man, after he falls, to get up again and go his way.
- F. But these would not turn back to God but continued in their backsliding no matter what warnings were given. Judah here is called “this evil family,” 5

II. **SHUNNING THE WAY** (8:6-11)

- A. God “hearkened and heard.” This means he listened and heard the words of Israel, 6, but their speech was not “aright.” No man repented.
- B. All the birds (turtle, crane, swallow) know their times of going and coming (returning), but God’s people do not know the judgment of God (that he will judge their sins), 7
- C. If Judah does not know God’s judgment, then the pen of the scribe is in vain, and the law is vain, 8
- D. Even those who seem to be wise among them have rejected the word of the Lord. Only people like Jeremiah are sounding out the truth, 9
- E. God will bring immediate judgment upon them. They knew of him eternal judgment, but they did not understand his immediate judgment, 10
- F. These false prophets have comforted the people falsely saying, “Peace, peace, when there is no peace” (See Jer. 6:14), 11.

III. **SHARING THE JUDGMENT**, (8:12-17)

- A. The Lord will judge everyone; all of Judah will experience this, 12-13.
- B. So, Judah is told by Jeremiah to be still (do not complain) but go into a defended city such as Jerusalem and wait for God’s judgment without complaint, 14. They knew they had sinned against God, even though they did not repent in a genuine way.
- C. Everywhere they looked they found no peace but only trouble, 15.
- D. The horses will come from Dan where northern Israel worshiped the golden calf. Nebuchadnezzar’s army will come from Dan toward Judah to overtake it. This is spoken in the past tense as though it has already happened, 16.

- E. Jarchi, a writer on Jewish tradition, says that after 70 years a serpent becomes a cockatrice and is deaf. Therefore, they cannot be charmed, 17. This means that, when the enemy comes, he will not be charmed from his purpose. He will accomplish his whole purpose.

IV. **SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROPHET** (8:18-22)

- A. Jeremiah is very serious here as he states that, when he has spiritual refreshment from the Lord, his heart is still faint within him, 18.
- B. In verse 19 the Lord speaks and asks why Judah has provoked him to anger, 19. They did this by their graven images and their strange vanities.
- C. Jeremiah is probably speaking in verse 20 when he makes this famous statement: “The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.” He is saying that they had opportunities to repent, but that time is now past, and their judgment is sure.
- D. Jeremiah is hurt and black (astonished, made low) by Judah’s sin, 21.
- E. Normally there is a balm (or salve) in Gilead, for Israel received this from there (Gen. 37:25), but now there is doubt whether there is any balm there which will heal this great hurt of Judah, 22
- F. Normally there is a physician in Gilead, for that is where many medicines were from; but now there is doubt whether there is a physician who can heal this hurt.
- G. Since there is normally a balm and a physician in Gilead, so easily accessible, why, then, are Judah’s people not healed?
- H. There was no excuse for this sin to go this far, but Judah would not listen to the message of God through the prophet Jeremiah and others.