

Jeremiah 12

February 4, 2009 – Pastor Ronnie Wolfe

Jeremiah's Prayer And God's Answer

I. Jeremiah's Prayer (12:1-4)

A. First, Praise To God

1. In every prayer that we pray, we should praise God for his wonder and admit and confess his holiness and righteousness.
2. We should always begin our prayer with praise to God for his holiness and righteousness.
 - a. Matt. 6:9 *After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.*
 - b. "Righteous art thou, O Lord, when I plead with thee . . ." (Jer. 12:1a)
 - c. Ezra 9:15 *O LORD God of Israel, thou [art] righteous: for we remain yet escaped, as [it is] this day: behold, we [are] before thee in our trespasses: for we cannot stand before thee because of this.*
 - d. Re 16:5 *And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus.*

B. Talking Of God's Judgments

1. First, he speaks of the prosperity of the wicked, vs 1-2
 - a. Jer 5:28 *They are waxen fat, they shine: yea, they overpass the deeds of the wicked: they judge not the cause, the cause of the fatherless, yet they prosper; and the right of the needy do they not judge.*
 - b. Job said in Job 12:6, *The tabernacles of robbers prosper, and they that provoke God are secure; into whose hand God bringeth [abundantly].*
2. Second, he speaks of God's judgment upon him, 3a
 - a. "Thou knowest me" – 1 Kings 8:39 *for thou, even thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men*
 - b. "Thou hast seen me" – John 1:48 *Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.*
 - c. "And tried mine heart towards thee" – Ps 17:3 *Thou hast proved mine heart; thou hast visited [me] in the night; thou hast tried me, [and] shalt find nothing; I am purposed [that] my mouth shall not transgress.*
3. Third, he asks God to revenge the righteous, 3b
 - a. Ps 44:11 *Thou hast given us like sheep [appointed] for meat; and hast scattered us among the heathen.*
 - b. Israel has had their turn of being "like sheep appointed for meat." It is now time for their enemies to be punished
4. Fourth, How long can the wicked live in the land without punishment?, 4
 - a. How long will the atheist say "There is no God"?
 - b. How long will those who do not believe last?

- c. Many times they had said that God would not see their last end, or that God would destroy them for their wickedness.

II. God's Answer (Jer. 12:5-17)

A. That Which Is To Come, 5

1. The land has mourned long enough, they think; but the mourning that is coming is worse yet.
2. What they have experienced is like footmen compared to horses, 5
3. The "swelling of the Jordan" is compared to a land of peace, depicting a war that is coming by way of God's judgment.

B. Trust In Egypt, 6

1. Israel has put their trust in Egypt, which was headed at this time by Pharaoh-Necho.
2. God tells Jeremiah not to trust them, because they speak fair words. They are deceivers

C. Israel Into The Hands Of The Enemies, 7

1. God has left his presence in the temple and is no longer dwelling there.
2. He has given Israel over to their enemies because of their sin.

D. Israel Cries Against God, 8

1. They cry against him with their blasphemies, speaking in God's name but worshiping Baal.
2. They are as a lion, because they boast with pride with their mouths and try to scare the nations around them
3. God hates this.

E. The Great Speckled Bird, 9

1. The speckled, multi-colored bird is not liked by those birds around it.
2. This disdain is given to Israel by her neighbors. They will one day devour Israel.

F. The Pastors, 10

1. The pastors here are the wicked nations around Israel
2. They have trodden Israel under foot and have made it a barren wilderness.

G. The Land Mourns, 11

1. The land, not the people, mourns for its former glory and beauty, speaking of the land in a personification.
2. "No man layeth it to heart" means that the people have forsaken the land, not caring for the true prophecies of Jeremiah and others and have caused the land to be desperate in its plea to God.

H. The Spoilers Come, 12

1. As a result of Judah's sins, God will bring judgment upon the land in a complete and total destruction.
2. There will be no peace in the land

I. Sown Wheat, Reaped Thorns, 13

1. They sowed wheat, but God did not bless it because of their sins.
2. As a result, Israel reaped the thorns that came as a result of God's judgment
3. They will not profit from their crops because of the anger of the Lord.

J. Judah Plucked Out Of The Lane, 14

1. The inheritance of Judah (Israel) is Canaan
2. God will pluck out Judah from Canaan and take them into captivity to Babylon

K. A Remnant Will Return, 15

1. When Israel returns to Canaan, this becomes the second and last period of Jewish history.
2. In this period of Jewish history, the Savior will come; and the remnant will say, “The Lord liveth.”
 - a. Luke 24:5 *And as they were afraid, and bowed down [their] faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?*
 - b. Rev 2:8 *And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;*
3. “Then shall they be built in the midst of my people”
 - a. This speaks of the local church – Matt 16:18 *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*
 - b. Eph 2:20 *And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner [stone];*
4. If they do not obey, they will be destroyed.
 - a. They obeyed for a while, building the temple and teaching God’s law (Ezra, Nehemiah).
 - b. But they soon went back to their idols and worship of Baal.
 - c. Then Jesus came unto his own, and his own received him not (John 1:11).
 - d. Not only so, but they cried at his trial, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”
 - e. They said, “We will not have this man to reign over us” (Luke 19:14).
 - f. They crucified him and watched him there (Matt. 27:36).
 - g. Matt 23:38 *Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.*
 - h. He left his house (the temple), and he no longer was abiding on the mercy seat.
 - i. Then in 70 AD God destroyed Jerusalem fulfilling his words in Matt 24:2 *And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.*
5. Conclusion:
 - a. Then we read in Rom. 10:13 *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*
 - b. And we read in Rom. 11:5 *Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.*
 - c. Today, if Israel wants to return unto the Lord, they must do so by faith in Jesus Christ.
 - d. Paul said in Ro 10:1 *Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.*
 - e. And they, as well as we, can be saved through faith in Jesus Christ.
 - f. They were Heb 3:19 *So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.*
 - g. Read Heb. 4:1-3