

# Jeremiah Chapter 15

March 4, 2009 – Pastor Ronnie Wolfe

## I. GOD'S DETERMINATION TO DESTROY, 15:1-4a

A. Even if Moses and Samuel asked, God would not change his mind, 1

1. Moses -- Exodus 32:11 *And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand? . . . vs. 14 And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people.*

2. Samuel – 1Sa 7:9 *And Samuel took a sucking lamb, and offered [it for] a burnt offering wholly unto the LORD: and Samuel cried unto the LORD for Israel; and the LORD heard him. . . . 10 And as Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to battle against Israel: but the LORD thundered with a great thunder on that day upon the Philistines, and discomfited them; and they were smitten before Israel.*

B. No Matter Where You Go, There Is Destruction, 2-3

C. Judah Will Go Into Other Kingdoms, 4a

## II. GOD'S REASON FOR DESTRUCTION, 15:4b-6

A. Because of Manasseh, 4b

1. 2 Kings 21:9 *But they hearkened not: and Manasseh seduced them to do more evil than did the nations whom the LORD destroyed before the children of Israel.*

2. 2 Kings 24:3 *Surely at the commandment of the LORD came this upon Judah, to remove them out of his sight, for the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he did; 4 And also for the innocent blood that he shed: for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; which the LORD would not pardon.*

3. No One Will Care For Israel, 5

B. Because Israel Has Forsaken God, 6

1. They are gone backward

2. "I am weary with repenting"

## III. GOD'S DESCRIPTION OF DESTRUCTION, 15:7-9

A. The Fanning of Israel (Judah), 7

1. This is like the winnowing of the grain—the fan blows the wheat around to eliminate the chaff.

2. The gates may refer to the entrance of Israel into other lands.

B. The Children of Judah, 7

1. The children are the hope of posterity to a nation.

2. God will take away their likelihood of continuing when the children are gone.

3. Especially the male children, which would perpetuate the race.

C. The Widows, 8-9

1. The widows are increased because of the death of the men
2. A spoiler will come upon the young men to kill them and upon the widows in that they would be devastated by their young men being killed.
3. It is said (Gill) that Nebuchadnezzar came at noonday rather than at night as others have done. He came upon the young men and killed them, leaving the women in a desperate condition.
4. He fell suddenly upon the city.
5. The Widow Languishes, 9
  - a. She has given up the ghost, or died, because she can no longer have sustenance from her husband or her sons. Her young sons are too young to work, and they will probably starve to death; and her older sons die in battle along with her husband.
  - b. Her sun is gone down. This is poetic language for her slow and agonizing death that shall come, or her being taken into captivity.

**IV. THE WOE OF JEREMIAH, 15:10-11**

- A. “Woe is me, my mother . . . “ 10a - Here Jeremiah seems to feel hard toward his mother for his birth, since he was borne as a man of strife and contention; not that he was full of strife or contentious but that he was contended with by others due to his message to Judah.
- B. Jeremiah did not have a common job to earn usury but spent his time preaching, 10b
- C. God answers Jeremiah that his “remnant,” or his end or later life, will be entreated well – See Jeremiah 40:1-6.

**V. THE STRENGTH OF THE NORTH, 15:12-14**

- A. “Shall iron break the northern iron or steel?” 12
  1. The iron from the north was stronger than the iron from Palestine.
  2. God had made Jerusalem a fortress, but it was not strong enough to withstand the plunder of Babylon.
- B. Jerusalem was weak because of their sin, 13
  1. God will give their treasures to Babylon because of Israel’s sin, 13
  2. They will pay for their sins with their money – Jeremiah had little or no money, so this was the treasure of the people of Israel.
- C. Israel will pass into another land which they do not know, 14, because of God’s anger.

**VI. THE CRY OF JEREMIAH, 15:15-18**

- A. Jeremiah’s Suffering & Righteousness, 15
  1. Remember me – because Jeremiah has been faithful to his office as prophet
  2. Revenge me of my persecutors for the sake of God’s glory
  3. Take me not away - do not kill me because of Israel’s sins
  4. Know that I have suffered rebuke for God’s sake
- B. Jeremiah Finds The Words of God, 16
  1. They were found – as though Jeremiah had been searching for hidden treasure and

- had found the very words of God in their inspiration.
2. They were eaten – as though this was a treasure of fine cuisine for Jeremiah to eat, and he rejoiced in his heart to have such a feast.
  3. He is called by God’s name, “The LORD God of hosts.”
- C. Jeremiah Described His Righteousness, 17
1. Sat not in the assembly of the mockers, nor rejoiced
  2. He sat alone, deserted by men who did not want to hear his message
  3. God had filled him with indignation against Judah’s sins to detest them and to tell the truth of God’s prophecies.
- D. Jeremiah’s Amazement At Suffering, 18
1. My pain perpetual – seemingly Jeremiah is suffering with the sinners.
  2. My wound incurable – The wounds that came from his friends who spoke harshly against his prophecies and prophesied lies to the people.
  3. As a liar – Of course, Jeremiah knew that God was not a liar, but he thought his foes may accuse him of serving a God who does not keep his promise.
  4. Waters that fail – Will God actually keep his promise? Jeremiah knew he would, but his enemies did not and accused Jeremiah of preaching a God who fails.

**VII. THE ANSWER OF GOD, 15:19-21**

- A. If thou return – meaning that Jeremiah is an individual and must repent just as others; he is not special in that case with God.
- B. I will bring thee again – If Jeremiah were to go astray and be unfaithful to God in his faith and message, then through repentance God will bring him back to his office.
- C. He must take the precious from the vile, 19, the good word of God from the false words of false prophets.
- D. Don’t join up with the false prophets. Let them return to you, Jeremiah, but do not turn unto them.
- E. Jeremiah Will Be A Fenced Brazen Wall – Jer 1:18 *For, behold, I have made thee this day a defenced city, and an iron pillar, and brasen walls against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against the princes thereof, against the priests thereof, and against the people of the land.*
- F. God will deliver Jeremiah out of all trouble, 20-21