

The Book of Jeremiah #4

10/22/2008 – Pastor Ronnie Wolfe
Jeremiah Chapter 3 – The Whoredom of Israel

I. ISRAEL'S SIN OF WHOREDOM (Jeremiah 3:1-5)

A. The Description Of Their Whoredoms, 1

1. A description of the law of Moses. No man was permitted to go back with his former wife.
 - a. Deut 24:4 *Her former husband, which sent her away, may not take her again to be his wife, after that she is defiled; for that [is] abomination before the LORD: and thou shalt not cause the land to sin, which the LORD thy God giveth thee [for] an inheritance.*
 - b. If they become husband and wife again, the land will be polluted.
2. The description of Israel's Whoredoms
 - a. They played the harlot with many lovers (many, many lovers). We shall see this in verse 2.
 - b. There were as many idols as there were cities (Jeremiah 2:28).
 - c. They played the harlot, yet they would return to the Lord and pretend to be worshiping him, also.
 - d. How can they return to their God when they are in idolatry on every hand?
 - e. But God will allow them to return (contrary to their national law)
 - (1) Mal 3:7 *Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept [them]. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?*

B. The Direction Of Their Whoredoms, 2

1. Upon every mountain
 - a. Israel is asked to look upon the mountains and high places to tell where they had lain with the idols, committing spiritual fornication against Jehovah.
 - b. It was upon every mountain (and some manmade) that they were worshiping idols.
 - c. 2 Kings 17:9-12 *And the children of Israel did secretly those things that were not right against the LORD their God, and they built them high places in all their cities, from the tower of the watchmen to the fenced city. 10 And they set them up images and groves in every high hill, and under every green tree: 11 And there they burnt incense in all the high places, as did the heathen whom the LORD carried away before them; and wrought wicked things to provoke the LORD to anger: 12 For they served idols, whereof the LORD had said unto them, Ye shall not do this thing.*
2. As the Arabian in the wilderness
 - a. Arabians were known for waiting in the desert for people to come by either to sell the people goods or to rob them.
 - b. These Arabians were known for their robberies and their killings.
 - c. The people of Israel were not taken away from their God by temptation but by their

own waiting for the invitation of the idols. This is a desperate and despicable condition to be in—waiting for the opportunity of sin to come by your door.

3. This polluted the land with idolatry, yet Israel came back to Jehovah from time to time and wanted his approval.

C. The Cause For Withholding, 3-5

1. The showers are held back from watering the fields needed for food because of Israel's sin, 3, and there is no latter rain (a very important rain for harvest).
2. They had a whore's forehead. This was an uncovered head that showed no shame for the sin that was being committed.
3. Will they not, for this withholding of the rains, return and come back to God and cry unto him? 4
4. Ps 79:5 *How long, LORD? wilt thou be angry for ever? shall thy jealousy burn like fire?*
5. No, God's anger will not always be against Israel. We will study this as we go through the book in detail.

II. **JUDAH SINNED GREATER THAN ISRAEL**, Jeremiah 3:6-11

A. Treacherous Sister Judah

1. God asked Jeremiah if he sees what Israel did in going after idols, 6
2. God asked Israel to return to him, but they did not, 7
3. Judah saw all of this and should have known to return to God

B. Judah Does Not Repent

1. After God had put Israel away (captivity) and divorced her, 8
2. Judah did not fear God but went and played the harlot, also.

C. Defilement Of The Land

1. The lightness (or swiftness) of her whoredoms illustrates how easy it was for Judah to sin, 8
2. She committed adultery with stones and with stocks
3. Idols were made of stones and stocks (wood), 9

D. Feigned Love Of Judah, 10-11

1. Verse 10 tells us that Judah turned to God only "feignedly," or faintly, or artificially, deceitfully.
2. Verse 11 explains to us that Judah sinned worse than Israel, because Israel is more justified in her sin than Judah. Judah saw what happened to Israel and should have known better.

III. **GOD'S MERCY UPON JUDAH AND ISRAEL**, Jeremiah 3:12-20

A. Two Things Required of Israel, 12-14

1. First, Acknowledge Thine Iniquity, 13
 - a. This is a first step toward repentance. One must know sin and admit or confess sin before he can come back to God. 1 John 1:9 *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
 - b. We must be specific in our confession, 13
2. Second, Turn, 14

- a. This word “turn” means to turn back again.
 - b. God is married to Israel, and they have turned away from him; but he is willing to take them back
 - c. If they return (implying coming to God through salvation), he will take them even in small numbers, one or two at a time, if they will repent of sin and trust the Savior, Jesus Christ; and he will bring them to Zion (Heaven).
 - d. Heb 12:22 *But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,*
- B. The Blessings Of The Return, 15-20
- 1. He will give them pastors, 15, who will feed them with knowledge and understanding.
 - a. These are the apostles of the New Testament, who were inspired to write the word of God with knowledge increasing and God’s revealing his word to men.
 - b. The understanding comes through the work of the Holy Spirit, who illuminates us to truth. This is the Spirit’s job.
 - 2. No More Ark Of The Covenant, 16
 - a. When Judah comes back into the land, it will introduce the time of the Messiah, the second period of Jewish history.
 - b. In that second period of Jewish history, Jesus will come and will be the Messiah and give himself for his sheep.
 - c. The Ark of the Covenant will be replaced by the word of God, which will be finished in this period of time. Israel will not need, after the death of Christ, to ever go back to the tabernacle or temple or carry up the ark of the covenant again—it is past.
 - 3. They Will Call Jerusalem The Throne of God, 17
 - a. This is where Jesus died, and Jews will be worshiping Jesus as God here in Jerusalem.
 - b. Jesus will deliver himself up to God on the cross here at Jerusalem.
 - c. Jesus will meet with God at the eternal altar in heaven. This is God’s throne.
 - d. “Neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart.” This is salvation for Jewish believers in Jesus Christ.
 - 4. Judah And Israel Together, 18
 - a. The captivity of the north (Assyria and Babylon) will be over in this second period of Israel’s history, and it will be a time when they will walk together and both see the Messiah and trust in him one at a time and be brought back to God.
 - b. They returned to the land of their fathers, Canaan, and in that land the Messiah was manifested in the coming of Jesus Christ as the Son of God to earth.
 - 5. How Can They Be Among The Children?, 19-20
 - a. The only way they can be children and be blessed is, “Thou shalt call me, My father, and shalt not turn away from me.”
 - b. This can be done only through the salvation of God through Jesus Christ through faith in him.
 - c. Jeremiah then reminds them that they have indeed turned away from her husband. It is an invitation to return.

- IV. **THE SALVATION OF ISRAEL**, Jeremiah 3:21-25
- A. Jeremiah personalizes the events of this chapter by speaking of the voice that was heard, a voice of weeping and supplications, this because of their sin – we all need repentance.
 - B. They said, “Behold , we come unto thee: for thou art the LORD our God.”
 - C. Salvation is in vain from the hills (idolatry) and the mountains.
 - D. “Truly in the LORD our God is the salvation of Israel.”
 - E. “We lie down in our shame.”
 - F. Israel will never be saved until she understands her sin and returns to the God who delivered them out of the land of Egypt.
 - G. Then lastly admit and confess that they have not obeyed the voice of the LORD.