

# The Book of Jeremiah #5

10/229/2008 – Pastor Ronnie Wolfe  
Jeremiah Chapter 4 – The Whoredom of Israel

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## I. THE COMMAND TO RETURN (4:1-2)

### A. Seven Commands To Return

1. Return again to me (3:1)
2. Return, backsliding Israel (3:2)
3. Return, backsliding children (3:22)
4. Return unto me (4:1)
5. Return every one from his evil way (18:11)
6. Return unto me with your whole heart (24:7)
7. Return now every one, amend your ways (35:19)

### B. Two Reasons To Avoid Captivity

1. If they wilt return (4:1)
2. If they will put away your abominations out of my sight (4:1)

### C. Two Blessings If Israel Will Return

1. They will not remove (1)
2. Swear that the Lord liveth . . . (2)

## II. SPIRITUAL CIRCUMCISION (4:3-4)

### A. Breaking Up The Fallow Ground

1. Fallow ground is ground that has been left to itself: no cultivation
2. This is mentioned again in Hosea 10:12 *Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for [it is] time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.*
3. To break up the fallow ground means to not to sow seeds of repentance on unfit soil. The soil must be prepared first—the heart.

### B. Sow Not Among Thorns

1. This is to allow bad practices to grow such as worshiping idols.
2. Repentance is a serious matter of the heart

### C. Circumcision Of The Heart (4)

1. Rom. 2:29 *But he [is] a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision [is that] of the heart, in the spirit, [and] not in the letter; whose praise [is] not of men, but of God.*
2. Without circumcision of the heart, God's judgments will continue with a certainty.

## III. SOUND OF THE ALARM (4:5-7)

### A. Alarm From The Trumpet (5)

1. This alarm was not one to bring together for defense or offense, but it was for the people to come together and hide from the enemy, for the destruction was sure.
2. They must go into the defenced cities. This is not to say that they will head the alarm.

### B. Setting Up The Standard (6)

1. The word standard (Heb. NEC), is the word for a signpost, one given for direction.
2. This standard was set up to show people where to go to be safe from the invading armies of the north.

C. Warning Of The Lion (7)

1. The Lion is Nebuchadnezzar from Babylon. *Jer 50:17 Israel [is] a scattered sheep; the lions have driven [him] away: first the king of Assyria hath devoured him; and last this Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon hath broken his bones.*
2. The Roman Emperor is called a lion also -- 2 Tim. 4:17 *Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and [that] all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.*
3. The cities of Judah will be laid waste.

**IV. THE LORD'S FIERCE JUDGMENT IS SURE (4:8-13)**

A. Gird With Sackcloth, and Lament and Howl (8)

1. This is because the Lord's anger is not turned away, because Judah has not repented.
2. There was only one way for God's anger to turn away: repentance.

B. Effect On The Heart (9)

1. This judgment will melt the hearts of the king and the princes.
2. Also, the priest will be astonished, because he never thought that God's judgment would come.
3. Also, the prophets shall wonder, because neither did they have insight into the true judgment of God. Their prophecies were false.

C. God's Deceit (10)

1. God is said to have deceived the people, because the prophets were prophesying in God's name and telling the people that God would send peace and not judgment.
2. The prophets were supposed to speak for God, but they were speaking falsely.
3. The sword of falsehood was piercing the souls of the hearers, because they thought it was God speaking through the prophets.

D. A Dry Wind (11-13)

1. This wind will come, not gently to winnow (not to fan, not to cleanse).
2. It was a full wind, speaking of Nebuchadnezzar's coming in destruction from Babylon.
3. The word "he" is used in verse 13

**V. A CALL TO THE HEART (4:14-18)**

A. Wash Thine Heart (14)

1. From wickedness
2. That thou mayest be saved – from the destruction of Babylon
3. But spiritually from sin and spiritual and eternal destruction in Hell.
4. They should not spend one more night with their vain thoughts but dispel them through repentance. 2Co 6:2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now [is] the accepted time; behold, now [is] the day of salvation.)

B. Declaration Of Destruction (15-17)

1. Declare from Dan indicates the north, Babylon

2. This is a message from Babylon for nations to come together with Babylon against Jerusalem.
  3. These “watchers” give out their voice against Jerusalem
- C. Thy Ways and Thy Doings (18)
1. These have procured or purchased this judgment
  2. This wickedness has reached into the heart of the people.
  3. That is why their hearts need to be circumcised.

**VI. THE ALARM OF THE PEOPLE (4:19-22)**

- A. Alarmed Because Of The Trumpet (19)
- B. Alarmed Because Of The Destruction (20)
- C. Alarmed Because Of Not Responding To The Standard (21)
- D. Judah Is A Sottish (Foolish) Children
  1. They have no understanding
  2. They are wise to do evil
  3. They have no knowledge to do good.

**VII. THE COMPLETE DESTRUCTION OF JUDAH (4:23-29)**

- A. The Destruction (23-26)
  1. Jeremiah compares the destruction of the “earth” or “land” to that of the earth at its first creation. (23)
  2. Mountains And Hills Trembled (24)
  3. There was no man, not even birds were there (25)
  4. Fruitful place was a wilderness (26)
  5. The cities were broken down because of God’s anger with Judah (26)
- B. The Partial Destruction (27-29)
  1. God will not completely destroy this land
  2. The Lord will destroy and will not repent
  3. Every city will be forsaken, and not a man shall dwell there (29).
  4. Yet it will not be destroyed forever.

**VIII. THE BITTER END OF THIS DESTRUCTION (4:30-31)**

- A. When you are spoiled, what will you do? (30)
  1. Even if you become prosperous in your new land, the nations will despise you.
- B. The Anguish Of Sin’s Fruit (31)
  1. Voice as a woman in travail.
  2. Zion bewails herself
  3. Spreads her hands, saying “Woe is me now!”
  4. “For my soul is wearied because of murderers.
    - a. They are murderers who do not tell of God’s judgment
    - b. They are murderers who do not give the Gospel of Christ
    - c. Hosea 4:6 *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.*