



“Enduring The Present Crisis In View Of A Future Hope” (Jeremiah 14-16)

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14:1-6 The creation itself is groaning under the weight of Judah’s sin (See Romans 8:22). Drought is the proper punishment for the breaking of the covenant according to Deut. 11:16-17; 28:23-24. Drought is intended by God to get people’s attention, to bring them to a place of repentance.

14:7-9 Jeremiah’s cry to the Lord. It is a humble cry, an intercessory cry, but also a questioning cry; Jeremiah is literally saying “For God’s sake, do something!” To him God seemed like “a traveler who stays only a night.” In other words, God showed up briefly but didn’t stay. God also seemed like “a man taken by surprise...a warrior powerless to save.” In other words, the enemy has ambushed God & has him in captivity.

14:10 The Lord’s answer to Jeremiah – the time for judgment has come.

14:11-12; 15:1-2 Mention of these two men was significant because Moses had interceded for the nation to turn away God’s wrath (Ex. 32:9-14; Num. 14:11-20; Deut. 9:18-20, 25-29), and Samuel had interceded to defeat the nation’s enemies and turn away God’s wrath (1 Sam. 7:5-11; 12:19-25).

* There is a time when prayer will do no good for someone; See Rev. 15:7-8; I John 5:16-17.

14:13 Jeremiah is struggling with the message he believes God has spoken to him, because he is the only one proclaiming coming judgment. Every else is preaching positive, prosperity messages.

14:14-16 God confirms the lies these false prophets are speaking.

* See II Timothy 4:1-5

* The message I have for the world is that things are going to get worse, and that is not a message people want to hear. The message I have for the world is that God’s wrath is coming upon it, and the only hope for anyone is to repent...

14:17-22 Another of Jeremiah’s heartfelt prayers

15:3-9 What a negative message to have to speak!

* v.9 To be a **mother of seven** young men symbolized a zenith of happiness and security. This is the mother of the perfect family that in the end faces despair & doom.

15:10 Jeremiah is struggling greatly with this whole situation, especially in light of all he is having to suffer as a result.

* Lending & borrowing are actions that can cause conflicts (outstanding debts, defaulting on loans). Jeremiah is experiencing conflict even though he has been engaged in neither...

15:11 Those who had been his **enemies** would **plead with** him when the **times of distress** finally arrived. This promise was fulfilled specifically in the requests of King Zedekiah to Jeremiah (cf. Jer. 21:1-7; 37:1-10, 17-20; 38:14-18).

15:12 He's referring to the Babylonians; God asked a rhetorical question to emphasize the inevitability of judgment. Just as a **man** cannot **break iron** or **bronze** with his bare hands, so the people of Judah would be unable to break the power of the Babylonian attack on their nation.

15:15-18 Throughout this book Jeremiah struggles greatly with his situation, and with his God. In chapter twenty he evens curses the day he was born! Here he wonders if, despite all his righteous actions – loving God's Word, separating himself from the godlessness all around him, being filled with righteous indignation at the sin and idolatry in the land, will God let him down? He questions God's character...

15:19-21 God rebuked Jeremiah for his doubt and self-pity. Jeremiah needed to **repent** if he hoped to **serve** God. To be God's **spokesman** he had to **utter worthy, not worthless, words**. He was to remain steadfast before God so the **people** would **turn to** him; in no case was he to **turn to them**. If someone was to move, it was to be the people, not Jeremiah! God ended His rebuke by restating the promises He made when He commissioned Jeremiah as a prophet (cf. 1:18-19).

16:1-4 Not only was this a practical prohibition for Jeremiah in order to save his wife & kids from the terrible calamities about to unfold, but it was one of several living object lessons for the people of Judah.

16:5-7 Jeremiah was **not to enter a house where ... a funeral meal** was being eaten, or **mourn or show sympathy** (cf. Ezek. 24:15-24). He was not to display the normal emotion of grief or to offer comfort when someone died. There were two purposes in this action. First, it was to show that God had **withdrawn** His **blessing ... love, and pity**. Second, it served as a reminder that those who would **die** during the fall of Jerusalem would **not be buried or mourned** (cf. Jer. 16:4) and that the survivors would find no one to **console them** in their grief. The devastation would simply be too widespread. To **cut** oneself and to **shave** one's **head** were signs of grief (cf. 41:5; 47:5; 48:37) though cutting oneself was forbidden by the Law (Deut. 14:1) because of its pagan associations.

16:8-9 Jeremiah was **not to enter a house where there was feasting**. The purpose of this prohibition was to indicate that times of feasting and happiness would soon cease. God vowed to **bring an end to** Judah's **joy** and her present times of happiness (cf. 25:10).

16:10-13 This is typical of people's attitude when one speaks of the terrible judgments that are prophesied to come upon the world.

16:14-15, 19-21 As we see over and over in the messages of the prophets, as dark as the night may become as a result of sin & idolatry, there is always a word of hope regarding the future. And this is God's intention, to not leave us in gloom & doom, but to keep us looking forward to a future day when the light dawns & gets ever and ever brighter. Jeremiah looks forward to not only the end of the Babylonian captivity, but to a yet future time when the redeemed from all nations will come confessing the foolish idolatry of their ancestors, and glorying in the mercy and grace of the only true God. How I look forward to that day!

* The only people who need fear doom, gloom, & the judgment to come are those who refuse to repent and get right with God...

CONCLUSION

* At this present time in my life things are going pretty well. I am fairly healthy, my family is healthy, the dog is healthy, it has been raining regularly at my house, I have money in the bank, I think there are more people directly in my life that like me than there are those who do not. But I am not deceived regarding the future of the world I live in. My father's wife called today, & my dad had a heart attack...reading the paper...Casey Anthony trial/lawyer's comments about the death penalty...situations in the Middle East, etc. Folks, we're dying, the present world is decaying, & judgment is coming...but with judgment comes my Jesus!

* See Rev.1:7

* What's your situation in life? Having struggles with God over your situation? Need some encouragement?

* Eccl.3:1-8; Psalm 30:4-5; Habbakuk 3:12, 15-16a, 16b-19; Romans 8:18-39.