



“God’s Desire, Sin’s Deception” (Jeremiah 17-18)

Danny Hodges- OT2399

17:1 Deeply embedded sin, hardened hearts

17:4a A man’s own folly ruins his life

17:5-9 Great statements by Jeremiah that sound very similar to Psalm 1

17:9-10 Jeremiah doesn’t realize how true these words really are, even about his own heart! (We’ll come back to that in our next study of Jeremiah).

17:14-18 Once again we see Jeremiah’s humanness here. He reminds the Lord of his commitment, then begs the Lord to spare him of the coming judgment.

17:19-21, 27

18:1-11 The message here is this: God is the potter and he desires to mold us into something useful and beautiful, but what he desires to design is dependent upon our submission to His will. Our rebellion will ruin his plans for us, so that what he wanted to do with us is he cannot...

* There was a message for the nation here, and the same message goes out for nations today, especially America. All one has to do is study the history of America, and there is no denying our Judeo-Christian heritage. And God has shed his grace upon America. But America must never take that grace for granted. We have over the years moved further and further from the biblical principles and beliefs upon which this nation was founded. And if we continue in that direction, our days as a blessed nation are numbered.

* But there was also a personal message here. When Jeremiah spoke God’s Word to these people, every individual had an opportunity to repent, and while their personal repentance would not keep the Babylonians from invading their land, it would keep them from being robbed of redemption/salvation...

* See Jeremiah 29:10-14; Matthew 23:37; II Sam.12:8b-9;

18:12 This is prophetic of these people’s hearts...

18:13-20 End with v.20b, emphasizing Jeremiah’s intercession on their behalf

* See 14:11-12; Why would he intercede? The intercession here is not going to save them from the Babylonians soon coming, but it could save them from ultimate destruction when the Babylonians do come...

CONCLUSION

* The proper thing for clay to do is trust the potter and yield to his skillful hands...

* Next few chapters we will see Jeremiah once again struggling with God's handling of the affairs that are affecting these hard hearted people, but himself as well...are you struggling with God's will for your life tonight?

* 1. By faith, put your life on the potter's wheel, ask God to mold you, shape you through the circumstances...

* 2. Pray for someone tonight who is not submitted to the potter

* 3. Stop resisting God, repent, and submit your will to His will for your life
- Acts 7:51; 26:14

* 4. Praise and thank the Lord for how he's molded and shaped your life...some of us can look back at painful, perplexing experiences, but we have reached out again and again to the stream of living water, and God has not disappointed us...