

CHAPTER 1

THE words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah, of the priests that *were* in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin:

2 To whom the word of the LORD came in the days of Josiah the son of Amon king of Judah, in the thirteenth year of his reign.

3 It came also in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, unto the end of the eleventh year of Zedekiah the son of Josiah king of Judah, unto the carrying away of Jerusalem captive in the fifth month.

4. Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, *and* I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

6 Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I *am* a child.

7 ¶ But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I *am* a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and

whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.

8 Be not afraid of their faces: for I *am* with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD.

9 Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth.

10 See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.

11 ¶ Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Jeremiah, what seest thou? And I said, I see a rod of an almond tree.

12 Then said the LORD unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten my word to perform it.

13 And the word of the LORD came unto me the second time, saying, What seest thou? And I said, I see a seething pot; and the face thereof *is* toward the north.

14 Then the LORD said unto me, Out of the north an evil shall break

forth upon all the inhabitants of the land.

15 For, lo, I will call all the families of the kingdoms of the north, saith the LORD; and they shall come, and they shall set every one his throne at the entering of the gates of Jerusalem, and against all the walls thereof round about, and against all the cities of Judah.

16 And I will utter my judgments against them touching all their wickedness, who have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, and worshipped the works of their own hands.

17 ¶ Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them.

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.

19 And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I *am* with thee, saith the LORD, to deliver thee.

CHAPTER 2

MOREOVER the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

2 Go and cry in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the LORD; I remember thee, the kindness of thy youth, the love of thine espousals, when thou wentest after me in the wilderness, in a land *that was* not sown.

3 Israel *was* holiness unto the LORD, *and* the firstfruits of his increase: all that devour him shall offend; evil shall come upon them, saith the LORD.

4 Hear ye the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel:

5 ¶ Thus saith the LORD, What iniquity have your fathers found in me, that they are gone far from me, and have walked after vanity, and are become vain?

6 Neither said they, Where *is* the LORD that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, that led us through the wilderness, through a land of deserts and of pits, through a land of drought, and of the shadow of death, through a land that no man passed through, and where no man dwelt?

7 And I brought you into a plentiful country, to eat the fruit thereof

and the goodness thereof; but when ye entered, ye defiled my land, and made mine heritage an abomination.

8 The priests said not, Where *is* the LORD? and they that handle the law knew me not: the pastors also transgressed against me, and the prophets prophesied by Baal, and walked after *things that* do not profit.

9 ¶ Wherefore I will yet plead with you, saith the LORD, and with your children's children will I plead.

10 For pass over the isles of Chittim, and see; and send unto Kedar, and consider diligently, and see if there be such a thing.

11 Hath a nation changed *their* gods, which *are* yet no gods? but my people have changed their glory for *that which* doth not profit.

12 Be astonished, O ye heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid, be ye very desolate, saith the LORD.

13 For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, *and* hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

14 ¶ *Is* Israel a servant? *is* he a homeborn *slave*? why is he spoiled?

15 The young lions roared upon

him, *and* yelled, and they made his land waste: his cities are burned without inhabitant.

16 Also the children of Noph and Tahapanes have broken the crown of thy head.

17 Hast thou not procured this unto thyself, in that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God, when he led thee by the way?

18 And now what hast thou to do in the way of Egypt, to drink the waters of Sihor? or what hast thou to do in the way of Assyria, to drink the waters of the river?

19 Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee: know therefore and see that *it is* an evil *thing* and bitter, that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God, and that my fear *is* not in thee, saith the Lord GOD of hosts.

20 ¶ For of old time I have broken thy yoke, *and* burst thy bands; and thou saidst, I will not transgress; when upon every high hill and under every green tree thou wanderest, playing the harlot.

21 Yet I had planted thee a noble vine, wholly a right seed: how then art thou turned into the degenerate plant of a strange vine unto me?

22 For though thou wash thee with nitre, and take thee much soap, *yet* thine iniquity is marked before me, saith the Lord GOD.

23 How canst thou say, I am not polluted, I have not gone after Baalim? see thy way in the valley, know what thou hast done: *thou art* a swift dromedary traversing her ways;

24 A wild ass used to the wilderness, *that* snuffeth up the wind at her pleasure; in her occasion who can turn her away? all they that seek her will not weary themselves; in her month they shall find her.

25 Withhold thy foot from being unshod, and thy throat from thirst: but thou saidst, There is no hope: no; for I have loved strangers, and after them will I go.

26 As the thief is ashamed when he is found, so is the house of Israel ashamed; they, their kings, their princes, and their priests, and their prophets,

27 Saying to a stock, Thou *art* my father; and to a stone, Thou hast brought me forth: for they have turned *their* back unto me, and not *their* face: but in the time of their trouble they will say, Arise, and save us.

28 But where *are* thy gods that

thou hast made thee? let them arise, if they can save thee in the time of thy trouble: for *according to* the number of thy cities are thy gods, O Judah.

29. Wherefore will ye plead with me? ye all have transgressed against me, saith the LORD.

30 In vain have I smitten your children; they received no correction: your own sword hath devoured your prophets, like a destroying lion.

31 ¶ O generation, see ye the word of the LORD. Have I been a wilderness unto Israel? a land of darkness? wherefore say my people, We are lords; we will come no more unto thee?

32 Can a maid forget her ornaments, *or* a bride her attire? yet my people have forgotten me days without number.

33 Why trimmest thou thy way to seek love? therefore hast thou also taught the wicked ones thy ways.

34 Also in thy skirts is found the blood of the souls of the poor innocents: I have not found it by secret search, but upon all these.

35 Yet thou sayest, Because I am innocent, surely his anger shall turn from me. Behold, I will plead

with thee, because thou sayest, I have not sinned.

36 Why gaddest thou about so much to change thy way? thou also shalt be ashamed of Egypt, as thou wast ashamed of Assyria.

37 Yea, thou shalt go forth from him, and thine hands upon thine head: for the LORD hath rejected thy confidences, and thou shalt not prosper in them.

CHAPTER 3

THEY say, If a man put away his wife, and she go from him, and become another man's, shall he return unto her again? shall not that land be greatly polluted? but thou hast played the harlot with many lovers; yet return again to me, saith the LORD.

2 Lift up thine eyes unto the high places, and see where thou hast not been lien with. In the ways hast thou sat for them, as the Arabian in the wilderness; and thou hast polluted the land with thy whoredoms and with thy wickedness.

3 Therefore the showers have been withholden, and there hath been no latter rain; and thou hadst a whore's forehead, thou refusedst to be ashamed.

4 Wilt thou not from this time

cry unto me, My father, thou *art* the guide of my youth?

5 Will he reserve *his anger* for ever? will he keep *it* to the end? Behold, thou hast spoken and done evil things as thou couldest.

6 ¶ The LORD said also unto me in the days of Josiah the king, Hast thou seen *that* which backsliding Israel hath done? she is gone up upon every high mountain and under every green tree, and there hath played the harlot.

7 And I said after she had done all these *things*, Turn thou unto me. But she returned not. And her treacherous sister Judah saw *it*.

8 And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also.

9 And it came to pass through the lightness of her whoredom, that she defiled the land, and committed adultery with stones and with stocks.

10 And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah hath not turned unto me with her whole heart, but feignedly, saith the LORD.

11 And the LORD said unto me, The backsliding Israel hath justified herself more than treacherous Judah.

12 ¶ Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the LORD; *and* I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I *am* merciful, saith the LORD, *and* I will not keep *anger* for ever.

13 Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy God, and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the LORD.

14 Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion:

15 And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

16 And it shall come to pass, when ye be multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, saith the LORD, they shall say no more, The ark of the covenant of the LORD: neither shall it come to mind: neither shall they remember

it; neither shall they visit *it*; neither shall *that* be done any more.

17 At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart.

18 In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given for an inheritance unto your fathers.

19 But I said, How shall I put thee among the children, and give thee a pleasant land, a goodly heritage of the hosts of nations? and I said, Thou shalt call me, My father; and shalt not turn away from me.

20 ¶ Surely *as* a wife treacherously departeth from her husband, so have ye dealt treacherously with me, O house of Israel, saith the LORD.

21 A voice was heard upon the high places, weeping *and* supplications of the children of Israel: for they have perverted their way, *and* they have forgotten the LORD their God.

22 Return, ye backsliding children, *and* I will heal your backslid-

ings. Behold, we come unto thee; for thou *art* the LORD our God.

23 Truly in vain *is salvation hoped for* from the hills, *and from* the multitude of mountains: truly in the LORD our God *is* the salvation of Israel.

24 For shame hath devoured the labour of our fathers from our

youth; their flocks and their herds, their sons and their daughters.

25 We lie down in our shame, and our confusion covereth us: for we have sinned against the LORD our God, we and our fathers, from our youth even unto this day, and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

The name “Jeremiah” means “whom Jehovah appoints.” Apart from this appointment by God, certainly this prophet could not have continued to minister faithfully. He was of the priestly line and lived in the priest’s city of Anathoth. Apparently he had some personal wealth because he was able to purchase real estate and even hire a scribe. He was called to the ministry when he was a child, undoubtedly in his teens.

Jeremiah ministered during the last 40 years of Judah’s history, from the 13th year of Josiah to the destruction of Jerusalem. He lived to see his beloved nation go down into sin, war, and judgment; yet through it all he was faithful to preach God’s Word.

When Jeremiah began his ministry, Assyria was the leading power in the world; but Egypt and Babylon were rapidly gaining strength. In 607 B.C., the Babylonians took Nineveh and destroyed the power of Assyria. Babylon then turned to Judah, and Judah’s politicians advised the kings to ask Egypt for help. Jeremiah was always against an Egyptian alliance. He knew that God’s people should not seek help from the world. He knew Judah’s only hope was in the Lord; but her sins were so great that the nation had lost the blessing of God. Babylon did finally capture Judah and took Jerusalem. Jeremiah wrote “Lamentations” to commemorate the death of the Holy City.

Chapter 1 gives the call of Jeremiah. Like Moses, he was reluctant to accept the responsibility, but did succumb to God’s call. Jeremiah’s first message was to a backslidden nation. It was threefold. He reminded Israel of God’s wonderful blessings and deliverance; he rebuked them for forsaking God’ and then he accuses them of following other gods. Verse 13 of chapter 2 refers to the people forsaking the Word of God, “the fountain of living waters” and following after false gods, “broken cisterns.”

PROVERB FOR TODAY

“The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it” (Proverbs 10:22).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

Spend this month reviewing the previous 13 lessons. For today, review Memory Verse Assignment 22 (found on page 10).

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

594 B.C.

THE ELDERS OF ISRAEL CAME TO EZEKIEL AND GOD REBUKED THEM.

Ezekiel 30:1-4

1874

THE BIRTHDAY OF HERBERT HOOVER.

Pray for your President today.

1821

MISSOURI WAS ADMITTED TO THE UNION.

Pray for God’s people in Missouri and for the work of the Gospel there.

1883

ROBERT MOFFAT DIED.

Robert Moffat was the only convert in a small rural church one year. The church thought that the year had been a failure, but wee Bobby Moffat, as they called him, became a great missionary and made this perhaps the greatest year in the history of the church. Pray for missionaries everywhere today.

When we think of wee Bobby Moffat, we think that we should not despise little things. God used a little lad to feed the five thousand. He used a little lunch brought by the lad. He used a few water pots to feed the guests at the marriage in Cana Galilee. He used a rod to smite the Red Sea. He used an ox goad

to slay the Philistines. He used a little David to kill Goliath. He used a little nation to take over the land of Canaan. Never despise little things. God can use them.

THE FIRST ELECTRIC STREET RAILWAY WAS OPERATED.

Some of my fondest memories are riding the “street car” and the “interurban.” Let us thank God for these and other modes of transportation.

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1827

RACE RIOT, CINCINNATI. More than one thousand blacks left the city for Canada.

1835

MOB OF WHITE CITIZENS AND A HUNDRED YOKE OF OXEN PULLED A BLACK SCHOOL to a swamp outside the town of Canaan, New Hampshire.

1867

IRA ALDRIDGE, FAMED SHAKESPEAREAN ACTOR, DIES

1944

RACE RIOT, ATHENS, ALABAMA.

1981

THE COCA-COLA BOTTLING COMPANY AGREED to pump \$34 million into black businesses and the black community, ending a national boycott called by PUSH.

Hymn of the Week

“MY JESUS, I LOVE THEE”

Occasionally in the search for information concerning the story behind a particular hymn, impenetrable barriers are encountered. Such is the case with one of America’s best-loved hymns, “My Jesus I Love Thee.” It was not until recent years that the identity of the songwriter was known.

Although his name still remains a mystery, at least to this writer, it is reported that he grew up in Canada. This report probably comes because it was in Toronto in 1858 that he became a Christian. His conversion is an occasion about which to write because just after, and in connection with this glorious event, he wrote the hymn.

The London Hymn Book first published it in 1864. By way of this publication it came to the attention of Dr. A.J. Gordon, a well-known preacher and pastor who provided the musical setting that has helped make the verses so famous.

A more beautiful hymn of consecration cannot be found.

*My Jesus I love Thee,
I know Thou art mine;
For Thee all the follies
of sin I resign;
My gracious Redeemer,
my Saviour art Thou;
If ever I loved Thee,
my Jesus, 'tis now.*

Treasure Path to Soul-Winning

MEMORY VERSE TOPIC FOR THIS WEEK:

DIFFICULT PROBLEMS SOLVED: "THERE ARE TOO MANY HYPOCRITES IN THE CHURCH"

(Assignment 22)

Please review these verses today. (For more details, see “The Treasure Path to Soul Winning” link back on the DailyKJV page.)

You are not to judge.

() Matthew 7:1

Judge not, that ye be not judged..

Those that try to judge are inexcusable.

() Romans 2:1

Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.

Judgment of God according to truth.

() Romans 2:2

But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.

Those that judge do the same thing.

() Romans 2:3

And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?

Only accountable for yourself.

() Romans 14:12

So then everyone of us shall give account of himself to God.