

CHAPTER 7

THE word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,

2 Stand in the gate of the LORD'S house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the LORD, all *ye of* Judah, that enter in at these gates to worship the LORD.

3 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place.

4 Trust ye not in lying words, saying, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, *are* these.

5 For if ye thoroughly amend your ways and your doings; if ye thoroughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbour;

6 *If* ye oppress not the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and shed not innocent blood in this place, neither walk after other gods to your hurt:

7 Then will I cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers, for ever and ever.

8 ¶ Behold, ye trust in lying

words, that cannot profit.

9 Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not;

10 And come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, We are delivered to do all these abominations?

11 Is this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, even I have seen *it*, saith the LORD.

12 But go ye now unto my place which *was* in Shiloh, where I set my name at the first, and see what I did to it for the wickedness of my people Israel.

13 And now, because ye have done all these works, saith the LORD, and I spake unto you, rising up early and speaking, but ye heard not; and I called you, but ye answered not;

14 Therefore will I do unto *this* house, which is called by my name, wherein ye trust, and unto the place which I gave to you and to

your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh.

15 And I will cast you out of my sight, as I have cast out all your brethren, *even* the whole seed of Ephraim.

16. Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee.

17 ¶ Seest thou not what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem?

18 The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead *their* dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto other gods, that they may provoke me to anger.

19 Do they provoke me to anger? saith the LORD: *do they* not *provoke* themselves to the confusion of their own faces?

20 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, mine anger and my fury shall be poured out upon this place, upon man, and upon beast, and upon the trees of the field, and upon the fruit of the ground; and it shall burn, and shall not be quenched.

21 ¶ Thus saith the LORD of

hosts, the God of Israel; Put your burnt offerings unto your sacrifices, and eat flesh.

22 For I spake not unto your fathers, nor commanded them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices:

23 But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you.

24 But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels *and* in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward.

25 Since the day that your fathers came forth out of the land of Egypt unto this day I have even sent unto you all my servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending *them*:

26 Yet they hearkened not unto me, nor inclined their ear, but hardened their neck: they did worse than their fathers.

27 Therefore thou shalt speak all these words unto them; but they will not hearken to thee: thou shalt also call unto them; but they will not answer thee.

28 But thou shalt say unto them, This *is* a nation that obeyeth not the voice of the LORD their God, nor receiveth correction: truth is perished, and is cut off from their mouth.

29 ¶ Cut off thine hair, *O Jerusalem*, and cast *it* away, and take up a lamentation on high places; for the LORD hath rejected and forsaken the generation of his wrath.

30 For the children of Judah have done evil in my sight, saith the LORD: they have set their abominations in the house which is called by my name, to pollute it.

31 And they have built the high places of Tophet, which *is* in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire; which I commanded *them* not, neither came it into my heart.

32 ¶ Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that it shall no more be called Tophet, nor the valley of the son of Hinnom, but the valley of slaughter: for they shall bury in Tophet, till there be no place.

33 And the carcases of this people shall be meat for the fowls of the heaven, and for the beasts of

the earth; and none shall fray *them* away.

34 Then will I cause to cease from the cities of Judah, and from the streets of Jerusalem, the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride: for the land shall be desolate.

CHAPTER 8

AT that time, saith the LORD, they shall bring out the bones of the kings of Judah, and the bones of his princes, and the bones of the priests, and the bones of the prophets, and the bones of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, out of their graves:

2 And they shall spread them before the sun, and the moon, and all the host of heaven, whom they have loved, and whom they have served, and after whom they have walked, and whom they have sought, and whom they have worshipped: they shall not be gathered, nor be buried; they shall be for dung upon the face of the earth.

3 And death shall be chosen rather than life by all the residue of them that remain of this evil family, which remain in all the places whither I have driven them, saith the LORD of hosts.

4 ¶ Moreover thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the LORD; Shall they fall, and not arise? shall he turn away, and not return?

5 Why *then* is this people of Jerusalem slidden back by a perpetual backsliding? they hold fast deceit, they refuse to return.

6 I hearkened and heard, *but* they spake not aright: no man repented him of his wickedness, saying, What have I done? every one turned to his course, as the horse rusheth into the battle.

7 Yea, the stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times; and the turtle and the crane and the swallow observe the time of their coming; but my people know not the judgment of the LORD.

8 How do ye say, We *are* wise, and the law of the LORD *is* with us? Lo, certainly in vain made he *it*; the pen of the scribes *is* in vain.

9 The wise *men* are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom *is* in them?

10 Therefore will I give their wives unto others, *and* their fields to them that shall inherit *them*: for every one from the least even unto the greatest is given to covetousness, from the prophet even unto

the priest every one dealeth falsely.

11 For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when *there is* no peace.

12 Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore shall they fall among them that fall: in the time of their visitation they shall be cast down, saith the LORD.

13 ¶ I will surely consume them, saith the LORD: *there shall be* no grapes on the vine, nor figs on the fig tree, and the leaf shall fade; and *the things that* I have given them shall pass away from them.

14 Why do we sit still? assemble yourselves, and let us enter into the defenced cities, and let us be silent there: for the LORD our God hath put us to silence, and given us water of gall to drink, because we have sinned against the LORD.

15 We looked for peace, but no good *came*; *and* for a time of health, and behold trouble!

16 The snorting of his horses was heard from Dan: the whole land trembled at the sound of the neighing of his strong ones; for they are come, and have devoured the

land, and all that is in it; the city, and those that dwell therein.

17 For, behold, I will send serpents, cockatrices, among you, which *will not be* charmed, and they shall bite you, saith the LORD.

18 ¶ *When* I would comfort myself against sorrow, my heart *is* faint in me.

19 Behold the voice of the cry of the daughter of my people because of them that dwell in a far country: *Is not the LORD in Zion? is not her king in her?* Why have they provoked me to anger with their graven images, *and* with strange vanities?

20 The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.

21 For the hurt of the daughter of my people am I hurt; I am black; astonishment hath taken hold on me.

22 *Is there* no balm in Gilead; *is there* no physician there? why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?

CHAPTER 9

OH that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!

2 Oh that I had in the wilder-

ness a lodging place of wayfaring men; that I might leave my people, and go from them! for they *be* all adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men.

3 And they bend their tongues *like* their bow for lies: but they are not valiant for the truth upon the earth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they know not me, saith the LORD.

4 Take ye heed every one of his neighbour, and trust ye not in any brother: for every brother will utterly supplant, and every neighbour will walk with slanders.

5 And they will deceive every one his neighbour, and will not speak the truth: they have taught their tongue to speak lies, *and* weary themselves to commit iniquity.

6 Thine habitation *is* in the midst of deceit; through deceit they refuse to know me, saith the LORD.

7 Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, I will melt them, and try them; for how shall I do for the daughter of my people?

8 Their tongue *is as* an arrow shot out; it speaketh deceit: *one* speaketh peaceably to his neighbour with his mouth, but in heart he layeth his wait.

9 ¶ Shall I not visit them for these *things*? saith the LORD: shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?

10 For the mountains will I take up a weeping and wailing, and for the habitations of the wilderness a lamentation, because they are burned up, so that none can pass through *them*; neither can *men* hear the voice of the cattle; both the fowl of the heavens and the beast are fled; they are gone.

11 And I will make Jerusalem heaps, *and* a den of dragons; and I will make the cities of Judah desolate, without an inhabitant.

12 ¶ Who *is* the wise man, that may understand this? and *who is he* to whom the mouth of the LORD hath spoken, that he may declare it, for what the land perisheth *and* is burned up like a wilderness, that none passeth through?

13 And the LORD saith, Because they have forsaken my law which I set before them, and have not obeyed my voice, neither walked therein;

14 But have walked after the imagination of their own heart, and after Baalim, which their fathers taught them:

15 Therefore thus saith the

LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will feed them, *even* this people, with wormwood, and give them water of gall to drink.

16 I will scatter them also among the heathen, whom neither they nor their fathers have known: and I will send a sword after them, till I have consumed them.

17 ¶ Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Consider ye, and call for the mourning women, that they may come; and send for cunning *women*, that they may come:

18 And let them make haste, and take up a wailing for us, that our eyes may run down with tears, and our eyelids gush out with waters.

19 For a voice of wailing is heard out of Zion, How are we spoiled! we are greatly confounded, because we have forsaken the land, because our dwellings have cast *us* out.

20 Yet hear the word of the LORD, O ye women, and let your ear receive the word of his mouth, and teach your daughters wailing, and every one her neighbour lamentation.

21 For death is come up into our windows, *and* is entered into our palaces, to cut off the children from without, *and* the young men from

the streets.

22 Speak, Thus saith the LORD, Even the carcasses of men shall fall as dung upon the open field, and as the handful after the harvestman, and none shall gather *them*.

23 ¶ Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty *man* glory in his might, let not the rich *man* glory in his riches:

24 But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I *am* the LORD which exercise lov-

ingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these *things* I delight, saith the LORD.

25 ¶ Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will punish all *them which are* circumcised with the uncircumcised;

26 Egypt, and Judah, and Edom, and the children of Ammon, and Moab, and all *that are* in the utmost corners, that dwell in the wilderness: for all *these nations are* uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel *are* uncircumcised in the heart.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

Chapters 1—20 of the Book of Jeremiah contain what is often called Sermons. Sermon 1 could be called “Sin of the Nation” (chapters 2:1—3:5); Sermon 2 is known as “Devastation from the North” (chapters 3:6—6:30); and today we read Sermon 3, “Threat of Exile” (chapters 7—10). This message, like the two preceding ones, was a stern rebuke, warning and exhortation, but centered in the religious conditions in Judah.

It might also be interesting to note here that the very same year in which Jeremiah was called, immense swarms of Barbarians from the north struck terror to the nations of southwest Asia. They dealt a terrific blow to the tottering Assyrian power. On they came, like a flight of locusts—countless, irresistible, finding the land before them like a garden, leaving behind them a howling wilderness. Neither age nor sex would be spared. Inhabitants would be ruthlessly massacred by the invaders or, at best, forced to become slaves. The crops would be consumed, herds swept off or destroyed, the villages or homesteads burned, and the whole country made a scene of desolation.

Chapter 7 records Jeremiah’s heart-rendering appeals for repentance, but again we see the people refusing to heed his warnings. Even though Jeremiah

was trying to give the nation the only remedy for their sin, they rejected and even hated him for his message.

The first part of chapter 8 contains further warnings of judgment against the nation of Israel. All classes of God’s people were corrupted, with the prophets and priests as bad as the rest of the people. Jeremiah’s heart was broken and, in chapter 9, he is again weeping over the nation of Israel.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

“Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding” (Proverbs 9:6).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

Spend this month reviewing the previous 13 lessons. For today, review Memory Verse Assignment 24 (found on page 10).

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1877

THOMAS A. EDISON PATENTED THE PHONOGRAPH.

Probably no man of the recent past has had as much influence in our way of life as has Thomas A. Edison. He gave to us such things as electric lights, phonographs, and other things that we take for grant-

ed. Thank God today for the phonograph. Play some Christian records on yours today. Dedicate your phonograph to Jesus Christ.

Few things tell the character of a person as much as the music to which he listens. Music is a reflection of the condition of the times and the heart. There are certain songs that are written in times of war, times of depression, times of peace, times of plenty, etc. The songs of a nation reflect the circumstances of the nation. The songs of an individual reflect his condition before God. The Bible has a great deal to say about music. Moses wrote a song upon the crossing of the Red Sea. Deborah and Barak sang a song at the defeat of Sisera. Elizabeth sang when she heard of John the Baptist's coming. The Psalmist said the Lord would put a new song in his mouth. Revelation speaks concerning the new song that we will sing in Heaven. Let us dedicate our music and our voices to the Lord Jesus Christ.

1898

HAWAII WAS ANNEXED.

Once again we turn our attention toward this beautiful part of the world and pray for God to bless the dear ones who serve Him there.

THE SIN OF INGRATITUDE.

Many years ago a poll was taken as to the sin most often committed in America. Though no one could quite be perfectly accurate in such a poll, the results revealed that the sin of ingratitude was the sin most often committed. How ungrateful we are. How we forget to be thankful to God for His blessings and His goodness. There were ten that were cleansed of leprosy but only one returned. Ask God to let you be that one today. Let us praise Him for His goodness and thank Him for His provisions and love.

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1890

MISSISSIPPI CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION BEGAN SYSTEMATIC EXCLUSION of blacks from political life of South, August 12-November 1. The Mississippi Plan (Literacy and "understanding tests") was later adopted with embellishments by other states: South Carolina (1895), Louisiana (1898), North Carolina (1900), Alabama (1901), Virginia (1901), Georgia (1908), Oklahoma (1910). Southern states later used "White primaries" and other devices to exclude black voters.

1922

DEDICATION OF FREDERICK DOUGLAS' HOME in Washington DC as national shrine.

1964

RACE RIOT, ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY. (8/12-13).

1965

JONATHAN M. DANIELS, WHITE EPISCOPAL SEMINARY STUDENT FROM MASSACHUSETTS, KILLED and Richard F. Morrisroe, white Roman Catholic priest from Chicago, seriously wounded by shotgun blasts fired by white special deputy sheriff in Hayneville, Alabama. They were participating in civil rights demonstrations in Lowndes County.

1965

RACE RIOT, WEST SIDE OF CHICAGO. National Guard was placed on stand-by alert, August 14. (8/12-14).

The Story of the Psalms

PSALMS 68

AUTHOR: Ezra.

THE STORY BEHIND THE PSALM:

This is a post-captivity Psalm written perhaps by Ezra, probably after the Jews (at least many of them) had arrived back in Jerusalem for the rebuilding of the house of God. Ah, 'twas a happy time, and yet it was a time of persecution. While the main body of the Jews had been away in captivity, a remnant of poor Jews was left in the land. The land was invaded by Assyrians who intermarried with these Jews and a new people rose up called the Samaritans. These Samaritans, under Sanballat and Tobiah, persecuted the remnant of Jews who had returned to rebuild the temple. It was during this persecution that Ezra wrote the 68th Psalm.

How happy were these Jews when they returned to their land! They set out with determination to build, yea, to rebuild the temple; but the enemies discouraged them and they wrote letters back to the king of Persia and soon the work was stopped. After several years of cessation, God raised up two prophets. Read Ezra 5:1. One of these was a young prophet named Zechariah and another was an older man named Haggai. Zechariah was a brilliant young man and Haggai was a simple, steady, wise older man. These two men joined in inspiring the remnant of Jews who had returned from Babylon to return to work and finish the temple. The temple was finished, but ah, the persecution and trouble that they received from the Samaritans and Sanballat and Tobiah were innumerable.

THE WAY IT WAS USED BY GOD'S PEOPLE:

This Psalm was chosen to be sung by martyrs. In fact, through the generations martyrs have chosen these words to be sung. It was a favorite of the Huguenots. It was also chosen by Savonarola and the monks who died with him as they marched to the stake to give their lives for Christ.

Treasure Path to Soul-Winning

MEMORY VERSE TOPIC FOR THIS WEEK:

DIFFICULT PROBLEMS SOLVED: "I CANNOT UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE"

(Assignment 24)

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

A closed book to every one before conversion.

() Romans 3:11

There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

It is spiritually discerned.

() 1 Corinthians 2:14

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

It may be foolish to the unsaved.

() 1 Corinthians 1:18

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

Carnal mind at enmity with God.

() Romans 8:7

Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

God's writings are strange to the lost.

() Hosea 8:12

I have written to him the great things of my law, but they were counted as a strange thing.