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God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Various information and topics that help the reader of the Bible understand the apostles and the Lord Jesus Christ's teachings.

Jeremiah 14.

(2010).

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Teach it, don't demand it.

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Jeremiah 14.

The following is a brief overview of the main topics.
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Jeremiah Prays before the LORD: -

Jeremiah 14:1-2 ----- ¹The word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah concerning the drought: ²"Judah mourns and her gates languish; her people lament on the ground, and the cry of Jerusalem goes up.

Jeremiah; (means, Jehovah exalts).

Jeremiah was one of the greatest Hebrew prophets he was born into a priestly family in a town 2½ miles from Jerusalem. He was called to prophesy after Assyria had invaded the city of Nineveh and taken the Ten Tribes of Israel in the land of Samaria captive. Jeremiah's ministry was through the reign of king Josiah of Judah and continued almost 40 years through the reigns of five successive Judean kings.

Jeremiah prophesied during the revival of the Babylonian empire, under the vigorous leadership of Nebuchadnezzar who sought to subdue the whole Fertile Crescent to himself.

Near the end of Jeremiah's ministry Babylon laid a siege of a 1½ years against Jerusalem and took its inhabitants captive. Zedekiah was blinded and carried in chains to Babylon. The captors treated Jeremiah with kindness, and allowed him to remain in Judah with some of the common people who had been left, but was later forced to flee to Egypt where he died at a very old age. The inhabitants of Jerusalem and the people of Judah are suffering an enormous drought throughout their land.

Jeremiah Prays before the LORD continued: -

Jeremiah 14:3-6 ----- ³Her (Judah's) nobles send their servants for water; they come to the cisterns; they find no water; they return with their vessels empty; they are ashamed and confounded and cover their heads. ⁴Because of the ground that is dismayed, since there is no rain on the land, the farmers are ashamed; they cover their heads. ⁵Even the doe in the field forsakes her newborn fawn because there is no grass. ⁶The wild donkeys stand on the bare heights; they pant for air like jackals; their eyes fail because there is no vegetation.

The drought is so great that the land is totally bare or any vegetation.

Jeremiah Prays before the LORD continued: -

Jeremiah 14:7-10 ---- ⁷"Though our iniquities testify against us, act, O LORD, for your name's sake; for our backslidings are many; we have sinned against you. ⁸O you hope of Israel, its savior in time of trouble, why should you be like a stranger in the land, like a traveler who turns aside to tarry for a night? ⁹Why should you be like a man confused, like a mighty warrior who cannot save? Yet you, O LORD, are in the midst of us, and we are called by your name; do not leave us." ¹⁰Thus says the LORD concerning this people: "They have loved to wander thus; they have not restrained their feet; therefore the LORD does not accept them; now he will remember their iniquity and punish their sins."

This is Beautiful.

Jeremiah knows the people of Judah reject his prophetic messages of doom and desire to kill him yet he intercedes for them. He acknowledges their sins to the LORD and asks God not to forsake Judah, but the LORD says, the people have not turned from their rebellion or changed their wicked behaviour or forsaken their pagan gods therefore He cannot not accept them and will punish them.

The LORD replies to Jeremiah's prayer: -

Jeremiah 14:11-12 --- ¹¹The LORD said to me: "Do not pray for the welfare of this people. ¹²Though they fast, I will not hear their cry, and though they offer burnt offering and grain offering, I will not accept them. But I will consume them by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence."

God tells Jeremiah even though the people of Judah fast he is not to intercede or pray for them because the LORD will not accept them.

Jeremiah replies to the LORD: -

Jeremiah 14:13 ----- ¹³Then I (Jeremiah) said: "Ah, Lord GOD, behold, the prophets say to them, 'You shall not see the sword, nor shall you have famine, but I will give you assured peace in this place.'"

Jeremiah continues to pray for the people, he tells the LORD that it is the prophets who have lead the people astray by telling them lies and assuring them everything is OK.

The LORD replies to Jeremiah: -

Jeremiah 14:14-15 --- ¹⁴And the LORD said to me: "The prophets are prophesying lies in my name. I did not send them, nor did I command them or speak to them. They are prophesying to you a lying vision, worthless divination, and the deceit of their own minds. ¹⁵Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the prophets who prophesy in my name although I did not send them, and who say, 'Sword and famine shall not come upon this land': By sword and famine those prophets shall be consumed.

The prophets prophesy the deceit of their own minds; the false prophets know that no-one wants to hear a negative message so to remain popular with the congregation they prophecy what the people do want to hear.

The LORD replies to Jeremiah continued: -

Jeremiah 14:16 ----- ¹⁶And the people to whom they prophesy shall be cast out in the streets of Jerusalem, victims of famine and sword, with none to bury them—they, their wives, their sons, and their daughters. For I will pour out their evil upon them.

The people are not excused simply because the prophets were claiming to speak in the LORD'S Name. The people of Judah are held responsible because they should have known what they were doing was wickedness and offending to the LORD their God.

The LORD'S reply to Jeremiah continued: -

Jeremiah 14:17-18 ---- ¹⁷"You shall say to them this word: 'Let my eyes run down with tears night and day, and let them not cease, for the virgin daughter of my people is shattered with a great wound, with a very grievous blow. ¹⁸If I go out into the field, behold, those pierced by the sword! And if I enter the city, behold, the diseases of famine! For both prophet and priest ply their trade through the land and have no knowledge.'"

The virgin daughter of my people; refers to Jerusalem is often personified as a mother with children. Her children are the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the priests, prophets, husbands, wives and their children. Daughters of Jerusalem carries the idea that they are the weaker ones that need protecting, i.e. Judah was only Two Tribes contrasted to the Ten Tribes of Israel. When they are spoken of as virgin daughters it implies that they only have one husband (God) compared to the pagans who had many gods.

Shattered with a great wound, with a very grievous blow; refers to the future destruction and horror left after Babylon's armies have invaded the land of Judah and the city of Jerusalem. Jeremiah is told by the LORD to tell the people of Judah when God walks through their fields and their cities day and night tears fill His eyes because of the widespread diseases, famine, death and suffering that He sees in the city of Jerusalem and the land of Judah.

The Blindness of the Prophets and Priests.

Neither the prophet nor the priest have any knowledge of the LORD or the judgment that is about to come upon their cities, and their land (v18).

These last few verses are written in the present tense, but they are actually events still to happen.

Often a prophecy is spoken in the present tense as though the event has already happened when in actual reality the fulfilment of it may still be many years away. This is because the prophet is seeing the vision in the present moment and speaks it as he sees it in present time. The people the prophet is speaking to know when the prophecy is a future event, but sometimes it can be difficult for those reading it thousands of years later to realise, because of the tense it is written in.

When a prophet speaks he is often speaking as the voice of God, therefore the words he speaks are guaranteed to come to pass. This is another reason the prophet can speak the words of God in the present moment because they are certain to happen at the right time in the future. Another reason many future prophecies are spoken in the present tense, is because the prophet is speaking the words of God or the vision as they come to him in his time.

Jeremiah replies to the LORD: -

Jeremiah 14:19-22 --- ¹⁹Have you utterly rejected Judah? Does your soul loathe Zion? Why have you struck us down so that there is no healing for us? We looked for peace, but no good came; for a time of healing, but behold, terror. ²⁰We acknowledge our wickedness, O LORD, and the iniquity of our fathers, for we have sinned against you. ²¹Do not spurn us, for your name's sake; do not dishonor your glorious throne; remember and do not break your covenant with us. ²²Are there any among the false gods of the nations that can bring rain? Or can the heavens give showers? Are you not he, O LORD our God? We set our hope on you, for you do all these things.

Jeremiah would have had friends and family etc., within the nation of Judah, sadly he sees into the future and is heartbroken at the vision he beholds, he sees the total destruction of his people, their cities and their land. He pleads with God not to forsake the nation and confesses that they have sinned, but all to no avail because though he is heartbroken the people are not, they do not believe him nor have they turned from their idols and gross sins but foolishly continue in their wicked ways.

End.