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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 15.

(2010).

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Teach it, don't demand it.

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Jeremiah 15.

The following is a brief overview of the main topics.
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Send Judah out of My Sight!

Jeremiah 15:1 ----- ¹Then the LORD said to me (Jeremiah), "Though Moses and Samuel stood before me, yet my heart would not turn toward this people. Send them out of my sight, and let them go!

How tragic is this? The LORD says, even if Moses or Samuel prayed for the people of Judah His heart would not be moved. This is because the people have made their hearts diamond hard against the word of God, rather than turn from their wicked ways.

Pestilence, the Sword, Famine and Captivity.

Jeremiah 15:2 ----- ²And when they (Judah) ask you (Jeremiah), 'Where shall we go?' you shall say to them, 'Thus says the LORD: "Those who are for pestilence, to pestilence, and those who are for the sword, to the sword; those who are for famine, to famine, and those who are for captivity, to captivity.'

God tells Jeremiah a certain percentage of the Judean population will suffer pestilence another percentage will suffer the horrors of war, and another percentage will suffer captivity.

These three predictions were fulfilled when: -

- God withheld the rain and the land of Judah was so dry that the people of Judah and even the animals suffered enormous famine (Jer chapter 14).
- Babylon's armies invaded the land of Judah and burnt their houses, destroyed their farms and abused their woman.
- The inhabitants of Jerusalem and the people of Judah eventually submitted to Nebuchadnezzar the king of Judah and were taken into captivity for 70 years.

Four Kinds of Destroyers.

Jeremiah 15:3-4 ----- ³I will appoint over them four kinds of destroyers, declares the LORD: the sword to kill, the dogs to tear, and the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth to devour and destroy. ⁴And I will make them a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth because of what Manasseh the son of Hezekiah, king of Judah, did in Jerusalem.

The four kinds of destroyers: -

1. Destroyer; the sword to kill.
2. Destroyer; the dogs to tear.
3. Destroyer; the birds of the air to destroy.
4. Destroyer; the wild beasts of the earth to devour and destroy.

The sword to kill; refer to the armies of Babylon who invaded the land of Judah and attacked Jerusalem.

The dogs, the birds and the beast;; refer to the lame, decaying and dead bodies of Judah laying on the surface of the earth and being eaten by dogs, birds and wild animals (Jer 7:32-33).

Hezekiah; means, Jehovah has Strengthened.

Hezekiah was a good king of Judah, he was 25 years old when he began his reign and was the king of Judah for 29 years. His father Ahaz followed the abominable rites of the Moabites by burning children in the fire. One of the first acts of Hezekiah was to destroy the idolatrous altars and high places and cleanse the Temple. The Assyrian king Sargon finally destroyed Samaria (the 10½ Tribes) and deported the people to Assyria, later Sennacherib king of Assyria invaded the land of Judah (the 2½ Tribes) and by military conquest forced the nation into submission to Assyria. Assyria compelled Judah to pay heavy tribute and later decided to destroy Jerusalem, but God saved the city by sending a sudden plague which in one night killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers. After Hezekiah's death, his son Manasseh succeeded him.

Manasseh the King of Judah.

Manasseh the king of Judah was the son of Hezekiah he became a fanatical idolater, bringing a whole host of heathen practices into his realm. He built altars to Baal, and made a symbol of Asherah. He worshiped and served the host of heaven—sun, moon, stars, and planets. He built altars to them in the courts of the Temple. He also put a heathen altar in the Temple and later moved the Asherah symbol into the building which had been dedicated to the true God of Israel. He also had horses and chariots given to the sun. He made his son pass through the fire, which probably means he sacrificed him to Moloch; he practiced soothsaying; he used enchantments or observed omens; he indulged in sorcery; he sponsored ghosts and familiar spirits, (persons in touch with the spirit world) and persecuted devoted people who were faithful to Jehovah, the true God. Manasseh brought his country to ruin and was taken captive by the king of Assyria and carried to Babylon. After a time he was returned to his throne in Jerusalem again, and repented of his sins and tried to undo his evil work.

Judah has rejected the LORD and Keep Going Backward.

Jeremiah 15:5-9 ----- ⁵"Who will have pity on you, O Jerusalem, or who will grieve for you? Who will turn aside to ask about your welfare? ⁶You have rejected me, declares the LORD; you keep going backward, so I have stretched out my hand against you and destroyed you—I am weary of relenting. ⁷I have winnowed them with a winnowing fork in the gates of the land; I have bereaved them; I have destroyed my people; they did not turn from their ways. ⁸I have made their widows more in number than the sand of the seas; I have brought against the mothers of young men a destroyer at noonday; I have made anguish and terror fall upon them suddenly. ⁹She who bore seven has grown feeble; she has fainted away; her sun went down while it was yet day; she has been shamed and disgraced. And the rest of them I will give to the sword before their enemies, declares the LORD."

In the Old Testament covenant the LORD had with Israel, God promised if Israel did the right He would bless and prosper everything they did, but if they turned from Him and did evil everything they did would come to ruin and nothing would prosper.

To turn the people from their wicked ways God the nation of Israel: -

- Has suffered the loss of their loved ones.
- Many of their houses and farms were destroyed.
- Multitudes of wives have lost their husbands to death.
- Young sons of many mothers had died.
- The people were gripped in anxiety and terror.
- Mothers of big families could not cope.
- Parents were shamed and disgraced by their children.

All of these hardships were signs that should have caused the people to examine themselves and question what they were doing, but sadly they made their hearts diamond hard to the voice of the LORD that came to them through the prophets and increased in their wickedness. Thus God said; “No-one will pity, grieve, or offer to help them,” even the LORD is so tired of trying to turn them from their wickedness that He is now going to give those who remain up to the sword. The LORD used the armies of Babylon to fulfil these tragic and prophetic words of Jeremiah.

Woe is Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 15:10-14 --- ¹⁰Woe is me (Jeremiah), my mother, that you bore me, a man of strife and contention to the whole land! I have not lent, nor have I borrowed, yet all of them curse me. ¹¹The LORD said, "Have I not set you free for their good? Have I not pleaded for you before the enemy in the time of trouble and in the time of distress? ¹²Can one break iron, iron from the north, and bronze? ¹³Your wealth and your treasures I will give as spoil, without price, for all your sins, throughout all your territory. ¹⁴I will make you serve your enemies in a land that you do not know, for in my anger a fire is kindled that shall burn forever."

Jeremiah feels grieved that the LORD called him to a ministry that instead of bring appreciation and gratitude from the people he is ministering to it results in strife, contention and resentment toward him, but the LORD tells him it is for the peoples good that He has called him to warn Judah of the enemy that is coming to destroy them and that Jeremiah should be thankful that the LORD has set him free from the sins of Judah and made him aware of the impending doom.

Can one break iron, iron from the north, and bronze? Refers to the armies of Babylon and the judgment of God.

“I will make you serve your enemies in a land that you do not know” (v14) these foreboding words were fulfilled through Babylon.

Babylon invaded Jerusalem and took its inhabitants (the Two Tribes of Judah) into captivity later Babylon conquered Assyria who had previously taken Israel (the Ten Tribes in the land of Samaria) captive. Israel and Judah were under Babylonian rule for 70 years. They went into captivity to Babylon as two rebellious nations who had turned from God to idols and who were even sacrificing their own children to pagan gods. While in captivity God moulded them like a master potter moulds a beautiful clay jar. They went into Babylon as two unfaithful nations that had turned away from the LORD to idols and other gods. Seventy years later, Cyrus (King of Persia) who the LORD called His Shepherd (Isaiah 44:28) gave permission to Israel to return to Jerusalem. Under Ezra and Nehemiah God brought Israel back to their beloved City Jerusalem as one nation faithful to only one God, the LORD their God, the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob (Israel never turned to pagan gods again).

Jeremiah asks the LORD a Question.

Jeremiah 15:15-18 --- ¹⁵O LORD, you know; remember me (Jeremiah) and visit me, and take vengeance for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance take me not away; know that for your sake I bear reproach. ¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. ¹⁷I did not sit in the company of revelers, nor did I rejoice; I sat alone, because your hand was upon me, for you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Will you be to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail?

Notice' God's words were a joy and delight to Jeremiah, but in another sense he says they are deceitful, this is because when Jeremiah proclaims God's words to the people of Judah, instead of bringing joy they bring him strife and contention.

A similar application of this principal today; A Christian may love the word of God and the Lord Jesus Christ, but when they share it with others it may separate them from the popular crowd, bring them scorn and in some countries even death.

Take me not away; Jeremiah asked the LORD not to take him into Captivity, God answered Jeremiah's prayer. The captors of Babylon treated Jeremiah with kindness, giving him the choice of going to Babylon or remaining in Judah. He chose to stay behind with some of the common people who had been left in Judah when most of the Jews were deported.

The LORD replies to Jeremiah's Question.

Jeremiah 15:19-21 --- ¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD: "If you return, I will restore you, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall be as my mouth. They shall turn to you, but you shall not turn to them. ²⁰And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, declares the LORD. ²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless."

The LORD tells Jeremiah if he: -

- Stand firm.
- Does not compromise God's Word to be accepted by the crowd.
- Refuses to follow the masses, but lets them follow him.

Then the LORD will: -

- Restore him.
- Use him to be as God's mouth.
- Make him a fortified wall of bronze (judgment) to the people.
- Not allow anyone to destroy or get the victory over him.
- Redeem and save him.
- Deliver him from the grasp of the wicked.

End.