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

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

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## Jeremiah 17.

(2010).

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**For information of: -**

**Towns, Cities Villages and Details of the People.**

- **Select:** - Map Locations and People of the Bible (ON WEBSITE MENU).

**For meanings of Words.**

- **Select:** - Bible Dictionary (ON WEBSITE MENU).
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*Teach it, don't demand it.*

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## Jeremiah 17.

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The following is a brief overview of the main topics.  
Thankyou for visiting; Bible House Of Grace.

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### **Judah Sin is written with a Point of Diamond Engraved on their Heart.**

Jeremiah 17:1-2 ----- <sup>1</sup>"The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron; with a point of diamond it is engraved on the tablet of their heart, and on the horns of their altars, <sup>2</sup>while their children remember their altars and their Asherim (groves in KJV), beside every green tree and on the high hills,

**Asherim** (Grove in KJV) from Strong's Concordance means to be right and happy, to go forward and be honest, to guide and prosper; Asherah (or Astarte) was the Phoenician goddess of love and also an image of the same name.

The built the altars under green trees because they gave plenty of shade.

**Written with a pen of iron; with a point of diamond it is engraved on the tablet of their heart;** means Judah's sins are so entrenched in their society, their way of life and everything they do that their children have grown up knowing nothing else. Worshipping idols and the Queen of Heaven has become the normal way of life. The people of Judah are past the point of being told by one man that they are wrong, their sins are far to engrained throughout the entire nation for them to even consider they could be in error.

**The Lesson for us Today;** just because a religious movement has been established for many years and has multitudes of followers is not proof that it is right before God. Almost the entire nation of Judah believed they were doing the right thing and yet they were an offence to the LORD. The only way to prove if a thing is right is to measure it against the Bible, the word of God, never simply take it for granted just because it has opulent buildings, numerous members and has been established for many years.

### **Judah will serve their Enemies.**

Jeremiah 17:3-2 ----- <sup>3</sup>on the mountains in the open country. Your wealth and all your treasures I will give for spoil as the price of your high places for sin throughout all your territory. <sup>4</sup>You shall loosen your hand from your heritage that I gave to you, and I 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."

These prophetic verses were fulfilled when Babylon invaded the land of Judah, they burnt the people's homes, destroyed the city of Jerusalem, took anything of value and gathered all the treasures and sacred items in the Temple of God and took them back to Babylon.

Cursed are those who Trusts in Man, but Blessed are  
those who Trust in the LORD.

Jeremiah 17:5-8 ----- <sup>5</sup>Thus says the LORD: "Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD. <sup>6</sup>He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. <sup>7</sup>"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. <sup>8</sup>He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit."

Under the Old Testament covenant God promised to prosper Israel's land and everything they did if they trusted in Him and remained faithful, but if they turned from him and His ways he would bring to ruin everything they had achieved and everything they did.

**Thus the two statements: -**

- "Cursed is the man who does not trust in the LORD."
- "Blessed are those who Trusts in the LORD."

**The application of these verses for New Testament Christians: -**

New Testament Christians are not under the Old Testament covenant of guaranteed material blessing if they remain faithful to the LORD or even of losing everything they have achieved if they turn from Him. The application of these verses today apply to salvation and eternal life, "cursed is the person who trusts in their own efforts for salvation rather than in the LORD and his plan of redemption, simply because no-one can save themselves to eternal life, but blessed are those who trust in the LORD and His plan of redemption because through their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ they are saved by grace and guaranteed eternal salvation in his name.

**Note;** certainly a person who follows the ways of the LORD is generally going to have a smoother path through life than those who do not, but it does not mean they are guaranteed to have a life free of troubles.

**Jesus says: -**

Matthew 5:43-45 ----- <sup>43</sup>"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' <sup>44</sup>But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup>so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

Troubles and blessings fall upon all humanity, but eternal salvation is limited to those who trust in God and His plan of redemption through the LORD Jesus Christ.

**The Heart is Deceitful Above All Things, and Desperately Sick.**

Jeremiah 17:9-11 ----- <sup>9</sup>The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? <sup>10</sup>"I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds." <sup>11</sup>Like the partridge that gathers a brood that she did not hatch, so is he who gets riches but not by justice; in the midst of his days they will leave him, and at his end he will be a fool.

Those who gain riches through deception, dishonesty and by oppressing others may enjoy their wealth for a moment, but at the end of their mortal life are counted a fool, because their love for money robs them from eternal life.

**The heart is deceitful above all things;** it is foolishness to ignore intellect, logic, reasoning and knowledge and simply follow the emotions of the heart, because it is deceptive and capable of deceiving the mind into all sorts of foolish behaviour and belief's.

**A simplistic example;** a young girl's heart maybe passionately attracted to a man so she follows her heart and attaches herself to him, ignoring her intellect and the knowledge she has that he is full of anger and violence, eventually because she followed the emotions of her heart rather than her intellect and knowledge she is going to suffer.

**Note;** emotions can be a beautiful thing (God gave them to us), but before they are embraced and surrendered to they need to be measured against knowledge, reasoning, logic and common sense especially if it is regarding faith in God.

**Those who Turn Away from God will be Written in the Earth.**

Jeremiah 17:12-13 ---- <sup>12</sup>A glorious throne set on high from the beginning is the place of our sanctuary. <sup>13</sup>O LORD, the hope of Israel, all who forsake you shall be put to shame; those who turn away from you shall be written in the earth, for they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living water.

**Shall be written in the earth;** refers to eternal death, total extinction.

**For further information see the title: -**

- Death (What Happens When We Die) in, Death (ON WEBSITE MENU).

**Jeremiah Prays to the LORD.**

Jeremiah 17:14-18 --- <sup>14</sup>Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for you are my praise. <sup>15</sup>Behold, they say to me, "Where is the word of the LORD? Let it come!" <sup>16</sup>I have not run away from being your shepherd, nor have I desired the day of sickness. You know what came out of my lips; it was before your face. <sup>17</sup>Be not a terror to me; you are my refuge in the day of disaster. <sup>18</sup>Let those be put to shame who persecute me, but let me not be put to shame; let them be dismayed, but let me not be dismayed; bring upon them the day of disaster; destroy them with double destruction!

**They say to me, "Where is the word of the LORD? Let it come!"**

Jeremiah is proclaiming the word of the LORD, but the people do not like what they hear, so they do not accept it to be God's word and therefore they continue to tell Jeremiah to proclaim the word of the LORD, what they are really saying is, prophecy to us something we want to hear.

**Let me not be put to shame or dismayed;** being a prophet Jeremiah is fully aware of the impending doom that is about to come upon the people of Judah, so he tells the LORD he has been a faithful shepherd and not denied proclaiming his word. Then asks God to protect him from the disaster and horror that is coming upon Judah God answered Jeremiah's prayer the captors of Judah treated him 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.

**Nor have I desired the day of sickness;** refers to the message of doom (the day of sickness) Jeremiah is proclaiming is not from his own heart or his own desire for revenge because the people are persecuting him, but comes from the LORD himself.

**The LORD tells Jeremiah to Stand in all the Gates of Jerusalem.**

Jeremiah 17:19-20 ---- <sup>19</sup>Thus said the LORD to me: "Go and stand in the People's Gate, by which the kings of Judah enter and by which they go out, and in all the gates of Jerusalem, <sup>20</sup>and say: 'Hear the word of the LORD, you kings of Judah, and all Judah, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, who enter by these gates.

The wall that surrounded the city of Jerusalem had many gates in it, God tells Jeremiah to stand in every one of them and proclaim not only to the common people but even the Kings that came in or went out. This is no simple task for Jeremiah, because his message is a message of defeat and doom and no-body wants to hear that especially kings.

**Jeremiahs Message to the Kings and People of Judah.**

Jeremiah 17:21-23 --- <sup>21</sup>Thus says the LORD: Take care for the sake of your lives, and do not bear a burden on the Sabbath day or bring it in by the gates of Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup>And do not carry a burden out of your houses on the Sabbath or do any work, but keep the Sabbath day holy, as I commanded your fathers. <sup>23</sup>Yet they did not listen or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck, that they might not hear and receive instruction.

**Do not carry a burden on the Sabbath has two parts: -**

1. Do not worry, stress, feel anxious or annoy somebody by making insistent demands or complaints. Its core meaning implies having a troubled state of mind. God is telling the people of Judah to trust Him and be joyful, contrasted to being stressed an anxious especially on the Sabbath Day.

2. Don't do any secular work or business on the Sabbath Day.

### **Keep the Sabbath Day Holy.**

Jeremiah 17:24-27 ---- <sup>24</sup>But if you listen to me, declares the LORD, and bring in no burden by the gates of this city on the Sabbath day, but keep the Sabbath day holy and do no work on it, <sup>25</sup>then there shall enter by the gates of this city kings and princes who sit on the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, they and their officials, the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And this city shall be inhabited forever. <sup>26</sup>And people shall come from the cities of Judah and the places around Jerusalem, from the land of Benjamin, from the Shephelah, from the hill country, and from the Negeb, bringing burnt offerings and sacrifices, grain offerings and frankincense, and bringing thank offerings to the house of the LORD. <sup>27</sup>But if you do not listen to me, to keep the Sabbath day holy, and not to bear a burden and enter by the gates of Jerusalem on the Sabbath day, then I will kindle a fire in its gates, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem and shall not be quenched.' "

### **The Sabbath Day was to be a day of: -**

- Joy and rest.
- Fellowship with friends and family.
- Worship and respect to the LORD.
- Instruction so future Generations would know the way of the LORD.
- A witness to the surrounding nations of Israel's faith and their God.
- Bringing sacrificial food offerings to the priesthood so they would have food for their families and children for serving the LORD full time.

**Note;** the offering to the priesthood was an offering to support their ministry and their families, it was not an offering to give those serving God an excessive lifestyle of luxurious material possessions.

### **If Israel kept the Sabbath Day Holy: -**

- Kings of Israel would have sat on the throne of David forever.
- God's people would have inhabited Jerusalem forever.
- All the surrounding cities of Judah would have continued bringing offerings.

### **If Israel did not keep the Sabbath Day Holy: -**

- The city of Jerusalem would be destroyed by fire.

**Note;** these laws do not apply to New Testament Christians, the death and resurrection of Christ did away with keeping holy days to be saved to eternal life. Christians today are saved by grace not by keeping holy days.

Today Sunday has become the day for worship, but it has nothing to do with a person's salvation, it may witness their salvation and in most cases is a wonderful time of gathering together with others who have the same faith and desire to collectively worship and praise God together and it can also enhance a person's knowledge of God as they learn from each other, but if a Christian feels they have to attend Church to be saved then the Cross of Christ has become worthless to them, simply because the death and resurrection of Christ is all about what he did not what we do, salvation now comes by faith, it is not earned by the works of the flesh or self-effort.

### **The Apostle Paul says: -**

Galatians 5:4 ----- <sup>4</sup>You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.

The throne of David of course was in the city of Jerusalem, and the Negeb, Benjamin and Shepheleh were the Judean cities and the land that surrounded Jerusalem.

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End.