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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 18.

(2010).

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Teach it, don't demand it.

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Jeremiah 18.

The following is a brief overview of the main topics.
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God tells Jeremiah to got to the Potters House.

Jeremiah 18:1-4 ----- ¹The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: ²"Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." ³So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. ⁴And the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do.

Jeremiah watches a potter making a clay vessel, but the clay was ruined in the potters hand so he re-moulded the vessel into another vessel. I knew a woman who made beautiful clay jars and a, amazing figurines, she had to get just the right type of clay, if a flaw was found in it the clay would be thrown away and she would begin again with a new batch. The potter (in this story a symbol of God) is the artist; the flaw is not with him it is the clay (a symbol of Israel) that is spoiled. God is telling Jeremiah He is going to take Israel and re-mould them.

God will do as the Potter Did.

Jeremiah 18:5-6 ----- ⁵Then the word of the LORD came to me: ⁶"O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter has done? declares the LORD. Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.

The potter is the LORD and the nation of Israel is the clay that is spoiled in his hands. God is saying that He will re-mould Israel.

These prophetic words were fulfilled through Babylon.

The LORD uses secular nations, kings, and people to achieve His plans and purposes, sometimes to bless and other times to bring judgment. In the Old Testament God called Babylon His Great Army. He used King Nebuchadnezzar and the nation of Babylon to bring judgment on Judah and Israel. Many times God through the prophets warned Judah and Israel they would be taken into Babylonian captivity for 70 years, because of their rebellion against the LORD, but God would look after them while held captive and at the end of the 70 years He would deliver them. 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).

Repentance turns God from Judgment.

Jeremiah 18:7-10 ----- ⁷If at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, ⁸and if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I intended to do to it. ⁹And if at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, ¹⁰and if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will relent of the good that I had intended to do to it.

If God says He will destroy a nation and that nation turns from its wicked ways God instead of destroying that nation will cause it to prosper, but if that nation then turns back to wickedness rather than prosper the nation, God will destroy it.

The LORD warns Judah to turn from their Wicked Ways.

Jeremiah 18:11-12 --- ¹¹Now, therefore, say to the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: 'Thus says the LORD, behold, I am shaping disaster against you and devising a plan against you. Return, everyone from his evil way, and amend your ways and your deeds.' ¹²"But they say, 'That is in vain! We will follow our own plans, and will every one act according to the stubbornness of his evil heart.'

The people want to do their own thing, they do not like what Jeremiah is saying so to their own destruction they reject him and the word of the LORD.

The Virgin Israel has Done a Very Horrible Thing.

Jeremiah 18:13-14 --- ¹³"Therefore thus says the LORD: Ask among the nations, Who has heard the like of this? The virgin Israel has done a very horrible thing. ¹⁴Does the snow of Lebanon leave the crags of Sirion? Do the mountain waters run dry, the cold flowing streams?

The virgin Israel; carries the idea that Israel is a people with one God (or should have been) contrasted to the nations around them with many gods.

Lebanon; is included in God's promise; it is a snowclad mountain range extending 100 miles with peaks reaching 10,200 above Sea Level. The melting snow creates great rivers including the Jordan River meandering through Palestine to the Dead Sea. Its isolated crags, supported watch towers and refuge-points and came to symbolize the exalted status of Judah's royal house.

Writers of biblical poetry speak at length on the motion of Lebanon's famous Cedar trees, their massive branches, their fragrance and on their height as a symbol of dignity and pride and on their growth and resistance to decay as a symbol of endurance. The psalmists' speaks of the greatness of the Creator who both plants the cedars and shatters them by His voice. The Lebanon's were also famous for choice-wine the lion and the leopard.

Sirion; is a mountain 9000 feet high that is snow covered most of the year and from which the tributaries of the Jordan River originate at its base.

Israel has done a, "Very Horrible Thing.

Refers to just as it is near impossible for the snow of Lebanon to leave the rocky and steep part of its mountains and the rivers of Sirion to run dry it should have been just as impossible for Israel to leave their God that is why their blatant rejection of God's prophet, His word and God Himself is referred to as a, "Very Horrible Thing."

Israel has done a, "Very Horrible Thing," continued: -

Jeremiah 18:15 ----- ¹⁵But my people have forgotten me; they make offerings to false gods; they made them stumble in their ways, in the ancient roads, and to walk into side roads, not the highway,

The "Very Horrible Thing," Israel did; also embraces their turning to idols and making offerings to false gods and forgetting the LORD their God.

Side Roads; in this context refers to everything that is opposed to God's ways.

The Highway; in this context refers to everything that is acceptable to God.

Isaiah talks of a Highway for God called the Way of Holiness.

Isaiah 35:8 ----- ⁸And a highway shall be there (in the wilderness and dry places), and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.

Isaiah 40:3 ----- ³A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

John the greatest prophet of all picks up on Isaiah's theme: -

Luke 3:1-10 ----- ⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

Those who walk on this Highway of God are faithful Jews and Gentiles who have accepted the Lordship of Israel's Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. They together with Jesus when he returns the second time will bring steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, peace and the glory of God to the entire earth. Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever, and will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth, or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the lion and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God.

For further information see the title: -

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Judah will be Hissed at Forever.

Jeremiah 18:16 ----- ¹⁶making their land a horror, a thing to be hissed at forever (perpetual in KJV). Everyone who passes by it is horrified and shakes his head.

This was brought about by the surrounding nations.

Hissed; from Strong's Concordance means to be scorned or mocked.

As the armies of Babylon lead the inhabitants of Jerusalem and the people of Judah from their ruined land in to Babylonian captivity the surrounding nations mocked and scorned the defeated people of Judah.

Notice; forever (perpetual in KJV) does not always mean eternally, depending on the context it is used in forever can mean, an age of time, a period of time, ancient time, a long time, perpetual at any time, without end and eternity, it is the context that determines its meaning, in the context of verse 17 it means a long time or a period of time (specifically 70 years) at which time God delivered Israel from their captivity and re-established them in their own land faithful to Him.

I will Scatter Judah.

Jeremiah 18:17 ----- ¹⁷Like the east wind I will scatter them before the enemy. I will show them my back, not my face, in the day of their calamity."

This happened when the armies of Babylon invaded the land of Judah and attacked the city of Jerusalem, multitudes of Jews with their families fled to the surrounding nations to escape the horror, of Babylon's cruel armies.

Judah plots against Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 18:18 ----- ¹⁸Then they said, "Come, let us make plots against Jeremiah, for the law shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet. Come, let us strike him with the tongue, and let us not pay attention to any of his words."

The people of Judah plot to kill Jeremiah (v23).

The people of Judah do not like Jeremiah's message of repentance or doom, simply because they do not want to change their wicked ways. They prefer to embrace the words of the priests, the wise men and their prophets who are speaking falsely, because their deceptive lies are what the people want to hear, i.e. God will prosper His people and certainly not allow doom and destruction come to Jerusalem or their land. Time after time God tried to warn the people of Judah, but true to their stubborn and rebellious nature they refuse to listen to Jeremiah God's faithful and true prophet.

Jeremiah Prays to the LORD.

Jeremiah 18:19-23 ---- ¹⁹Hear me, O LORD, and listen to the voice of my adversaries. ²⁰Should good be repaid with evil? Yet they have dug a pit for my life. Remember how I stood before you to speak good for them, to turn away your wrath from them. ²¹Therefore deliver up their children to famine; give them over to the power of the sword; let their wives become childless and widowed. May their men meet death by pestilence, their youths be struck down by the sword in battle. ²²May a cry be heard from their houses, when you bring the plunderer suddenly upon them! For they have dug a pit to take me and laid snares for my feet. ²³Yet you, O LORD, know all their plotting to kill me. Forgive not their iniquity, nor blot out their sin from your sight. Let them be overthrown before you; deal with them in the time of your anger.

Jeremiah in previous chapters cared for the people of Judah he earnestly prayed and interceded for their good trying save them from the LORD'S wrath, but now his tone changes, after eighteen chapters of warning them he realises it is hopeless, rather than them turning from their idols and gross wickedness they are adding to their evil ways the planned and deliberate murder of Jeremiah himself.

End.