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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 6.

(2010).

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Teach it, don't demand it.

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Jeremiah 6.

Judah is told to Flee to Safety.

Jeremiah 6:1 ----- ¹Flee for safety, O people of Benjamin, from the midst of Jerusalem! Blow the trumpet in Tekoa, and raise a signal on Beth-haccherem, for disaster looms out of the north, and great destruction.

The People of Benjamin; means Son of my right hand (Gen 35:17ff) he was the youngest son of Jacob. When Israel split into two nations called Judah (Two Tribes) and Israel (Ten Tribes) after the death of Solomon, the Benjamites remained with the Tribe of Judah at Jerusalem, and followed the Davidic house as represented by Rehoboam.

Beth-diblathaim; means house of a double cake of figs, a Moabitish town.

Tekoa; a city of Judah or an inhabitant thereof, it was fortified by Rehoboam and lay 12 miles S of Jerusalem.

Beth-haccherem; means house of the vineyard it was a Judean town on top of Jebel ruled by Malchiah noted as a vantage site for signalling in time of danger. On top of this hill are cairns which are thought to have been used for beacons.

Disaster looms out of the north; refers to Babylon, whose armies eventually invaded Jerusalem burnt the peoples house destroyed the city and their farms, pillaged the Temple treasures and took the people of Judah captive for 70 years.

God will destroy the Nobles of Jerusalem.

Jeremiah 6:2-6 ----- ²The lovely and delicately bred I will destroy, the daughter of Zion. ³Shepherds with their flocks shall come against her; they shall pitch their tents around her; they shall pasture, each in his place. ⁴Prepare war against her; arise, and let us attack at noon! Woe to us, for the day declines, for the shadows of evening lengthen! ⁵Arise, and let us attack by night and destroy her palaces!" ⁶For thus says the LORD of hosts: "Cut down her trees; cast up a siege mound against Jerusalem. This is the city that must be punished; there is nothing but oppression within her.

Cut down the trees of Jerusalem and cast up a siege mound against her; this is exactly what Babylon did, they could not penetrate the walls of Jerusalem in battle so they surrounded the city for about 1½ years so no-one could go out or go in. During this siege the soldiers of Babylon acted as shepherds farming the land and shepherding their flocks for food while they camped around the walls of the city of Jerusalem.

Notice; the LORD says Jerusalem must be punished because it is full of oppression. It is a great offence to God to oppress another human for one's own gain. This is what the religious leaders of Jeremiah's day were doing to the less fortunate and the poor.

Jerusalem is full of Evil and Violence.

Jeremiah 6:7-8 ----- ⁷As a well keeps its water fresh, so she keeps fresh her evil; violence and destruction are heard within her; sickness and wounds are ever before me. ⁸Be warned, O Jerusalem, lest I turn from you in disgust, lest I make you a desolation, an uninhabited land."

The LORD through the prophets constantly warned the people of Judah that He is about to turn against them.

The People of Judah take no pleasure in the Word of God.

Jeremiah 6:9-10 ----- ⁹Thus says the LORD of hosts: "They shall glean thoroughly as a vine the remnant of Israel; like a grape-gatherer pass your hand again over its branches." ¹⁰To whom shall I speak and

give warning, that they may hear? Behold, their ears are uncircumcised, they cannot listen; behold, the word of the LORD is to them an object of scorn; they take no pleasure in it.

The LORD desires that the people of Judah would turn from their idols and gross sin. God through Jeremiah constantly warns them, but to their own destruction they treat Jeremiah's prophetic words with scorn and even mock the prophet himself.

The LORD is full of Wrath.

Jeremiah 6:11-12 ----- ¹¹Therefore I am full of the wrath of the LORD; I am weary of holding it in. "Pour it out upon the children in the street, and upon the gatherings of young men, also; both husband and wife shall be taken, the elderly and the very aged. ¹²Their houses shall be turned over to others, their fields and wives together, for I will stretch out my hand against the inhabitants of the land," declares the LORD.

This is exactly what happened, Babylon's armies killed multitudes of Jewish farmers, their wives and their families who lived beyond the fortified walls of Jerusalem in the surrounding land and cities of Judah.

Everyone is greedy for unjust Gain.

Jeremiah 6:13-15 ---- ¹³"For from the least to the greatest of them, everyone is greedy for unjust gain; and from prophet to priest, everyone deals falsely. ¹⁴They have healed the wound of my people lightly, saying, 'Peace, peace,' when there is no peace. ¹⁵Were they ashamed when they committed abomination? No, they were not at all ashamed; they did not know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; at the time that I punish them, they shall be overthrown," says the LORD.

The prophets, the priests and even the common people were all: -

- Greedy for unjust gain.
- Being deceptive in business deals.
- The prophets were telling the people there will be peace when there was no hope of peace.
- No-one was ashamed when they did something that was an offence to God.
- They loved pleasure more than modesty and therefore were incapable of the emotion of embarrassment and shame because.

Because of these sins (and multitudes more) the LORD is about to punish the people of Judah.

Jeremiah 6:16-19 ----- ¹⁶Thus says the LORD: "Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.' ¹⁷I set watchmen over you, saying, 'Pay attention to the sound of the trumpet!' But they said, 'We will not pay attention.' ¹⁸Therefore hear, O nations, and know, O congregation, what will happen to them. ¹⁹Hear, O earth; behold, I am bringing disaster upon this people, the fruit of their devices, because they have not paid attention to my words; and as for my law, they have rejected it.

The ancient paths where the good way is; refers to the days when the people of God worshipped Him only and treated others with justice and did what is right and fair.

The sound of the trumpet; refers to Jeremiah's prophetic warning of doom and destruction.

Jeremiah 6:10-21 ----- ²⁰What use to me is frankincense that comes from Sheba, or sweet cane from a distant land? Your burnt offerings are not acceptable, nor your sacrifices pleasing to me. ²¹Therefore

thus says the LORD: 'Behold, I will lay before this people stumbling blocks against which they shall stumble; fathers and sons together, neighbor and friend shall perish.'

Ceremonial religious practises; i.e., giving the best sacrifices, the most expensive offerings and keeping holy days etc., are worthless to the LORD if during a person's normal life they are deliberately oppressing others for their own gain and doing things that are an offence to God.

Jeremiah 6:22-25 ----- ²²Thus says the LORD: "Behold, a people is coming from the north country, a great nation is stirring from the farthest parts of the earth. ²³They lay hold on bow and javelin; they are cruel and have no mercy; the sound of them is like the roaring sea; they ride on horses, set in array as a man for battle, against you, O daughter of Zion!" ²⁴We have heard the report of it; our hands fall helpless; anguish has taken hold of us, pain as of a woman in labor. ²⁵Go not out into the field, nor walk on the road, for the enemy has a sword; terror is on every side.

A great nation coming from the North Country; refers to Babylon.

The armies of Babylon are pictured as being: -

- Skilled with the bow and the javelin.
- Cruel and without mercy.
- Strong, powerful and mighty (like the roaring sea).
- Soldiers perfectly trained for battle on riding on horses.
- With swords surrounding every fortified wall of the city of Jerusalem.

The people of Judah are called to Repent.

Jeremiah 6:26-30 ----- ²⁶O daughter of my people, put on sackcloth, and roll in ashes; make mourning as for an only son, most bitter lamentation, for suddenly the destroyer will come upon us. ²⁷"I have made you a tester of metals among my people, that you may know and test their ways. ²⁸They are all stubbornly rebellious, going about with slanders; they are bronze and iron; all of them act corruptly. ²⁹The bellows blow fiercely; the lead is consumed by the fire; in vain the refining goes on, for the wicked are not removed. ³⁰Rejected silver they are called, for the LORD has rejected them."

O daughter of my people; refers to the Bible and the Jewish nation presents daughters as the weaker of the sexes, daughters needed looking after whereas sons went to war to protect them. Traditionally it was the man's responsibility to protect the woman, daughters when contrasted with sons carries the idea of those who need protecting, whereas son's has the implication of standing on their own feet. 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.

I have made you a tester of metals among my people; refers to Jeremiah.

The prophetic words of Jeremiah and the call to repentance is a test for the people of Judah to see if they will respond or continue in their wicked ways. To their own destruction they failed the test and continued in their stubborn, corrupt and rebellious ways.

The people of Judah are likened to silver being refined in a fire but it is in vain because the wicked are not removed.