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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 7.

(2010).

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*Teach it, don't demand it.*

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## Jeremiah 7.

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### “The Temple of the LORD, the Temple of the LORD, the Temple of the LORD.”

Jeremiah 7:1-34 ----- <sup>1</sup>The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: <sup>2</sup>“Stand in the gate of the LORD'S house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the LORD, all you men of Judah who enter these gates to worship the LORD. <sup>3</sup>Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your deeds, and I will let you dwell in this place. <sup>4</sup>Do not trust in these deceptive words: 'This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD.' <sup>5</sup>For if you truly amend your ways and your deeds, if you truly execute justice one with another, <sup>6</sup>if you do not oppress the sojourner, the fatherless, or the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own harm, <sup>7</sup>then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your fathers forever. <sup>8</sup>Behold, you trust in deceptive words to no avail. <sup>9</sup>Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known, <sup>10</sup>and then come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, 'We are delivered!'—only to go on doing all these abominations? <sup>11</sup>Has this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, I myself have seen it, declares the LORD.

Imagine for a moment how Jeremiah would have felt when the LORD told him to go and stand at the main gate of the city, and tell the people to amend their ways as they went out and came in.

**Judah is told not to trust in the deceptive words;** “This is the Temple of the LORD, the Temple of the LORD the Temple of the LORD.” The people of Judah believed they could live as they wished because the Temple of the LORD was in their city, reinforcing this idea was the prophets who were telling them they would be safe because of the Temple of the LORD, but Jeremiah is saying, just because the Temple is in their city does not guarantee God will protect the city or the people.

**The Practical Lesson for us Today;** if a person lives indifferently toward God during the week, but faithfully attends mass or church every Sunday it will not protect them from God's judgment. Godly lifestyle is far more important to God than religiously keeping holy days and religious ceremonial rites.

**Note;** faithfully attending Church or religious meetings etc are good things, but if the people are like the people of Judah who were treating other humans with disrespect and are indifferent to God during the week then what they are doing religiously on Sunday become worthless before God and even worse than that it brings disdain to His Name to those who are lost.

#### **The people of Judah were: -**

- Perverting justice for their own gain.
- Getting wealthy and rich by oppressing orphan's and widows (probably using them for cheap labour) and people they don't know.
- Murdering innocent people in the city of Jerusalem (probably killing the poor and less fortunate to gain their land and houses).
- Seeking idols and pagan gods and making offerings to Baal.
- Committing adultery, stealing and not keeping their promises.

The LORD through Jeremiah is telling the people to return to God and stop mistreating and using others for their own gain especially the poor, and then they can confidently stand before God in the Temple and say, “We are delivered!”

## **The LORD will do to Judah as He did to Shiloh.**

Jeremiah 7:12-15 ----- <sup>12</sup>Go now to my (the LORD'S) place that was in Shiloh, where I made my name dwell at first, and see what I did to it because of the evil of my people Israel. <sup>13</sup>And now, because you have done all these things, declares the LORD, and when I spoke to you persistently you did not listen, and when I called you, you did not answer, <sup>14</sup>therefore I will do to the house that is called by my name, and in which you trust, and to the place that I gave to you and to your fathers, as I did to Shiloh. <sup>15</sup>And I will cast you out of my sight, as I cast out all your kinsmen, all the offspring of Ephraim.

**Shiloh;** was a city on an isolated hill in the Tribe of Ephraim. After the first phases of the conquest of Canaan, Israel under Joshua set up the Tabernacle and the Ark at Shiloh making it the capital city of Canaan under the theocracy of Israel, but the Ark was later removed in a battle against the Philistines. From that time Shiloh gradually lost its importance, because God forsook the Tabernacle of Shiloh and David moved the Ark to Jerusalem making it the capital of the Kingdom of Israel. In the days of Jeremiah, Shiloh was a ruin.

**This is absolutely tragic;** the LORD is basically saying, just as He removed the Ark from Shiloh, He will remove His Presence and His favour from God's Temple at Jerusalem in which the people are Trusting.

**Ephraim;** became such a leader in the new northern Hebrew kingdom (the Ten Tribes in the land of Samaria) that in addition to their more common name Israel, the kingdom is also called Ephraim. The Canaanites of Gezer lived in the midst of the Ten Tribes, because they did not drive them out of the land. Ephraim's territory included worship centers at Bethel and Shiloh. Ephraim (the Ten Tribes of Israel) in the land of Samaria have already been conquered and taken captive by Assyria.

**Notice;** the LORD persistently tried to warn Judah and Israel, but the people would not listen (v13).

### **Jeremiah is told not to pray for Judah.**

Jeremiah 7:16-18 ---- <sup>16</sup>As for you (Jeremiah), do not pray for this people, or lift up a cry or prayer for them, and do not intercede with me, for I will not hear you. <sup>17</sup>Do you not see what they are doing in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? <sup>18</sup>The children gather wood, the fathers kindle fire, and the women knead dough, to make cakes for the queen of heaven. And they pour out drink offerings to other gods, to provoke me to anger.

Jeremiah is told not to pray for Judah; because the parents have their children gathering firewood so they can make offerings to the Queen of Heaven and other gods in the city that is called by God's Name. Judah has turned so far from the LORD that He tells Jeremiah even if he does pray and intercede for Judah He will not listen.

### **The Practical Lesson for us Today.**

Jeremiah loved the people of Judah, but he loved God more. Jeremiah longed for the people of Judah to amend their ways, but he surrendered to God's will. We cannot always prevent trouble coming to the ones we care for. There are times when we have to trust and surrender them to God's care and allow Him to judge, punish and discipline. After the LORD had punished and disciplined both the nation of Judah and of Israel they eventually returned to Him with great joy.

**"Obey my voice, and I will be your God."**

Jeremiah 7:19-28 ---- <sup>19</sup>Is it I whom they provoke? declares the LORD. Is it not themselves, to their own shame? <sup>20</sup>Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: behold, my anger and my wrath will be poured out on this place, upon man and beast, upon the trees of the field and the fruit of the ground; it will burn and not be quenched." <sup>21</sup>Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "Add your burnt offerings to your sacrifices, and eat the flesh. <sup>22</sup>For in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, I did not speak to your fathers or command them concerning burnt

offerings and sacrifices. <sup>23</sup>But this command I gave them: 'Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people. And walk in all the way that I command you, that it may be well with you.' <sup>24</sup>But they did not obey or incline their ear, but walked in their own counsels and the stubbornness of their evil hearts, and went backward and not forward. <sup>25</sup>From the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt to this day, I have persistently sent all my servants the prophets to them, day after day. <sup>26</sup>Yet they did not listen to me or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck. They did worse than their fathers. <sup>27</sup>"So you shall speak all these words to them, but they will not listen to you. You shall call to them, but they will not answer you. <sup>28</sup>And you shall say to them, "This is the nation that did not obey the voice of the LORD their God, and did not accept discipline; truth has perished; it is cut off from their lips.

Judah's is bringing destruction and shame on themselves by their wicked behaviour against God and against other humans.

**Note;** other than denying God exists, the next greatest way to offend Him is to bring harm to other humans, especially by perverting justice and oppressing others for one's own profit.

**Walking in the LORD'S Ways;** the LORD tells Judah no matter how much they increase their offerings and sacrifices it means nothing if they do not obey His voice and walk in His ways. Walking in the LORD'S ways, is not about faithfully keeping holy days and following religious rites and ceremonies. Walking in God's ways is about justice, treating people with decency, fairness and respect and not oppressing the less fortunate for one's own profit.

**"Obey My Voice"** the LORD'S voice came to the people of Israel through the prophets (v25).

**Notice;** the LORD already knew the people of Israel and Judah would not listen to the prophets (v27).

**The LORD has rejected and forsaken Judah.**

Jeremiah 7:29-31 ---- <sup>29</sup>"Cut off your hair and cast it away; raise a lamentation on the bare heights, for the LORD has rejected and forsaken the generation of his wrath.' <sup>30</sup>"For the sons of Judah have done evil in my sight, declares the LORD. They have set their detestable things in the house that is called by my name, to defile it. <sup>31</sup>And they have built the high places of Topheth, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, which I did not command, nor did it come into my mind.

**The Valley of the Son of Hinnom;** Was the principal place for the worship of Molech, the image of this god would be heated and children that had been slain would be placed in its arms.

**For more information see the title; Molech.,**

- In, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

One of the characteristics of God is longsuffering, the children of Israel have been rebellious since the day the LORD delivered from them from the bondage of Egypt, but they have now become so corrupt they are forcing Him to intervene, judge and punish in wrath. The book of Revelation warns that a day is coming when the entire world will reach a level of corruptness that causes the cup of iniquity to overflow and once again God will be forced to judge not only Israel, but the entire world.

**The Valley of Slaughter.**

Jeremiah 7:32-33 ----- <sup>32</sup>Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when it will no more be called Topheth, or the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter; for they will bury in Topheth, because there is no room elsewhere. <sup>33</sup>And the dead bodies of this people will be food for the birds of the air, and for the beasts of the earth, and none will frighten them away.

The people of Judah will suffer so much death in the valley of Hinnom that all the birds of the air will have a great feast on the dead and decaying bodies lying on the surface of the earth because there will not be enough people to bury them.

An echo of a future age and a much greater feast; Jeremiah's language immediately takes the mind of the passionate and enthusiastic reader to the apostle John in the book of Revelation who picks up on Jeremiah's words when speaking of a future time and a future judgment when the KING OF KINGS AND THE LORD OF LORDS destroys the false religious systems of the world and conquers the armies of the kingdoms of men and the birds of the air are once again called to another great feast of human bodies.

Rev 19:15-18 ----- <sup>15</sup>From his (Christ's) mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. <sup>16</sup>On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords. <sup>17</sup>Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, "Come, gather for the great supper of God, <sup>18</sup>to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great."

### **The Voice of the Bridegroom and of the Bride.**

Jeremiah 7:34 ----- <sup>34</sup>And I will silence in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, for the land shall become a waste.

The voice of the Bridegroom and of the Bride in this context refers to God (the Bridegroom) (through the true prophets) and the people of Judah (the Bride), the voice of the Bridegroom came to the Judah the Bride through the prophets, but God's people hardened their hearts and have fallen so far away from their original calling the sound of joy and gladness and the voice of God is about to be removed from amongst them. The mighty and cruel armies of Babylon fulfilled Jeremiah's words when they invaded the land of Judah, burned the people's houses, destroyed their farms and the city of Jerusalem and pillaged the treasures of the Temple of God and took the people captive to Babylon for 70 years.

**But;** it also echoes another Bridegroom and another Bride in a future age when the sound of joy and gladness and the voice of the Bridegroom and the voice of the Bride will be removed, but this time the Bridegroom is the Lord Jesus Christ and the Bride are all those who by faith belong to him. A time is coming when their call to salvation will no longer be heard amongst the deceptive and corrupt religious systems of the world and the oppressive world system of money and trade.

Rev 18:22-23 ----- <sup>22</sup>and the sound of harpists and musicians, of flute players and trumpeters, will be heard in you (Babylon) no more, and a craftsman of any craft will be found in you no more, and the sound of the mill will be heard in you no more, <sup>23</sup>and the light of a lamp will shine in you no more, and the voice of bridegroom and bride will be heard in you no more, for your merchants were the great ones of the earth, and all nations were deceived by your sorcery.

The voice of God's people will not be heard in Babylon (a symbol of the world's false religion and the world's oppressive system of money and trade) anymore simply because it has been destroyed by the Lord Jesus Christ, the "KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS" (Rev 19:15-18).

The voice of the Bridegroom and the voice of the Bride refer to: -

- The call of salvation through witnessing and testimonies.
- The singing of praise and worship to God and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- The sound of godly joy and gladness in the Lord.

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End.