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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 8.

(2010).

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Teach it, don't demand it.

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Jeremiah 8.

The Bones of Judah will be as Dung on the Surface of the Ground.

Jeremiah 8:1-3 ----- ¹"At that time, declares the LORD, the bones of the kings of Judah, the bones of its officials, the bones of the priests, the bones of the prophets, and the bones of the inhabitants of Jerusalem shall be brought out of their tombs. ²And they shall be spread before the sun and the moon and all the host of heaven, which they have loved and served, which they have gone after, and which they have sought and worshiped. And they shall not be gathered or buried. They shall be as dung on the surface of the ground. ³Death shall be preferred to life by all the remnant that remains of this evil family in all the places where I have driven them, declares the LORD of hosts.

At that time; refers to when the voice of the Bridegroom and the voice of the Bride is silenced in Jerusalem and the land of Judah and the dead and decaying bodies of the people become food for birds and beasts (Jer 7:32-34).

Two possible reasons Judah's Tombs would be destroyed: -

1. The soldiers of Babylon in their victory over an enemy may have destroyed the tombs of their defeated enemies and left the bones lying on the surface of the earth to humiliate and mock those that survived. It was a great devastation and shame to the people of Judah not to have the body of their loved ones buried. It is the same today; people will fly a dead body to the other side of the world so they can bury the dead person respectfully.
2. The soldiers of Babylon may have destroyed the Tombs to get any treasures that may have been buried with the dead body. The suffering and sorrow for those that survive the horrors that Jeremiah is warning the people of Judah of will be so great that the ones who die will be considered the fortunate ones (v3).

No-One relents of their Evil.

Jeremiah 8:4-7 ----- ⁴"You (Jeremiah) shall say to them, Thus says the LORD: When men fall, do they not rise again? If one turns away, does he not return? ⁵Why then has this people turned away in perpetual backsliding? They hold fast to deceit; they refuse to return. ⁶I have paid attention and listened, but they have not spoken rightly; no man relents of his evil, saying, 'What have I done?' Everyone turns to his own course, like a horse plunging headlong into battle. ⁷Even the stork in the heavens knows her times, and the turtledove, swallow, and crane keep the time of their coming, but my people know not the rules of the LORD.

The people of Judah: -

- Have been in a constant state of perpetual backsliding.
- Listen to the deceptive words of the false prophets (to their own destruction).
- Do not examine themselves to see if they maybe doing the wrong thing or going the wrong way.
- Do not repent when they do wrong, but continue in the evil they are doing.
- Do whatever they believe to be right in their own eyes.
- Do not know the rules or ways of the LORD.

Notice.

God likens Judah to a horse plunging headlong into battle (v6) a horse charges into battle without fear, it is totally oblivious of any danger, this is what Judah is likened to they are speedily moving toward disaster and totally unaware of it, even though Jeremiah is desperately trying to warn them.

Everyone is Greedy for Unjust Gain.

Jeremiah 8:8-10 ----- ⁸How can you say, 'We are wise, and the law of the LORD is with us'? But behold, the lying pen of the scribes has made it into a lie. ⁹The wise men shall be put to shame; they shall be dismayed and taken; behold, they have rejected the word of the LORD, so what wisdom is in them? ¹⁰Therefore I will give their wives to others and their fields to conquerors, because from the least to the greatest everyone is greedy for unjust gain; from prophet to priest, everyone deals falsely.

The scribes have twisted and distorted God's law making it into a lie.

The practical lesson for today; there is a temptation to distort the word of God so that it will work to the advantage of those proclaiming it. It is very easy to proclaim God's word and put a slight twist on it so that it distorts the original message and gives the congregation a false concept of God. In most cases this is done by taking Scriptures out of context and joining them together to build doctrines that appeal to the listeners and works to the preachers' advantage. This is basically what the scribes of Judah were doing.

Greedy for Profit; the prophet, the priest and even the common people were dealing falsely because they were all greedy for unjust profit. Money and material possessions were more valuable to them than integrity of character.

"Peace, Peace,' when there is no Peace."

Jeremiah 8:11-12 ----- ¹¹They and have healed the wound of my people lightly, saying, 'Peace, peace,' when there is no peace. ¹²Were 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 the fallen; when I punish them, they shall be overthrown, says the LORD.

The false prophets and scribes are telling the people there will be peace when in actual reality enormous disaster and tremendous destruction is looming.

I am sending Serpents and Adders that cannot be Charmed.

Jeremiah 8:13-17 ----- ¹³When I would gather them, declares the LORD, there are no grapes on the vine, nor figs on the fig tree; even the leaves are withered, and what I gave them has passed away from them." ¹⁴Why do we sit still? Gather together; let us go into the fortified cities and perish there, for the LORD our God has doomed us to perish and has given us poisoned water to drink, because we have sinned against the LORD. ¹⁵We looked for peace, but no good came; for a time of healing, but behold, terror. ¹⁶"The snorting of their horses is heard from Dan; at the sound of the neighing of their stallions the whole land quakes. They come and devour the land and all that fills it, the city and those who dwell in it. ¹⁷For behold, I am sending among you serpents, adders that cannot be charmed, and they shall bite you," declares the LORD.

There are no grapes on the vine, nor figs on the fig tree; even the leaves are withered; means the people of Judah have become so corrupt God can't find any righteous people who walk humbly before the LORD and upholds justice, shows kindness toward others and does what is right.

Horses cause the Ground to Quake; Jeremiah in his vision sees the Babylonian soldiers and their stallions preparing for battle. They are pictured as being so vast in number that their horses are spoken of as causing the ground to quake to emphasis to Judah the might and power of the armies that God is preparing to come against them because of their rebellion and gross sin (Jer 8:14-16).

Serpents and adders that cannot be charmed, and will bite; refers to the mighty and cruel armies of Babylon and her associated allies.

Jeremiah 8:18-22 ---- ¹⁸My joy is gone; grief is upon me; my heart is sick within me. ¹⁹Behold, the cry of the daughter of my people from the length and breadth of the land: "Is the LORD not in Zion? Is her King not in her?" "Why have they provoked me to anger with their carved images

and with their foreign idols?" ²⁰"The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." ²¹For the wound of the daughter of my people is my heart wounded; I mourn, and dismay has taken hold on me. ²²Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of the daughter of my people not been restored?

As God looks upon His people Judah He says: -

- His joy is gone.
- He is mourning and full of grief.
- His heart is sick and wounded within Him.
- Dismay has taken hold on Him, meaning He is discouraged, disappointed and feels Judah's situation is hopeless.

Notice; it is in the power of humans to bring to God's heart, Joy or Grief.

If you want to delight the heart of God: -

- Honour Him.
- Do good and what is right just and fair to other humans.

End.