

THE POTTER AND THE CLAY

Jeremiah 18:1-12

Some preachers have taken Bible passages that concern Israel and applied them directly to _____
There are passages in the Bible that do clearly apply to the USA without wresting them from their _____

I. THE LIVING PARABLE: What Jeremiah Saw *Jeremiah 18:1-5*

A. The Wheels

- 1) Potting is a technique that has continued unchanged for _____ of years
- 2) Ancient potting devices had 2 wheels aligned horizontally on an axle—1 he kicked, 1 for the _____

B. The Clay

- 1) Today potters buy consistent _____ that has been put through special filtering, pulverizing processes
- 2) A big part of the job of an ancient potter was finding good clay and _____ and preparing it

C. The Project

The point of Jeremiah's story is that even after preparing the clay, the potter may find it _____ once it is on the wheel for the project he originally intended and have to start over

II. THE EXPLANATION OF THE PARABLE: What Jeremiah Heard *Jeremiah 18:6-10*

A. God Deals with _____

- 1) 12 times in these verses God speaks to nations generically, although He applied the truth to _____
- 2) We often make the mistake of thinking that God deals only with _____ and not nations
 - a) Because does indeed deal with each of us on a personal, individual level in regard to _____
 - b) Because we live in America, a land of rugged individualism where we have personal _____
- 3) The OT indicates that God often directed His prophets to speak to nations other than _____

B. God Is _____ in the Affairs of Nations

- 1) God's power over our nation is as complete as the power of the _____ over the clay
- 2) Illustrations = _____
- 3) A nation like ours may believe we are self-made, but this parable directly _____ that notion

C. Nations Are _____ to God

- 1) God's sovereignty does not negate human _____ but rather takes it into account
- 2) In this passage God applied this principle directly to Judah, but the same principle applies to _____

III. THE APPLICATION OF THE PARABLE: What Judah Did *Jeremiah 18:11-12*

A. While the parable applies to NATIONS, the application applies to _____: WE must respond

B. Suggested Responses:

- 1) We must _____: we must confess the sins of our nation and pray Biblically for her
- 2) We must be salt and light: we must decry the sins of our _____ rather than embracing them
- 3) We must continually give our Lord Jesus His place: we must be willing to reveal our _____