

Journey through Jeremiah Part 11 – The Prophet Weeps

A sermon series by Pastor Byron Chesney, Th.D. – Wednesday, March 01, 2017

† Jeremiah 9:1-26

(1) Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!

This verse is one of those that tags Jeremiah as being “the Weeping Prophet,” and rightfully so. He has been weeping already, so much so that he no longer has any tears to weep. He wishes he could weep even more, because as an inhabitant of Judah there was much to weep about:

- He weeps over how his own people have fallen into apostasy.
- He weeps as the LORD gives them many chances to repent of their sin yet they refuse to do so.
- He weeps as he warns them over and over and they reject him and his message.
- He weeps over seeing families ripped apart.
- He weeps over seeing the land devastated.
- He weeps over seeing their homes destroyed.
- He weeps over them becoming slaves to their enemies.

Friends, we too have much to weep about in the day in which we live:

- Millions of babies being murdered in their mother’s womb because of abortion.
- Millions of drug addicts living their life for nothing more than the next high.
- Millions of drunks destroying their lives and families for another bottle.
- Millions of homeless due to the sins of this world.
- Millions of people lost, dying, and going to hell because of their wickedness.
- Churches closing every single day from lack of people attending.
- Hundreds of Pastors quitting the ministry due to stress and lack of support.
- A generation of people that are coming up that don’t know God.

(2) Oh that I had in the wilderness a lodging place of wayfaring men; that I might leave my people, and go from them! for they be all adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men.

Jeremiah wishes he had a place he could flee to so he could be alone and weep. He wants to get away from sinful people.

I know how he feels. When I look around this world that we live in and see all of the sin and wickedness I often wish I could go somewhere to get away from it all. Somewhere there was no hate, no anger, no lying, no cheating, no perverseness. But there’s not going to be a place like that on this earth. We won’t see that kind of place until we reach Heaven. How do we know that?

Revelation 21:2-8

(2) And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

(3) And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

(4) And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

(5) And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

(6) And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

(7) He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

(8) But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

But, meanwhile we must endure and keep on keeping on in this treacherous land that we live in.

(3) And they bend their tongues like their bow for lies: but they are not valiant for the truth upon the earth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they know not me, saith the LORD.

“they bend their tongues like their bow” we see this same word usage used in the Psalms: **Psalm 11:2:** For, lo, the wicked bend *their* bow, they make ready their arrow upon the string, that they may privily shoot at the upright in heart.

The people of Judah are wicked, there is nothing but lies and damage being spoken from their lips, there is no truth in them.

“they are not valiant for the truth” If you have ever read or studied John Bunyan’s Pilgrim’s Progress, which was written about 370 years ago, that phrase will be very familiar to you. In the final part of the book when Christian’s wife, Christiana and their children, were crossing over the river to get to the Celestial City, they, along with Mr. Great-Heart, came upon a man holding a sword and his face was covered in blood. He told them his name was **Valiant for the Truth**. He had just battled 3-men single-handedly that were trying to stop him from making it to the Celestial City.

The word “**valiant**” means “**to show courage or determination.**” The inhabitants of Judah were not showing either when it came to the truth. The only thing they were “valiant” in was their propensity to sin.

They were not being valiant for the truth because according to the previous chapter:

1. They were perpetually backsliding. (Jer.8:5)
2. They held fast to deceit. (Jer.8:5)
3. No man repented. (Jer.8:6)
4. They rejected the Word of the LORD. (Jer.8:9)

My friend we need some Mr. and Mrs. Valiant for the Truth today. The reason our world is in the shape it is in is because no one is valiant for the truth anymore. The Bible says over in Romans chapter 1 that wicked men turn the truth of God into a lie and they worship and serve the creature more than the Creator. That’s what the people in Judah were doing and that’s what the people in the United States are doing. Don’t believe me? Then why is there more outrage over an abused animal than there is a murdered baby? Why do we have laws that say you can’t kill a bald eagle but you can kill a precious little baby? People are worshiping nature today and care more about that than they do the LORD. Why do you think “Earth Day” was created? It wasn’t to worship the LORD.

(4) Take ye heed every one of his neighbour, and trust ye not in any brother: for every brother will utterly supplant, and every neighbour will walk with slanders.
(5) And they will deceive every one his neighbour, and will not speak the truth: they have taught their tongue to speak lies, *and* weary themselves to commit iniquity.
(6) Thine habitation *is* in the midst of deceit; through deceit they refuse to know me, saith the LORD.

This is a warning for them not to trust anyone. Don't trust your neighbor or even your brother. People are so vile and corrupt that you can trust no one. When I was growing up on Maloneyville Rd. we left our doors unlocked. We didn't even think about someone coming in on us. I used to sleep with my bedroom door open which led out into the basement and we would leave the basement door wide open all night long. I never even considered that someone might walk in on us to cause us harm or to rob us.

But, I guarantee you we don't do that today. We double lock our doors in the daytime when everyone is home. You never know who or what someone is going to do these days. You can't even leave your shoes outside anymore, someone will steal them. You can't let children play outside anymore unless you sit there and watch them the whole time.

(7) Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, I will melt them, and try them; for how shall I do for the daughter of my people?

Because of their sin and iniquity the LORD says that he will melt them and try them. This is in reference to how a refiner would melt down the precious metals to separate the dross and imperfections from the pure metal. It was how they knew they had only the pure stuff. -- The LORD is going to refine his people and burn up all of the bad.

(8) Their tongue *is* as an arrow shot out; it speaketh deceit: *one* speaketh peaceably to his neighbour with his mouth, but in heart he layeth his wait.

This is a description of how they would lie to each other to take advantage of each other. They would talk and act like they were good friends but down deep in their heart they hated them and were just looking for the right opportunity to take advantage of them.

(9) Shall I not visit them for these *things*? saith the LORD: shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?

He asks the question again much the same as he has asked before. "Shall I not visit them for these things? Shall not my soul be avenged?" The answer is obvious. Yes, of course He should take action against them.

(10) For the mountains will I take up a weeping and wailing, and for the habitations of the wilderness a lamentation, because they are burned up, so that none can pass through *them*; neither can *men* hear the voice of the cattle; both the fowl of the heavens and the beast are fled; they are gone.

This is Jeremiah describing the utter devastation of the Land of Judah and how he weeps for them and the loss. Remember, the Book of Jeremiah isn't written in consecutive order so this has already happened and he is writing about it afterwards.

(11) And I will make Jerusalem heaps, *and* a den of dragons; and I will make the cities of Judah desolate, without an inhabitant.

The LORD says that He will make Jerusalem heaps, that is referring to all of their buildings being destroyed and crumbled and piled up in heaps. "den of dragons," it will be useless for human habitation, only the beasts will dwell in Jerusalem.

(12) Who *is* the wise man, that may understand this? and *who is he* to whom the mouth of the LORD hath spoken, that he may declare it, for what the land perisheth *and* is burned up like a wilderness, that none passeth through?

There are no wise men in Judah, they brought all of this upon themselves. "the mouth of the LORD hath spoken," meaning through His prophet Jeremiah.

(13) And the LORD saith, Because they have forsaken my law which I set before them, and have not obeyed my voice, neither walked therein; (14) But have walked after the imagination of their own heart, and after Baalim, which their fathers taught them: (15) Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will feed them, *even* this people, with wormwood, and give them water of gall to drink.

This is very reminiscent of what we studied in Jeremiah 8 where the people said that the LORD had given them "water of gall to drink" because they had sinned. When you see that word "wormwood" in the Bible it is talking about a curse or a poison. Wormwood is another name for the root of a Hemlock plant which is very poisonous. It was often used as a method of execution. Gall, of course, is as we have studied, it means a putrid bitterness, such as what is secreted by the liver to break down fat and cholesterol – bile, it is an acid. So giving them wormwood and gall is a cursed bitter poison, it is the penalty for their sin.

(16) I will scatter them also among the heathen, whom neither they nor their fathers have known: and I will send a sword after them, till I have consumed them.

This is a description of how the LORD allowed the young men to be taken into captivity, such as Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah that we read about in the Book of Daniel.

(17) Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Consider ye, and call for the mourning women, that they may come; and send for cunning *women*, that they may come: (18) And let them make haste, and take up a wailing for us, that our eyes may run down with tears, and our eyelids gush out with waters.

He tells them to call for their mourning and cunning women. These were women that were paid to attend funeral services. They would weep and mourn and wail loudly with the family.

(19) For a voice of wailing is heard out of Zion, How are we spoiled! we are greatly confounded, because we have forsaken the land, because our dwellings have cast us out. (20) Yet hear the word of the LORD, O ye women, and let your ear receive the word of his mouth, and teach your daughters wailing, and every one her neighbour lamentation. (21) For death is come up into our windows, *and* is entered into our palaces, to cut off the children from without, *and* the young men from the streets.

The destruction of Judah and Jerusalem was a horrific thing. Jeremiah pleads for the people to weep and mourn for the total devastation they are going through. Families are separated and destroyed. Life as they know it will never be the same.

(22) *Speak, Thus saith the LORD, Even the carcasses of men shall fall as dung upon the open field, and as the handful after the harvestman, and none shall gather them.*

What an awful site it must have been. The carcasses of men and women just lying dead in the open fields. No one gathered their bodies up and buried them. They lay there and rotted and the animals and birds of prey would eat their flesh.

(23) *Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches:*

These are some of the greatest words in all the Bible. It should serve as a warning to everyone. Look at the list of people He lists:

Wise man – don't glory in your wisdom.

Mighty man – don't glory in your might.

Rich man – don't glory in your riches.

All of these things can be taken away from us at any moment. It's only by God's grace that we have any wisdom, might, or riches. He can decide to withhold these things from us if He so chooses.

A wise man can have a brain injury or develop Alzheimer's and lose his wisdom.

A mighty man can become paralyzed and lose his strength.

A rich man can lose his riches and become poor.

But look at what He says that we are to glory in;

(24) *But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.*

Knowing the LORD is the only thing that you and I have to glory in. We must understand that He is the greatest being and the greatest power in Heaven and on Earth.

He also gives us a list of things that He delights in:

Lovingkindness

Judgment

Righteousness

If our LORD delights in these things then we too should delight in them and make sure that we exercise these things as a Christian should.

(25) *Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will punish all them which are circumcised with the uncircumcised; (26) Egypt, and Judah, and Edom, and the children of Ammon, and Moab, and all that are in the utmost corners, that dwell in the wilderness: for all these nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised in the heart.*

The LORD promised to punish all nations, Jew and Gentile alike. This shows His sovereignty above all men and women on the face of the earth.