

Jeremiah 2

part 1

Jeremiah now begins to address the people. His initial words are to remind them of their God and His provision and protection of her. The charges against Israel begin in verse 4 and continue through chapter 3:5. God charges Israel with forsaking the LORD for empty religion with the leaders of the nation - rulers, prophets, priests - shirking their responsibilities to over see the people for God. In these initial verses Jeremiah is commanded to remind Israel of God's faithfulness to her. In the following verses Israel is commanded to hear what God is saying about their rebelliousness which has permeated the nation.

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS IN CARING FOR ISRAEL

1 Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

Once again, the familiar phrase, "the word of the LORD," instructs Jeremiah.

2 Go and cry in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the LORD; I remember thee, the kindness of thy youth, the love of thine espousals, when thou wentest after me in the wilderness, in a land that was not sown.

Jeremiah is commanded to speak directly and clearly, "in the ears," of the people. There are 4 things Jeremiah is to remind the people about.

1. God remembers them.

Isaiah 49

- 14 But Zion said, The LORD hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me.
- 15 Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee.
- 16 Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me.

2. They were kind in their beginnings.

Kind רחם keh'-sed "kindness; by implication (towards God) piety"

Exodus 24

- 7 And he took the book of the covenant, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the LORD hath said will we do, and be obedient.
- 8 And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD hath made with you concerning all these words.

3. They loved the Lord in their early marriage to the LORD.

Deuteronomy 5

- 27 Go thou near, and hear all that the LORD our God shall say: and speak thou unto us all that the LORD our God shall speak unto thee; and we will hear it, and do it.
- 28 And the LORD heard the voice of your words, when ye spake unto me; and the LORD said unto me, I have heard the voice of the words of this people, which they have spoken unto thee: they have well said all that they have spoken.

4. They sought God.

This refers to Israel's wilderness wanderings. Their problem was lack of faith. The people's problems in Jeremiah's day was the forsakeing of God and the embrace of idolatry.

3 Israel was holiness unto the LORD, and the firstfruits of his increase: all that devour him shall offend; evil shall come upon them, saith the LORD.

Jeremiah continues with additional blessings of Israel in her early life.

1. Israel was holy to the LORD.

Amos 3

- 1 Hear this word that the LORD hath spoken against you, O children of Israel, against the whole family which I brought up from the land of Egypt, saying,
- 2 You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.

Deuteronomy 7

6 For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.

2. Israel was the first to be blessed by God.

Exodus 22

29 Thou shalt not delay to offer the first of thy ripe fruits, and of thy liquors: the firstborn of thy sons shalt thou give unto me.

30 Likewise shalt thou do with thine oxen, and with thy sheep: seven days it shall be with his dam; on the eighth day thou shalt give it me.

Exodus 23:19 "The first of the firstfruits of thy land thou shalt bring into the house of the LORD thy God...."

Israel was the first nation to be blessed and have a special relationship with God. Other nations will be blessed and know God in the millennium and the eternal kingdom.

3. God will be offended by those who devour Israel (Jewish people).

Zechariah 2:8 For thus saith the LORD of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye.

"The anti-semitic shooting spree of a devout Christian—John Earnest—has done little to awaken the Church to its institutional bigotry. Earnest belongs to a denomination called OPC (Orthodox Presbyterian Churches Of America). OPC, and many other churches, have of course, condemned Earnest. But they've done nothing to actively dismantle the anti-semitism that's part of Church culture. Even now, a visit to the website of OPC, and Earnest's local congregation—Escondido Orthodox Presbyterian Church—finds not one word about bigotry or anti-semitism."

Patrick D. John, *Confronting Anti-Semitism: What would Jesus do?*, Oct. 29, 2019

"According to bestselling evangelical author Texe Marrs, "Of all the diseased schools of racial supremacism, I am convinced that the Jewish specimen is the most evil and most threatening to the lives, bodies, and eternal destinies of humankind."

Yes, Marrs states, "Zionism has existed as a satanic ideological force in opposition to all things good and even to life itself for three thousand years."

Indeed, "Zionism and its accompanying religious disease, Judaism, are the champions of all time in terms of the total number of innocent men, women, and children being imprisoned in concentration camps, beaten, bludgeoned, raped, robbed, humiliated, and unmercifully slaughtered" (from his book Blood Covenant With Destiny: The Babylonian Talmud, the Jewish Kabbalah, and the Power of Prophecy)."
Michael Brown, *The rising tide of 'Christian' antisemitism in America*, Sept. 9, 2019

"Steven Anderson, the pastor of a Baptist church in Arizona who caused outrage during the Obama administration by saying he was praying for the president's death, runs a YouTube channel with more than 62 million views. In sermons online, he claims, "The Jews believe that it's okay for them to steal from Gentiles"; says that Jews and gay people run Hollywood; and emphasizes that Jews killed Jesus and are not God's chosen people."

Julie Zauzmer, *How anti-Semitic beliefs have taken hold among some evangelical Christians*, August 22, 2019, The Washington Post

"Evangelical newscaster Rick Wiles calls the impeachment of President Donald Trump a "Jew Coup," says Jews are under divine judgment because they "oppose" Jesus, and asserts that the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic is a "plague" sent by God to the Jews, spreading from their synagogues to the entire world. His daily program is called TruNews."

Brian Schrauger, *The Resurrection of Christian Antisemitism*, June 18, 2020, Jerusalem Post

Owen Benjamin, a conservative comedian and professing Christian, "declared that Jews use pornography to destroy the masculine strength of American men so that they will be unable to father children and have the courage to protect their families from Jewish control. 'It is literally by design so the West doesn't have kids,' he said, adding later, 'The Jews are only one percent of the population and yet they're in control of the media, all of banking, pornography, opioids.'"

Michael Brown, *The rising tide of 'Christian' antisemitism in America*, Sept. 9, 2019

4. God will bring evil upon those that seek to devour (anti-Semitism) Israel (Jewish people).

Zechariah 2:9 For, behold, I will shake mine hand upon them, and they shall be a spoil to their servants: and ye shall know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me.

Isaiah 41

- 8 But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend.
9 Thou whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called thee from the chief men thereof, and said unto thee, Thou art my servant; I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away.
10 Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.
11 Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish.
12 Thou shalt seek them, and shalt not find them, even them that contended with thee: they that war against thee shall be as nothing, and as a thing of nought.
13 For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.

"No nation under heaven could touch Israel for ill without bringing down upon them the wrath of almighty God. The pages of history are strewn with the wreckage of nations who, though great in the eyes and councils of the world, incurred the just wrath of an outraged God. While God reserved the right to judge His chosen people for their sins, He also reserves the right to judge those who spitefully treat the Jews, and thus bring reproach on the One who made an everlasting covenant with Israel."

Feinberg, Charles Lee, The Prophecy of Ezekiel: The Glory of the Lord, Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1969, p. 146.

ISRAEL'S UNFAITHFULNESS TO GOD

4 Hear ye the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel:

Once again "the word of the Lord" is declared. But, this time the nation is called to hear what God is saying.

5 Thus saith the LORD, What iniquity have your fathers found in me, that they are gone far from me, and have walked after vanity, and are become vain?

God wants to know what sin the people have found in Him to abandon Him?

Is there anything in your life that you are blaming God for?

Wayward children? Loss of job? Death of a loved one? Etc.

Israel turned their back on God and was disciplined as a result.

6 Neither said they, Where is the LORD that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, that led us through the wilderness, through a land of deserts and of pits, through a land of drought, and of the shadow of death, through a land that no man passed through, and where no man dwelt?

The past is to be remembered and learned from, especially in relation to God's faithfulness.

2 Peter 1:

- 13 Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by **putting you in remembrance;**
14 Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.
15 Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things **always in remembrance.**
16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.
17 For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.
18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.
19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:
20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.
21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

1 Corinthians 11:

- 23 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:
24 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: **this do in remembrance of me.**
25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: **this do ye**, as oft as ye drink it, **in remembrance of me.**

2 Timothy 2:

- 8 **Remember** that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel:

7 And I brought you into a plentiful country, to eat the fruit thereof and the goodness thereof; but when ye entered, ye defiled my land, and made mine heritage an abomination.

God reminds them that He brought them into a land that had plentiful resources.

But, when they entered into the land they defiled the land and made mine heritage (Israel) and abomination.

Deuteronomy 8:

- 7 For the LORD thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills;
- 8 A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey;
- 9 A land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any thing in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass.
- 10 When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the good land which he hath given thee.
- 11 Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day:
- 12 Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein;
- 13 And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied;
- 14 Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;
- 15 Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint;
- 16 Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end;
- 17 And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth.
- 18 But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

8 The priests said not, Where is the LORD? and they that handle the law knew me not: the pastors also transgressed against me, and the prophets prophesied by Baal, and walked after things that do not profit.

All the anointed offices of Israel had forsaken God.

1. Priests - the priests had no relationship with God and yet these are the teachers of the law.
2. Pastors (politicians) - the politicians (kings and others) regularly broke God's laws.
3. Prophets - the spokesmen for God delivered a false message.

2 Corinthians 11:

- 3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.
- 4 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.
- 13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.
- 14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.
- 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.