

Jeremiah 13

In this chapter Jeremiah confronts the people about their pride which has caused the people of the nation to commit sinful acts of rebellion against God. Pride is the root of all sin and leads to many destructive decisions. The opposite of pride is humility. The king and queen are told to humble themselves which would lead to the people following in their path. When a godly king ruled in Judah, God blessed by blessing the nation. I believe there is an application we can learn from this for the U.S. The "revival" of a nation doesn't begin with the citizenry but with leadership. If there are enough of the citizens willing to make reforms the godly leader(s) want, the nation will be blessed. If the ungodly in the nation have their way, the nation continues in its downward trajectory of destruction. This was the case with Judah. What does this tell us about the trajectory of the U.S.?

- 1 Thus saith the LORD unto me, Go and get thee a linen girdle, and put it upon thy loins, and put it not in water.**
2 So I got a girdle according to the word of the LORD, and put it on my loins.
3 And the word of the LORD came unto me the second time, saying,
4 Take the girdle that thou hast got, which is upon thy loins, and arise, go to Euphrates, and hide it there in a hole of the rock.
5 So I went, and hid it by Euphrates, as the LORD commanded me.
6 And it came to pass after many days, that the LORD said unto me, Arise, go to Euphrates, and take the girdle from thence, which I commanded thee to hide there.
7 Then I went to Euphrates, and digged, and took the girdle from the place where I had hid it: and, behold, the girdle was marred, it was profitable for nothing.



- Vs. 1-2 A girdle refers to a "belt" that goes around the waist. This girdle was to be of linen, not leather which would be sturdier, as linen speaks of purity. Jeremiah obeyed.
- Vs. 3 God again speaks to Jeremiah.
- Vs. 4-5 Jeremiah is told to go to the Euphrates River and hide it in a hole in a rock. Jeremiah obeyed.
- Vs. 6-7 Jeremiah is told to go back to where he hid the girdle and upon recovering it, the girdle was marred, and worthless, good for nothing.

- 8 Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,**
9 Thus saith the LORD, After this manner will I mar the pride of Judah, and the great pride of Jerusalem.
10 This evil people, which refuse to hear my words, which walk in the imagination of their heart, and walk after other gods, to serve them, and to worship them, shall even be as this girdle, which is good for nothing.
11 For as the girdle cleaveth to the loins of a man, so have I caused to cleave unto me the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah, saith the LORD; that they might be unto me for a people, and for a name, and for a praise, and for a glory: but they would not hear.

Vs. 8 Once again God speaks to Jeremiah and explains what the girdle represented.

Vs. 9 The marred girdle is a picture of what Judah/Jerusalem was, but now has become. What they didn't realize was that their only "worth" was their relationship and walk with Jehovah. Everything else was worthless.

Vs. 10 The people are evil.

1. Refuse to hear the word of God.
2. Walk in the imagination of their heart.
3. Follow other gods to serve and worship them.
4. They are good for nothing.

Vs. 11 God caused Israel to cleave to Him in order for them to be:

1. A people "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." Deuteronomy 7:6

2. A name One writer said, "Names in the Bible can signify origin, signify purpose, describe a person's characteristics or circumstances, or honor God."

"The meaning of the name Israel is not clear, but yet it's huge. The meaning of Israel is not singular and distinct, but consists of many nuances and facets and bulges with theological significance.

Judging from Genesis 32:28, the form לארשי (Israel) appears to be a compilation of two elements. The final one is the noun לא (El), the common abbreviation of Elohim, meaning God and the second part of our name appears to be related to the verb הרש (sara).

However, even though Genesis 32:28 uses the enigmatic verb הרש — which is assumed to mean to struggle but which might something else entirely — it's by no means certain that this verb is etymologically linked to our name Israel. When we say, "we named him Bob because that seemed like a good idea," we certainly don't mean to say that the name Bob means "good idea".

For a meaning of the name Israel, NOBSE Study Bible Name List, BDB Theological Dictionary and Alfred Jones (Dictionary of Old Testament Proper Names) unanimously go with the verb הרש of which the meaning is unsure. Undeterred, NOBSE reads God Strives, and BDB proposes El Persisteth or El Persevereth.

Alfred Jones figures that the mysterious verb הרש might very well mean "to be princely," and assumes that the name Israel consists of a future form of this verb, which hence would mean to become princely. And so Jones interprets the name Israel with He Will Be Prince With God.

Here at Abarim Publications, our contention is that the mystery verb הרש doesn't mean struggle at all, but rather reflects an ability to retain what normally is fluidic.

Our guess: Israel means He Retains God, or slightly more elaborate: He Has Become A Receptacle In Which God Can Be Received And Retained. This most primary Biblical concept was obviously revisited in the story of the manger in which the Word was received.

Pretty awesome name." <https://www.abarim-publications.com/Meaning/Israel.html>

3. A praise Jew or Yehudah

"But there is also a deeper meaning to the name "Jew. The first individual to be called a Jew (Yehudi) in the Scriptures was Mordecai, of Purim fame. "There was a man, a Yehudi, in Shushan the capital, whose name was Mordecai . . . a Yemini" (Esther 2:5). The Talmud (Tractate Megillah 12b) asks on this: "He is called a Yehudi, implying that he descended from Judah; he then is called Yemini, implying that he is a Benjaminite!" Rabbi Jochanan responds: "He was a Benjaminite. Yet he was called a Yehudi because he rejected idolatry—and anyone who rejects idolatry is called a Yehudi."

The commentaries explain that the name Yehudah shares the same root as the Hebrew word hoda'ah, which means acknowledgement or submission. One who acknowledges G-d's existence and submits to His authority—to the extent that he is willing to sacrifice his life for the sanctification of His name—he is called a Yehudi."

What is the Meaning of the Name Jew?,

https://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/640221/jewish/What-is-the-Meaning-of-the-Name-Jew.htm

Romans 2:28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:

29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

4. A glory תפארה tif-aw-raw' [same word in Isaiah 46:13] means ornament, beauty, glory.

Isaiah 46:13 I bring near my righteousness; it shall not be far off, and my salvation shall not tarry: and I will place salvation in Zion for Israel my glory.

In the future, the millennium, Israel will be all that God intended them to be.

Jeremiah 33:9 **And it shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and an honour** [the Hebrew word is the same as in Jeremiah 13:11] **before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear all the good that I do unto them** [people]: **and they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and for all the prosperity that I procure unto it.**

12 Therefore thou shalt speak unto them this word; Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Every bottle shall be filled with wine: and they shall say unto thee, Do we not certainly know that every bottle shall be filled with wine?

Once again God commands Jeremiah to speak to the people. This time using an empty bottle being filled with wine as the illustration. Notice the arrogance of the people in their response: **"Do we not certainly know that every bottle shall be filled with wine?"**

The people had not interest in learning from Jeremiah the meaning of this illustration. They (the elites) were far superior in understanding than Jeremiah, in their own minds anyway, and were contemptuous of Jeremiah teaching them.

The fallen nature of man ALWAYS think they can do something better. Even though Adam and Eve were not in a fallen state when Satan tempted Eve in Genesis 3, he appealed to their pride by saying God does not want you to know good and evil because then "He will have competition."

Satan, using the fallen nature of man and their pride, will always lead a faction to suppress others, thinking they are wiser, more righteous, and more able even though the facts show the opposite when biblical values are part of the equation.

"House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) referred to fellow lawmakers in Congress as "the enemy" on Thursday and said that, because of those lawmakers, she may approve increasing security spending for House members." January 28, 2021, <https://www.dailywire.com/news/nancy-pelosi-fellow-lawmakers-are-the-enemy>

Democrats Demanding Biden Clamp Down on Conservative Christians, Remove Them From Public Office and Re-educate Trump Voters

By Leo Hohmann December 15, 2020

<https://www.worldviewweekend.com/news/article/democrats-demanding-biden-clamp-down-conservative-christians-remove-them-public-office>

A group backed by congressional Democrats touting a "Secular America" has sent a 28-page document to the Biden transition team advising him to strip First Amendment rights from Christians who advocate traditional biblical positions on the sanctity of life, marriage, education and the nuclear family.

The group, calling themselves the Secular Democrats of America, sent the letter to Biden's team under the title "Restoring Constitutional Secularism and Patriotic Pluralism in the White House: Prepared exclusively by Secular Democrats of America PAC for President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris Transition Team."

The document, presented by Reps Jamie Raskin, D-Md., and Jared Huffman, D-Calif., and endorsed by Rep. Jerry McNerney, D-Calif., states that an incoming Biden administration must "educate the American public," particularly those identified as the "religious right," on the need to keep their "religious dogma" to themselves. The document calls for a purge of social conservatives from all levels of government, labeling them as "white nationalist" and "conspiracy theorists."

The document demonizes conservative Christians as enemies of the state, equating them with "white nationalists" and "white supremacy," which to the left is code for fascism, deserving of extreme retribution and ostracizing them from society.

It goes on to support the most draconian governmental responses to the COVID-19 virus and climate change, which sounds eerily similar to the World Economic Forum's proposed "great reset" of the global economic and social order [this is a plan to replace free-enterprise capitalism with a type of scientific dictatorship run by unelected technocrats].

Loudon challenged Christians to get prepared for the most anti-Christian administration in history should Biden get inaugurated and urged them not to give up their First or Second Amendment rights without a fight.

"Everybody should be prepared because the government is coming for you if these people get into power. They're coming to shut down your liberties, and the best guarantee of a free society is an armed protective society. Keep your Second Amendment. ...It's not like the left hates guns. They just want a monopoly on the guns. If a thousand people have guns and a million people have none, who's going to win that fight?"

"Having spent some years engaged in counterterrorism analysis, I can tell you with certainty: The Democrats' actions are an open invitation to incite violence, and as I noted previously, that is precisely their calculation. The Demo proliferators of hate and division are banking their political fortunes on more anarchist violence that they will attribute to "Trump supporters." And, given that a growing number of Americans believe, accurately, that the Leftmedia and Big Tech have systematically suppressed our First Amendment rights, thus monopolizing public opinion, Demos are inviting a shift from ballot box to bullet box.

Their strategy extends well beyond enhancing the theatrical optics around the upcoming Trump impeachment farce. The incessant claims of impending insurrection are a disgraceful endeavor to lure mentally unstable conspiracy nuts out of their rat holes and then use their actions, or intended actions, as fodder for continuing the leftists' war on all conservatives."

Mark Alexander, *Demos are Baiting and Begging for More Violence*, February 3, 2021

<https://patriotpost.us/alexander/77492-demos-are-baiting-and-begging-for-more-violence-2021-02-03>

- 13 Then shalt thou say unto them, Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will fill all the inhabitants of this land, even the kings that sit upon David's throne, and the priests, and the prophets, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, with drunkenness.**
- 14 And I will dash them one against another, even the fathers and the sons together, saith the LORD: I will not pity, nor spare, nor have mercy, but destroy them.**

The bottle filled with wine is illustrative of what God will do to the nation - the kings, priests, prophets, and the people - they will be filled with drunkenness. A drunk does not think wisely and acts foolishly. The result will be their destruction by God.

- 15 Hear ye, and give ear; be not proud: for the LORD hath spoken.**
- 16 Give glory to the LORD your God, before he cause darkness, and before your feet stumble upon the dark mountains, and, while ye look for light, he turn it into the shadow of death, and make it gross darkness.**
- 17 But if ye will not hear it, my soul shall weep in secret places for your pride; and mine eye shall weep sore, and run down with tears, because the LORD'S flock is carried away captive.**

THE PROBLEM Pride **THE REMEDY** Obeying God's word and giving glory to God
But, if they won't respond judgment is certain.

- 18 Say unto the king and to the queen, Humble yourselves, sit down: for your principalities shall come down, even he crown of your glory.**

The path to national restoration is for the political leaders (king and queen) to lead the way in humbling themselves.

- 19 The cities of the south shall be shut up, and none shall open them: Judah shall be carried away captive all of it, it shall be wholly carried away captive.**
- 20 Lift up your eyes, and behold them that come from the north: where is the flock that was given thee, thy beautiful flock?**
- 21 What wilt thou say when he shall punish thee? for thou hast taught them to be captains, and as chief over thee: shall not sorrows take thee, as a woman in travail?**
- 22 And if thou say in thine heart, Wherefore come these things upon me? For the greatness of thine iniquity are thy skirts discovered, and thy heels made bare.**
- 23 Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.**

Vs. 19-20 Although the politicians are told to humble themselves, it is not in the nature (sinful) of man to do this without the enabling of God. People in power and authority, who are catered to and acclaimed (think politicians, entertainers, athletes, etc.), do not, generally, humble themselves.

Vs. 21 The result of the arrogance of the leaders is the people that they governed and taught will be destroyed and the politicians will suffer pain.

Vs. 22 The leaders will wonder why all of these things have come upon them. The answer is because of the magnitude of their sin.

Vs. 23 They don't have the ability to change their ways (outside of God changing their hearts - salvation).

"Using a famous proverb, Jeremiah points out that Judah is so far beyond change that her repentance would be like a suspension of nature's laws. God still invites people to repent. But with Judah sin was so ingrained that there was no hope of repentance. Here is a classic example of loss of freedom of the will through persistent sinning. Sin becomes natural. Jeremiah is speaking of the force of habit, not denying freedom of choice (cf. John 8:34)."
Dr. Charles Feinberg, Jeremiah, page 110

- 24 Therefore will I scatter them as the stubble that passeth away by the wind of the wilderness.**
- 25 This is thy lot, the portion of thy measures from me, saith the LORD; because thou hast forgotten me, and trusted in falsehood.**
- 26 Therefore will I discover thy skirts upon thy face, that thy shame may appear.**
- 27 I have seen thine adulteries, and thy neighings, the lewdness of thy whoredom, and thine abominations on the hills in the fields. Woe unto thee, O Jerusalem! wilt thou not be made clean? when shall it once be?**

Judgement is coming because they have forgotten God and live by lies. "Neighings" is a "bestial figure for illicit love" - "They were as fed horses in the morning: every one neighed after his neighbour's wife," Jeremiah 5:8. God is not unaware of the nations sins and will judge her. The last phrases is God's desire for her repentance.