

Jeremiah 3

part 1

In this portion Jeremiah once again confronts Judah, and Israel, with their rebellion against God and the need to repent. Verses 15-18 are an amazing promise/prophecy of God's future blessing to the nation of Israel. The chapter closes with God stating His desire that the people repent and, subsequently, they do repent.

JUDAH WORSE THAN ISRAEL

- 6 The LORD said also unto me in the days of Josiah the king, Hast thou seen that which backsliding Israel hath done? she is gone up upon every high mountain and under every green tree, and there hath played the harlot.**
- 7 And I said after she had done all these things, Turn thou unto me. But she returned not. And her treacherous sister Judah saw it.**
- 8 And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also.**
- 9 And it came to pass through the lightness of her whoredom, that she defiled the land, and committed adultery with stones and with stocks.**
- 10 And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah hath not turned unto me with her whole heart, but feignedly, saith the LORD.**
- 11 And the LORD said unto me, The backsliding Israel hath justified herself more than treacherous Judah.**

Both the southern kingdom (Judah) and the northern kingdom (Israel) are addressed in these verses. The sin of Judah was worse than that of Israel because she saw what Israel did, how God judged her, and yet did the same thing. Here are some lessons we learn from this passage:

1. More light with rejection brings a harsher rebuke and punishment, vs. 7-8.

ETERNAL CONSEQUENCES (for the unbeliever)

Luke 12:48 But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

Revelation 20:11-12 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.
And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

2 Peter 2:20-21 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.
For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

ETERNAL CONSEQUENCES (for the believer)

2 Corinthians 5:8 -10 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.
Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.
For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

2 John 8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

2. Sinfulness is often accompanied by a (sham) appeal to God and religion justifying, in God's name, that what is being done is okay, vs. 10-11.

Acts 8

5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.
6 And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.
7 For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.
8 And there was great joy in that city.
9 But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one:
10 To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God.
11 And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries.
12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.
13 **Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip,** and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.
14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:
15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:
16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)
17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.
18 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money,
19 Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.
20 But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.
21 Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.
22 Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.
23 For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.
24 Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.

1.	Simon controlled the people through sorcery	vs. 5-11
2.	The people get saved	vs. 12
3.	Simon make a profession of faith	vs. 13
4.	Peter and John impart the Holy Spirit to the new believers	vs. 14-17
5.	Simon's true spiritual state is revealed	vs. 18-19
6.	Peter discerns the true nature of Simon and his sin	vs. 20-23
7.	Simon asks Peter to pray that he be spared the judgment Showing that he has no relationship with God	vs. 24

GOD CALLS ISRAEL TO REPENT

- 12 **Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the LORD; and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the LORD, and I will not keep anger for ever.**
- 13 **Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy God, and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the LORD.**
- 14 **Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion:**

Vs. 12 If Israel repents God is merciful and will withhold His anger and judgment.

Vs. 13 All Israel needs to do is to acknowledge her sin.

Vs. 14 If they repent He will bring them back to the land as they are His wife.

FUTURE BLESSING FOR BOTH ISRAEL AND JUDAH

- 15 And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.**
- 16 And it shall come to pass, when ye be multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, saith the LORD, they shall say no more, The ark of the covenant of the LORD: neither shall it come to mind: neither shall they remember it; neither shall they visit it; neither shall that be done any more.**
- 17 At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart.**
- 18 In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given for an inheritance unto your fathers.**

Vs. 15 The nation was inundated by pastors/shepherds who were more concerned with their status and riches than the needs of the people - Jeremiah 2:8; 10:21; 12:10; 22:22; 23:1; 23:2.

Here are the two basic requirements for a pastor.

1. Feed you with knowledge - teach the word of God

"I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." 2 Timothy 4:1-2

2. Explain how to live the word - wisdom

"Understanding" שָׂכַל sakal saw-kal' = wisdom

Jeremiah 9:23-24

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: 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.

"*Sakal* relates to an intelligent knowledge of the reason. There is the process of thinking through a complex arrangement of thought resulting in a wise dealing and use of good practical common sense. Another end result is the emphasis upon being successful." The Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament, page 877

Vs. 16-18

This passage speaks of the millennium kingdom - **At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD.**

Notice three points.

1. The Jewish people will be multiplied in the land - vs. 16
2. The people will no more speak about the Ark of the Covenant, have it come to mind, remember it, or visit it anymore.

With the context being the Messianic kingdom the inference is that the Ark of the Covenant will have been present prior to the millennium.

"Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God." 2 Thessalonians 2:4

"And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate." Daniel 9:27

3. Jerusalem will be God's throne and all nations will come to it not walking after their evil heart but after the law of God - Isaiah 2:2-3.
 - 2 And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.
 - 3 And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
4. Israel and Judah will be re-united.

GOD'S DESIRE FOR HIS PEOPLE TO BE BLESSED

- 19 But I said, How shall I put thee among the children, and give thee a pleasant land, a goodly heritage of the hosts of nations? and I said, Thou shalt call me, My father; and shalt not turn away from me.**
- 20 Surely as a wife treacherously departeth from her husband, so have ye dealt treacherously with me, O house of Israel, saith the LORD.**

God's desire is to bless Israel, putting them in the land, and having the nations as her heritage, not rebelling against the LORD anymore. But, the reality is that Israel rebelled against God and His desires could not be implemented at this time.

ISRAEL RECOGNIZES THEIR NEED TO REPENT

- 21 A voice was heard upon the high places, weeping and supplications of the children of Israel: for they have perverted their way, and they have forgotten the LORD their God.**
- 22 Return, ye backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings. Behold, we come unto thee; for thou art the LORD our God.**
- 23 Truly in vain is salvation hoped for from the hills, and from the multitude of mountains: truly in the LORD our God is the salvation of Israel.**
- 24 For shame hath devoured the labour of our fathers from our youth; their flocks and their herds, their sons and their daughters.**
- 25 We lie down in our shame, and our confusion covereth us: for we have sinned against the LORD our God, we and our fathers, from our youth even unto this day, and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God.**

Israel had sinned against God (vs. 21) and was called to turn back to God, the only God (vs. 22). Salvation doesn't come from anywhere but the God of Israel (vs. 23). But Israel has rejected God and must live with the shame (vs. 24-25) even as they recognize their sin.