

Providence Reformed Baptist Church – Sunday, April 28, 2024
Sermon Series: The Potter & the Clay – Jeremiah/Lamentations
Message 3. Hear the Word of Yahweh – Jeremiah 2:1-19
Pastor Phillip M Way

Introduction: Jeremiah began his ministry during the 13th year of Josiah's reign. This was 5 years before the scroll of the Law was discovered in the Temple, sparking major reformation in Judah. Josiah, however, had already begun to seek the Lord at age 16 and was actively working to remove idols and false worship (2 Chron. 34:1-7). Jeremiah's preaching confirms the judgments of God upon the people of Judah for their continued idolatry which he likened to spiritual adultery. The people had been unfaithful to God.

- I. The Honeymoon is Over – vs. 1-3
 - A. Devotion in the Wilderness – Deut. 8:2-4
 1. Loved – covenant faithfulness
 2. Followed – not just obedience, but adoration – Deut. 6:5
 - B. Firstfruits – Lev. 25:23; Exodus 19:6; Deut. 7:6
 1. Holy
 2. Belonging to the Lord
 3. Evil came on those who interfered with His people
 - C. A Heavenly Husband
 1. Passion for His people – they are holy to the Lord
 2. Protection of His people – disaster to their enemies
 3. Provision for His people – a fruitful land
- II. Filing a Prophetic Lawsuit – vs. 4-8
 - A. Why Did You Stray from Me?
 1. Injustice?
 2. They followed worthless idols and became worthless (vanity = nothing)
 - B. You defiled the land that I gave you
 - C. You did not ask, “Where is Yahweh?” – Jer. 18:18; Hos. 4:6; Hag. 2:11; Mal. 2:6-9
 1. Priests – do not seek God
 2. Scribes – do not know God – John 5:39-40
 3. Shepherds (rulers) – transgressed God's law
 4. Prophets – prophesied by Baal
 - D. The Road to Spiritual Adultery
 1. “The road to spiritual adultery begins when you stop reveling in the love of God.” – Ryken
 2. Remember God's goodness and mercy
 3. Recount His provision and blessings
 4. Recite the mighty acts of salvation God has accomplished
- III. “I Will Contend with You” – vs. 9-13 – James 4:4
 - A. Do Nations Change Gods?
 - B. Calling Heaven as Witness
 1. Appalled
 2. Afraid
 3. Devastated
 - C. Two Evils – “I did it my way”
 1. You have forsaken Me – the fountain of living water
 2. You have built broken cisterns that can't hold water

- IV. The Shame of Refusing Divine Direction – vs. 14-19
 - A. Is Israel a Slave? No, She Shouldn't Be!
 - B. You Have Done This to Yourself
 - 1. Cities in Ruins
 - 2. Shamed by Egypt
 - 3. You go to drink from the Nile – trusting Egypt and Assyria for protection – Lam. 1:19a
 - 4. Back to bondage?
 - C. Wickedness and Backsliding
 - 1. Forsaking the Living Water – John 4:10
 - 2. Cracked Cisterns – political power, unequal alliances
 - 3. A dead ritual instead of a living relationship
 - 4. “The dread of Me is not in you” – Job 1:1; Prov. 1:7; Psa. 34:11

Cross References

2 Chronicles 34:1-7

34 Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. 2 And he did what was right in the sight of Yahweh and walked in the ways of his father David and did not turn aside to the right or to the left. 3 Now in the eighth year of his reign while he was still a youth, he began to seek the God of his father David; and in the twelfth year he began to cleanse Judah and Jerusalem of the high places, the Asherim, the graven images, and the molten images. 4 And they tore down the altars of the Baals in his presence, and the incense altars that were high above them he cut in pieces; also the Asherim, the graven images, and the molten images he broke in pieces and ground to powder and scattered it on the graves of those who had sacrificed to them. 5 Then he burned the bones of the priests on their altars and cleansed Judah and Jerusalem. 6 And in the cities of Manasseh, Ephraim, Simeon, even as far as Naphtali, in their surrounding ruins, 7 he also tore down the altars and beat the Asherim and the graven images into powder, and cut in pieces all the incense altars throughout the land of Israel. Then he returned to Jerusalem.

Deuteronomy 8:2-4

2 And you shall remember all the way which Yahweh your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. 3 And He humbled you and let you be hungry and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of Yahweh. 4 Your clothing did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years.

Deuteronomy 6:5

5 You shall love Yahweh your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Leviticus 25:23

23 ‘The land, moreover, shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine; for you are but sojourners and foreign residents with Me.

Exodus 19:6

6 and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.”

Deuteronomy 7:6

6 For you are a holy people to Yahweh your God; Yahweh your God has chosen you to be a people for His own treasured possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

Jeremiah 18:18

18 Then they said, “Come and let us devise plans against Jeremiah. Surely the law is not going to perish from the priest, nor counsel to the wise man, nor the divine word to the prophet! Come on and let us strike at him with our tongue, and let us give no heed to any of his words.”

Hosea 4:6

6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from ministering as My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I Myself also will forget your children.

Haggai 2:11

11 “Thus says Yahweh of hosts, ‘Ask now the priests about the law:

Malachi 2:6-9

6 Instruction of truth was in his mouth, and unrighteousness was not found on his lips; he walked with Me in peace and uprightness, and he turned many back from iniquity. 7 For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge, and men should seek instruction from his mouth; for he is the messenger of Yahweh of hosts. 8 But as for you, you have turned aside from the way; you have caused many to stumble by the instruction; you have corrupted the covenant of Levi,” says Yahweh of hosts. 9 “So I also have made you despised and low before all the people, just as you are not keeping My ways but are showing partiality in the instruction.

John 5:39-40

39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that bear witness about Me; 40 and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.

James 4:4

4 You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world sets himself as an enemy of God.

Lamentations 1:19

19 I called to my lovers, but they deceived me; My priests and my elders breathed their last in the city While they sought food for themselves in order to restore their souls.

John 4:10

10 Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”

Job 1:1

1 There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; and that man was blameless, upright, fearing God, and turning away from evil.

Proverbs 1:7

7 The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of knowledge; Ignorant fools despise wisdom and discipline.

Psalms 34:11

11 Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of Yahweh.