

Providence Reformed Baptist Church – Sunday, July 28, 2024
Sermon Series: The Potter & the Clay – Jeremiah/Lamentations
Message 12. No Balm in Gilead – Jeremiah 8:13-9:26
Pastor Phillip M Way

Introduction: Jeremiah 8:13-10:25 provide 3 sections of laments regarding the impending judgment of God coming upon the people of Judah for their rebellion against God and His Covenant. Hebrews chapter 9 contrast the daily, external features of the Old Covenant and its priests and the once for all finished work of Christ as the Mediator of the New Covenant.

- I. The Reason for Lamentation – 8:16-17
 - A. Judgment is Coming
 - B. There is no Charm or Escape
- II. The Lament of the People – 8:13-15, 19a-20
 - A. “What I have Given will Pass Away” (vs. 3)
 - B. “Why are We Sitting Still?” – FLEE (vs. 14-15)
 1. “We have sinned”
 2. No repentance
 - a. Peace? Nothing good!
 - b. Healing? Terror!
 3. Waiting for judgment to come
 - C. A Cry from Exile (vs. 19a, 20)
 1. Forsaken?
 2. Not saved!
- III. The Lament of the Prophet – 8:18-19b, 21-22, 9:1-2
 - A. Incurable Sorrow due to no Response from the People (vs. 18)
 - B. “Why have They Provoked Me?” (vs. 19b)
 - C. “I Mourn” – “I am Dark” (vs. 21)
 1. Jeremiah’s heart is sick
 2. The peoples’ hearts are hard
 - D. The Key Question (vs. 22)
 1. No Balm in Gilead – Gen. 37:25
 - a. Resin from a balsam tree in the region north of Moab and east of the Jordan
 - b. Antibiotic properties for healing wounds
 - c. Ineffective!
 2. No Physician to Heal – they need Yahweh, not a doctor or a medication
 - E. The Weeping Prophet – vs. 9:1-2
- IV. The Breakdown of Society – 9:3-22
 - A. They Do Not Know Me (vs. 3-6a)
 1. Using Words as Weapons
 2. Lies and unfaithfulness
 3. Advancing from evil to evil
 4. No trust means no community
 5. Slander
 6. Iniquity
 - B. The Refuse to Know Me (vs. 6b)
 - C. Refining and Testing (vs. 7-9)
 - D. Why? (vs. 12-15)
 1. Rebellion

2. Forsaking God's Law (doing things my way)
 3. Walking in stubborn idolatry
 4. Therefore – a deadly diet
 - a. Wormwood and poison water
 - b. Suffering and sorrow
- E. Exile (vs. 16-20)
1. Scattered and consumed
 2. Professional mourners – Amos 5:16-17
 3. We need more mourners!
- F. Death Enters the House/Palace (vs. 21-22)
- V. Where is Your Boasting? – 9:23-26
- A. Wisdom, Might, Riches? Boast in Knowing God – 1 Cor. 1:26-31
1. Lovingkindness – covenantal love
 2. Justice – upholding what is right
 3. Righteousness – doing what is right – Psa. 145:17; 2 Cor. 10:17
- B. External Signs and Internal Reality (vs. 25-26) – Deut. 10:16; 30:6

Cross References

Genesis 37:25

25 And they sat down to eat a meal. Then they lifted up their eyes and saw, and behold, a caravan of Ishmaelites was coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing aromatic gum and balm and myrrh, going to bring them down to Egypt.

Amos 5:16-17

16 Therefore thus says Yahweh God of hosts, the Lord, “There is wailing in all the plazas, And in all the streets they say, ‘Alas! Alas!’ They also call the farmer to mourning And professional weepers to wailing. 17 And in all the vineyards there is wailing Because I will pass through the midst of you,” says Yahweh.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

26 For consider your calling, brothers, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble. 27 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, 28 and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may abolish the things that are, 29 so that no flesh may boast before God. 30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption, 31 so that, just as it is written, “Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Psalms 145:17

17 Yahweh is righteous in all His ways And holy in all His works.

2 Corinthians 10:17

17 But he who boasts is to boast in the Lord.

Deuteronomy 10:16

16 So circumcise your heart, and stiffen your neck no longer.

Deuteronomy 30:6

6 “Moreover Yahweh your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your seed, to love Yahweh your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live.