

Providence Reformed Baptist Church – Sunday, August 11, 2024

Sermon Series: The Potter & the Clay – Jeremiah/Lamentations

Message 14. Covenant, Conspiracy, and Calamity – Jeremiah 11:1-23

Pastor Phillip M Way

Introduction: Chapters 11 through 20 form 4 sections of lament, beginning and ending with the phrase “Cursed is the man.” The first of these sections is found in chapters 11-13 and focuses on the Covenant – the people’s negative reaction to it (11:1-17, the peoples’ attitude toward Jeremiah (11:18-12:17), and the Lord’s attitude toward covenant breakers (13:1-27).

- I. The Covenant – vs. 1-8
 - A. Hear the Word of the Covenant (vs. 1-2)
 - B. Covenant Curses and Blessings(vs. 3-5a)
 1. Cursed is the man who does not hear (heed)
 2. Listen and Do (vs. 4-5a)
 - a. You will be My people
 - b. I will be Your God
 - c. I will give you a fertile, vibrant land
 - C. “Amen, O Yahweh!” (vs. 5b)
 - D. Listen! (vs. 6-8)
 1. Hear and do
 2. I warned them – repeatedly, with the hope of restoring them
 3. They didn’t listen
 4. The curses are coming!
- II. Conspiracy – vs. 9-10
 - A. Idols as Allies
 - B. Refusing to Hear God’s Word
 - C. A Covenant Broken
- III. Calamity – vs. 11-17
 - A. Bad Things are About to Happen - Evil, Harm, Distress, Injury (vs. 11)
 - B. Inescapable (vs. 12-13)
 1. They will cry for help – I will not listen
 2. They can call to their idols and see if they hear and answer
 3. Numerous gods will be no help
 - C. There is No Turning Back – for God or for the People (vs. 14-17)
 1. Her joy is her iniquity*
 2. A flourishing olive tree, struck by lightning – shattered and burned
 3. You burned incense to Baal, now I will burn you!
 - D. Cursed is the Man – Deut. 27:15-26
- IV. “Cut Him Off” – vs. 18-23
 - A. A Revelation
 1. Jeremiah was not aware
 2. His family, friends, and neighbors lived in Anathoth – a city of priests refuse to hear God’s Word
 3. “Be Quiet and Live!” or “Continue to Preach and Die!”
 - B. “Vengeance is Mine,” says the Lord – Amos 7:12-13; Ezra 2:23

*A Poem: “What right has My beloved in My house? She has done wickedness! Can fatlings and holy flesh avert thee from thy doom?”

Cross References

Deuteronomy 27:15-26

15 'Cursed is the man who makes a graven image or a molten image, an abomination to Yahweh, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and sets it up in secret.' And all the people shall answer and say, 'Amen.'

16 'Cursed is he who dishonors his father or mother.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'

17 'Cursed is he who moves his neighbor's boundary mark.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'

18 'Cursed is he who leads a blind person astray on the road.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'

19 'Cursed is he who perverts the justice due a sojourner, orphan, and widow.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'

20 'Cursed is he who lies with his father's wife because he has uncovered his father's skirt.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'

21 'Cursed is he who lies with any animal.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'

22 'Cursed is he who lies with his sister, the daughter of his father or the daughter of his mother.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'

23 'Cursed is he who lies with his mother-in-law.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'

24 'Cursed is he who strikes his neighbor in secret.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'

25 'Cursed is he who takes a bribe to strike down innocent blood.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'

26 'Cursed is he who does not confirm the words of this law by doing them.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'

Amos 7:12-13

12 Then Amaziah said to Amos, "Go, you seer, flee away to the land of Judah, and there eat bread, and there do your prophesying! 13 But no longer prophesy at Bethel, for it is a sanctuary of the king and a royal house."

Ezra 2:23

23 the men of Anathoth, 128;