

Providence Reformed Baptist Church – Sunday, September 1, 2024

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

Message 17. Lying Prophets – Jeremiah 14:1-22

Pastor Phillip M Way

Introduction: Jeremiah 11-20 gives us 4 sections of lament. The second section is found in 14:1-17:27. Judgment is coming and cannot be stopped. There is no repentance among the people, only hardening of their hearts. They fast, confess, pray, and plead with God, but it is all lip service. They don't mean it and God will not accept it.

- I. Devastating Drought – vs. 1-6
 - A. No Water to be Found – Deut. 28:23-24
 - B. Physical and Emotional Exhaustion – grief and shame
- II. O Hope of Israel – vs. 7-10
 - A. Act for Your Name Sake
 - B. Confession – iniquity, apostasy, sin
 - C. But No Repentance – 2 Cor. 7:10; Heb. 12:17
 - D. Why? – the people blame God!
- III. False Prophets – vs. 11-16
 - A. Their Worship is Unacceptable (vs. 11-12)
 1. Do not pray for them
 2. They fast, but not as I desire – Isa. 58:3-4
 3. Fasting/ritual without obedience is useless – Jer. 7:21-28
 - B. Sword, Famine, and Pestilence – Lev. 26:25-26
 - C. The Prophets are Lying (vs. 13-16) – Ezek. 34:23-24; 2 Peter 2:1-3, 12-19; Phil. 3:18-19; Jude 12-13, 16-19
 1. Not sent by God
 2. Not given their message from God
 3. Their methods of ministry
 - a. False visions, lying visions
 - b. Worthless divination, superstition
 - c. Delusions from their own minds
 4. They will not be spared
- IV. Do Not Break Your Covenant with Us – vs. 17-22
 - A. God Weeps Over His People (vs. 17-18) – Matt. 23:37-38
 - B. Merchant Priests and Prophets (vs. 18c)– traveling salesmen – 1 Tim. 6:3-10
 - C. Their Confession Sounds Good, but There is No Truth in Their Hearts (vs. 19-21)
 1. Has God completely rejected them?
 2. Does God find them loathsome?
 3. Why is no healing available?
 4. If You don't heal us, Your glory will suffer!
 5. Remember Your Covenant (You keep what we've broken)
 - D. Hope in Yahweh? (vs. 22)
 1. Do idols bring rain?
 2. Does the sky give rain?
 3. Is it not You alone who do these things?
 4. We hope in You – but do they? – Rom. 8:24-25; Heb. 11:1; 1 John 3:1-10

Cross References

Deuteronomy 28:23-24

23 And the heaven which is over your head shall be bronze, and the earth which is under you, iron. 24 Yahweh will make the rain of your land powder and dust; from heaven it shall come down on you until you are destroyed.

2 Corinthians 7:10

10 For godly sorrow produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world brings about death.

Hebrews 12:17

17 For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.

Isaiah 58:3-4

3 'Why have we fasted and You do not see? Why have we afflicted our souls and You do not know?' Behold, on the day of your fast you find your desire, And oppress all your workers. 4 Behold, you fast for contention and quarreling and to strike with a wicked fist. You do not fast like you do today to make your voice heard on high.

Jeremiah 7:21-28

21 Thus says Yahweh of hosts, the God of Israel, "Add your burnt offerings to your sacrifices and eat flesh. 22 For I did not speak to your fathers or command them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt concerning burnt offerings and sacrifices. 23 But this is what I commanded them, saying, 'Listen to My voice, and I will be your God, and you will be My people; and you will walk in the entire way which I command you, that it may be well with you.' 24 Yet they did not listen or incline their ear, but walked in their own counsels and in the stubbornness of their evil heart and went backward and not forward. 25 Since the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt until this day, I have sent you all My slaves the prophets, daily rising up early and sending them. 26 Yet they did not listen to Me or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck; they did more evil than their fathers. 27 "You shall speak all these words to them, but they will not listen to you; and you shall call to them, but they will not answer you. 28 You shall say to them, 'This is the nation that did not listen to the voice of Yahweh their God or receive discipline; truth has perished and has been cut off from their mouth.

Leviticus 26:25-26

25 I will also bring upon you a sword which will execute vengeance for the covenant; and when you gather together into your cities, I will send pestilence among you so that you shall be given over into enemy hands. 26 When I break your staff of bread, ten women will bake your bread in one oven, and they will bring back your bread by rationed weight so that you will eat and not become full.

2 Peter 2:1-3, 12-19

2 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves. 2 And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of the truth will be maligned. 3 And in their greed they will exploit you with false words, their judgment from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

12 But these, like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed, blaspheming where they have no knowledge, will in the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed, 13 suffering unrighteousness as the wages of their unrighteousness, considering it a pleasure to revel in the daytime—they are stains and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, as they feast with you, 14 having eyes full of adultery and unceasing sin, enticing unstable souls, having a heart trained in greed—they are accursed children. 15 Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray, having followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness, 16 but he received a rebuke for his own lawlessness, for a mute donkey, speaking out with a voice of a man, restrained the madness of the prophet. 17 These are springs without water and mists driven by a storm, for whom the black darkness has been kept. 18 For speaking out arrogant words of vanity, they entice by sensual lusts of the flesh, those who barely escape from the ones who conducted themselves in error, 19 promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved.

Philippians 3:18-19

18 For many walk—of whom I often told you, and now tell you even crying—as enemies of the cross of Christ, 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their stomach and glory is in their shame, who set their thoughts on earthly things.

Jude 12-13, 16-19

12 These are the men who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted; 13 wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever.

16 These are grumblers, finding fault, following after their own lusts; and their mouth speaks arrogantly, flattering people for the sake of their own benefit. 17 But you, beloved, must remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, 18 that they were saying to you, “In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts.” 19 These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, not having the Spirit.

Matthew 23:37-38

37 “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you did not want it. 38 Behold, your house is being left to you desolate!

1 Timothy 6:3-10

3 If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words—those of our Lord Jesus Christ—and with the doctrine conforming to godliness, 4 he is conceited, understanding nothing but having a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, slander, evil suspicions, 5 and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. 6 But godliness actually is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment. 7 For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. 8 And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. 9 But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. 10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evils, and some by aspiring to it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Romans 8:24-25

24 For in hope we were saved, but hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what he already sees?
25 But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we eagerly wait for it.

Hebrews 11:1

11 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

1 John 3:1-10

3 See how great a love the Father has given to us, that we would be called children of God; and we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not been manifested as yet what we will be. We know that when He is manifested, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. 4 Everyone who does sin also does lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. 5 And you know that He was manifested in order to take away sins, and in Him there is no sin. 6 No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or has come to know Him. 7 Little children, let no one deceive you. The one who does righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. 8 The one who does sin is of the devil, because the devil sins from the beginning. The Son of God was manifested for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. 9 Everyone who has been born of God does not sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. 10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifested: everyone who does not do righteousness is not of God, as well as the one who does not love his brother.