

Jeremiah's Declaration of War

Jer.1:4-5

- Choice: either preach or rebel against God
- 6: Jeremiah protests lack of experience
 - 7-9: On the job training
 - 10: must tear down to build up
 - Get used to hatred

Jer.9:1-2

- Weeping prophet

Jer.6:9

- Few left in Israel are picked over again

Application

- “If you become a little squeamish about denouncing false teachers, read Jeremiah. If you think people are so hardened in sin that they hate you for preaching the word, read Jeremiah. A careful study of Jeremiah is good tonic for anyone” – R. L. Whiteside

I. No Delight in God's Word, 10

Only way to know how we stand with God

Our attitude toward His Word

1. Uncircumcised ear. Ac.7:51 . . . 57
2. Offensive Word: reproach (object of scorn, ESV); a shame, disgrace, joke.
3. No delight in it. 5:31

U.S.: Bibles / teachers are plentiful.
Do I receive correction?

I. No Delight in God's Word

II. False Security, 11-12, 14

11: patience has limits

- Five stages of life:
 1. children at play
 2. adolescents in groups
 3. married adults
 4. senior citizens
 5. advanced in age [very aged, NASB].

Every age group at risk

12: sin pays wages to houses, fields, wives

- “Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, and that His Justice cannot sleep forever!” – Tho. Jefferson

14: liar! Liar!

- Proclaim peace...
- No peace, no shame
- Jer.52

I. No Delight in God's Word

II. False Security

III. Everyone Given to
Covetousness (greed) 13

Practical atheists –

- Too busy for God; addicted to money
- Attitude that gains the world is not the attitude that gains heaven
- Religious leaders are as corrupt as general populace
 - From prophet to priest. Mt.6:24
 - Who would deny that most are afflicted?
Lk.12:13

I. No Delight in God's Word

II. False Security

III. Everyone Given to Covetousness

IV. Not ashamed of Their Sin, 13

Shame catches up to sinners

- Samson, Jg.14...
- Abomination.
 - Shame has been ‘sanitized’ in our day: even silenced.
 - Many lose the ability to blush.

According to God . . .

- Wrong is wrong, even if . . .
 - All do it. Prov.4:14-15.
 - Get away with it. Prov.15:3.
 - Conscience does not hurt. 1 Tim.4:2.
- They will fall ... be cast down

I. No Delight in God's Word

II. False Security

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IV. Not Ashamed of Their Sin

V. Will Not Walk in Old Paths, 16

Prefer pleasures of sin to ancient paths

- Smart men stand in the ways and ask,
“What did our ancestors do to experience
such prosperity?”

God's directions

Image from travelers who lost their way

- **Stand in the ways** [stand by the roads, and look, ESV]
- **Ask for old paths** (v.19)
 - Jer.18¹⁵ Because My people have forgotten Me, They have burned incense to worthless idols. And they have caused themselves to stumble in their ways, From the ancient paths, To walk in pathways and not on a highway.

God's directions

Image from travelers who lost their way

- Stand in the ways
- Ask for old paths (v.19)
 - Isa.8²⁰ To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

God's directions

Image from travelers who lost their way

- Stand in the ways
- Ask for old paths (v.19)
 - Mal.4⁴ Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, With the statutes and judgments.

God's directions

Image from travelers who lost their way

- Stand in the ways
- Ask for old paths (v.19)
 - Lk. 16²⁹ Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.'
- Ancient Words

God's directions

Image from travelers who lost their way

- Stand in the ways
- Ask for old paths (v.19)
- The good way. Jer.10:23 (ct. 18:15).
- Walk in it. Not enough to know truth.
- Rest for souls. Mt.11:29

Many try to make religion new

- Mt.13⁵² Therefore every scribe instructed concerning the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his treasure things new and old.
 - Plan of salvation – psychology, entertainment...
 - Worship – largely replaced by entertainment and ‘feel good’ talks
 - Work of church – ‘social gospel’

- God: “The Die has been cast, The invader must come, the kingdom must fall!” – Kidner
- “Jeremiah has been unjustly called the ‘weeping prophet,’ as if he were a sort of weakling; whereas there was never a more heroic soul. Nothing turned him aside from his duty. If he wept, it was because he loved his nation, and his heart was torn with the knowledge of what was coming to his people. He would have been cold-blooded had he not wept” – Whiteside
- Jews: ‘at least we’re not hypocrites’