



Jeremiah

Leading in a Corrupt World


Chapters 16-20

Week 5

1


	Date	Subject	Chapters
	1	Introduction to Jeremiah Jeremiah called from the womb	Chapters 1,2
	2	Jeremiah calls out Judah's Sin	Chapters 3-7
	3	Jeremiah calls out the judgment on Judah	Chapters 8-10
	4	Jeremiah's complaint and God's Answer	11-15
	5	Jeremiah told not to marry, and God's promise of Judah's Future	16-20
	6	Jeremiah calls out Judah's Wicked Kings and the Promise of the Righteous King	21-26
	7	Jeremiah calls out the False Prophets, The letter to the Exiles, The Promise of Restoration	27-32
	8	Jeremiah calls out the False Prophets, The letter to the Exiles, The Promise of Restoration	
	9	Jeremiah and the Rechabites Jeremiah imprisoned	33-38
	10	Jerusalem falls to Babylon	39-43
	11	Jeremiah taken to Egypt	44-49
	12	Babylon's Future, Jerusalem capture	50-52
	13	Thanksgiving	

2



- **Summary of Week 1 Class**
- **Introduction-Jeremiah 1-2**
- Jeremiah called as a prophet before he was in the womb
- 20-30-years old Priest from Anathoth
- King Josiah...was 21-years old
- Jeremiah was to oppose the people, priests, kings and officials of land
- He was to proclaim God's WORD to the nation and Judah.
- For the forsaking of the LORD and worshipping of Idols

4



- **Summary of Week 2 Class**
- **Chapter 3-7**
- God presents the promise of the Kingdom of God in the last days
- The LORD challenges Israel to return...to put away the IDOL and receive His blessing
- Jeremiah is challenged to walk the streets and squares of Jerusalem...find someone
- Jeremiah is told to stand in the gate of the Temple and proclaim the coming Judgment
- Fathers, sons and mothers gather to worship the Queen of Heaven..

5



- Summary of Week 3
- Chapter 8-10
- God prepares the nation for the coming judgment (Chapter 8)
- Death of Josiah , Battle of Megiddo 609 BC
- God will refine the nation through judgment
- Boast in the LORD (Chapter 9)
- The God of Judah is contrasted to the Idols of the nations
- He is the CAUSE of the Universe and Creation (Chapter 10)

6



- Summary of Week 4
- Chapter 11-15
- God activates the “Covenant” Provisions...judgment is coming
- Jeremiah is told about the “Conspiracy” against him.
- God promises to one day Restore the nation....Kingdom of God (12)
- Jeremiah takes a loincloth to the Euphrates as an example (13)
- Drought in the land (14)
- Not even Moses or Samuel could avert God’s judgment (15)

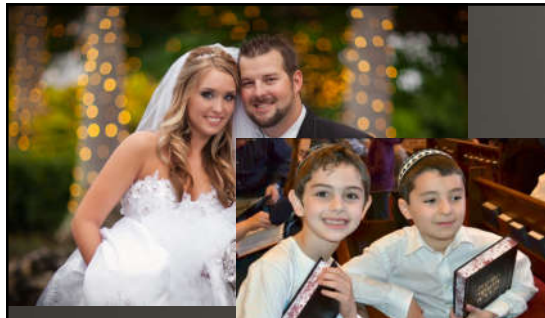
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Summary of Chapter 16




- Jeremiah is told not to marry..since the destruction will be so bad
- Jeremiah is told not to mourn
- Why God is judging so harshly
- God promises restoration

8




- Jer 16:1-5
- (1) The word of the LORD came to me:
- (2) "You **shall not take a wife, nor shall you have sons or daughters** in this place.
- (3) For thus says the LORD concerning the sons and daughters who are born in this place, and concerning the mothers who bore them and the fathers who fathered them in this land:
- (4) **They shall die of deadly diseases. They shall not be lamented, nor shall they be buried. They shall be as dung on the surface of the ground. They shall perish by the sword and by famine, and their dead bodies shall be food for the birds of the air and for the beasts of the earth.**
- (5) "For thus says the LORD: Do not enter the house of mourning, or go to lament or grieve for them, for **I have taken away my peace from this people, my steadfast love and mercy, declares the LORD.**

9



- Jer 16:6-10
- (6) **Both great and small shall die in this land. They shall not be buried,** and no one shall lament for them or cut himself or make himself bald for them.
- (7) **No one shall break bread for the mourner, to comfort him for the dead,** nor shall anyone give him the cup of consolation to drink for his father or his mother.
- (8) You shall not go into the house of feasting to sit with them, to eat and drink.
- (9) For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: **Behold, I will silence in this place, before your eyes and in your days,** the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride.
- (10) "And when you tell this people all these words, and they say to you, 'Why has the LORD pronounced all this great evil against us? What is our iniquity? **What is the sin that we have committed against the LORD our God?**'"

10



- Jer 16:11-14
- (11) then you shall say to them: 'Because your fathers have forsaken me, declares the LORD, and have gone after other gods and have served and worshiped them, and have forsaken me and have not kept my law,
- (12) and because you have done worse than your fathers, for behold, **every one of you follows his stubborn, evil will, refusing to listen to me.**
- (13) Therefore I will hurl you out of this land into a land that neither you nor your fathers have known, and there you shall serve other gods day and night, for **I will show you no favor.'**
- (14) "Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when it shall no longer be said, 'As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt.'

11

The Promise of Restoration



- Jer 16:15-18
- (15) but 'As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven them.' For I will bring them back to their own land that I gave to their fathers.
- (16) "Behold, I am sending for many fishers, declares the LORD, and they shall catch them. And afterward I will send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain and every hill, and out of the clefts of the rocks.
- (17) For my eyes are on all their ways. They are not hidden from me, nor is their iniquity concealed from my eyes.
- (18) But first I will doubly repay their iniquity and their sin, **because** they have polluted my land with the carcasses of their detestable idols, and have filled my inheritance with their abominations."

12



- Jer 16:19-21
- (19) O LORD, my strength and my stronghold, my refuge in the day of trouble, **to you shall the nations come from the ends of the earth and say: "Our fathers have inherited nothing but lies, worthless things in which there is no profit.**
- (20) Can man make for himself gods? Such are not gods!"
- (21) "Therefore, behold, **I will make them know, this once I will make them know my power and my might, and they shall know that my name is the LORD."**

13

Summary of Chapter 17



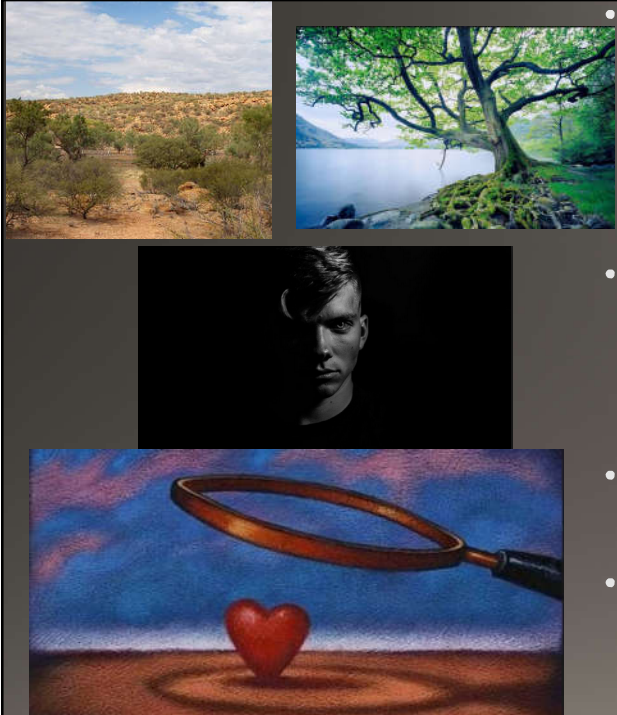
- The Sin of Judah..is very blatant and defined
- Contrast between two groups.. Those who Trust the Lord those who Trust ..flesh
- Failure to keep the Sabbath prevents God's blessing

14




- Jer 17:1-5
- (1) "The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron; with a point of diamond it is engraved on the tablet of their heart, and on the horns of their altars,
- (2) **while their children remember their altars and their Asherim, beside every green tree and on the high hills,**
- (3) on the mountains in the open country. Your wealth and all your treasures I will give for spoil as the price of your high places for sin throughout all your territory.
- (4) You shall loosen your hand from your heritage that I gave to you, and **I will make you serve your enemies in a land that you do not know, for in my anger a fire is kindled that shall burn forever."**
- (5) Thus says the LORD: "**Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD.**"

15



- Jer 17:6-10
 - (6) He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.
 - (7) **"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD."**
 - (8) He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit."
 - (9) **The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?**
 - (10) **"I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."**

16



- Jer 17:11-15
 - (11) Like the partridge that gathers a brood that she did not hatch, so is he who gets riches but not by justice; in the midst of his days they will leave him, and at his end he will be a fool.
 - (12) A glorious throne set on high from the beginning is the place of our sanctuary.
 - (13) O LORD, the hope of Israel, all who forsake you shall be put to shame; those who turn away from you shall be written in the earth, for they have forsaken the LORD, **the fountain of living water.**
 - (14) **Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for you are my praise.**
 - (15) **Behold, they say to me, "Where is the word of the LORD? Let it come!"**

The Promise of Hope

17



- Jer 17:16-20
- (16) I have not run away from being your shepherd, nor have I desired the day of sickness. You know what came out of my lips; it was before your face.
- (17) Be not a terror to me; you are my refuge in the day of disaster.
- (18) Let those be put to shame who persecute me, but let me not be put to shame; let them be dismayed, but let me not be dismayed; bring upon them the day of disaster; destroy them with double destruction!
- (19) Thus said the LORD to me: "Go and stand in the People's Gate, by which the kings of Judah enter and by which they go out, and in all the gates of Jerusalem,
- (20) and say: 'Hear the word of the LORD, you kings of Judah, and all Judah, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, who enter by these gates.

18



Are you pliable to the Lord's Words?



- Jer 17:21-24
- (21) Thus says the LORD: Take care for the sake of your lives, and **do not bear a burden on the Sabbath day or bring it in by the gates of Jerusalem.**
- (22) And do not carry a burden out of your houses on the Sabbath or do any work, but **keep the Sabbath day holy,** as I commanded your fathers.
- (23) **Yet they did not listen or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck, that they might not hear and receive instruction.**
- (24) **"But if** you listen to me, declares the LORD, and bring in no burden by the gates of this city on the Sabbath day, but keep the Sabbath day holy and do no work on it,

19

But IF YOU LISTEN

THE ROAD TO RUIN OR THE PATH TO PROSPERITY

IT'S TIME TO CHOOSE

Chick-fil-A vs. KFC

KFC has **4,370** U.S. stores. Chick-Fil-A has **1,887** U.S. stores.

Each KFC store makes **\$960,000** per year... ..while each Chick-Fil-A store makes **\$3.1 million**.

That's **\$4.2 billion** for KFC in 2014 and **\$5.8 billion** for Chick-Fil-A*
*(with 17 percent fewer stores, each closed on Sundays)

- Jer 17:25-27
- (25) **then there shall enter by the gates of this city kings and princes who sit on the throne of David**, riding in chariots and on horses, they and their officials, the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And this city shall be inhabited forever.
- (26) And people shall come from the cities of Judah and the places around Jerusalem, from the land of Benjamin, from the Shephelah, from the hill country, and from the Negeb, bringing burnt offerings and sacrifices, grain offerings and frankincense, and bringing thank offerings to the house of the LORD.
- (27) **But if you do not listen to me**, to keep the Sabbath day holy, and not to bear a burden and enter by the gates of Jerusalem on the Sabbath day, then I will kindle a fire in its gates, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem and shall not be quenched.'"

20

Chick-fil-A was banned from San Antonio's airport. The Texas attorney general says it's 'discriminatory.'

A Chick-fil-A restaurant in Las Vegas. (Shooby/Shooby)

By **Lindsay Bever**
March 29 at 11:20 AM

The Texas attorney general has launched an investigation to determine whether the San Antonio City Council violated religious-liberty laws by barring Chick-fil-A from opening a restaurant in the city's airport.

The Texas attorney general has launched an investigation to determine whether the San Antonio City Council violated religious-liberty laws by barring Chick-fil-A from opening a restaurant in the city's airport.

The council **voted** late last week to exclude Chick-fil-A from a concession agreement with San Antonio International Airport, citing, in part, the religious views associated with the fast-food restaurant chain — specifically, the anti-same-sex marriage values, [according to the Texas Tribune](#).

The state's attorney general, Ken Paxton, said the treatment of the chain was "discriminatory" and [wrote in a letter](#) to San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg and the city council that his office would investigate whether such a ban violates any state laws. He said he also asked the U.S. Department of Transportation to look at the federal regulations.

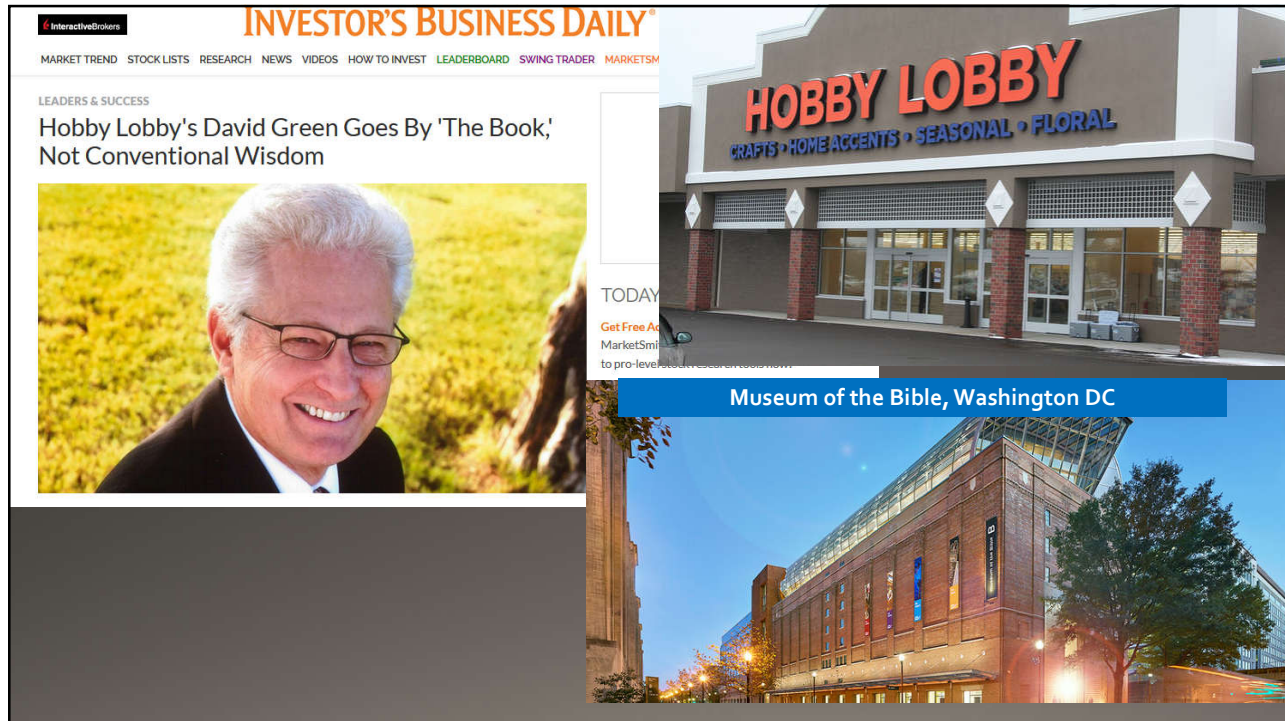
Latest episode

Thought the fight over Obamacare was done? Think again.

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22

David Green, CEO of Hobby Lobby, does everything wrong, according to retail conventional wisdom.

His stores close at 8 p.m., and don't open at all on Sundays to allow employees to be with their families and attend a house of worship.

Full-time workers start at more than twice the federal minimum wage and have generous benefits.

Hobby Lobby specializes in arts, crafts, hobby, and home decor, yet each outlet carries a vast inventory of 100,000 items.

These are distributed across the country from a central warehouse, rather than using regional depots or having suppliers ship directly to stores, as other retailers do.

There are no bar code scanners at the registers to track inventory.

Yet Green's results have proved the cynical critics dead wrong. The privately held company brings in \$4.3 billion a year from its 750 stores. And according to Forbes, Green's net worth is \$6.4 billion (though he is actively giving away much of it).

"There is nothing negative in the Bible about running a business and it has everything one needs to know about good leadership," Green told IBD from his office in Oklahoma City. "But we're not just trying to make money, we want to do it in a way that puts a high value on caring for our employees and their families. And the opportunity to work reasonable hours helps us attract good managers from other retailers."

Green, 75, grew up in Altus, Okla., a county seat of 20,000 amid ranches and cotton fields. His father was a pastor with just 35 church members, so the family didn't have a car and couldn't

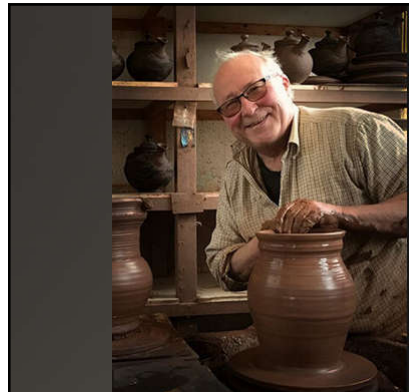
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Summary of Chapter 18




- Jeremiah visits the "Potters House"
- Two paths are mapped out...God path... self path
- People have abandoned God...Judgment is coming

24



- Jer 18:1-6
- (1) The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD:
- (2) "Arise, and **go down to the potter's house**, and there I will let you hear my words."
- (3) So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel.
- (4) And the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as **it seemed good to the potter to do**.
- (5) Then the word of the LORD came to me:
- (6) "**O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter has done?** declares the LORD. Behold, **like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand**, O house of Israel.

25



Jer 18:7-10

(7) If at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it,


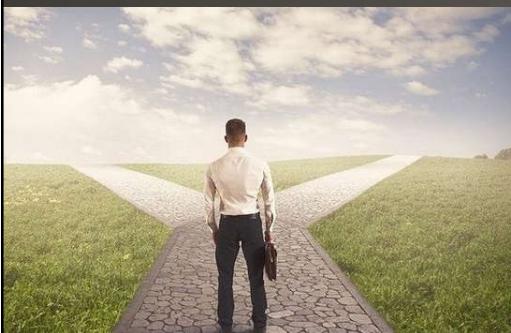
(8) and if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, **turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I intended to do to it.**

- (9) And if at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it,
- (10) and **if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will relent of the good that I had intended to do to it.**

Turns from Evil = Relent of the DISASTER

Does Evil = Relent of the GOOD

26

- Jer 18:11-14
- (11) Now, therefore, say to the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: 'Thus says the LORD, Behold, **I am shaping disaster against you and devising a plan against you.** Return, every one from his evil way, and amend your ways and your deeds.'
- (12) "But they say, 'That is in vain! **We will follow our own plans,** and will every one act according to the stubbornness of his evil heart.'
- (13) "Therefore thus says the LORD: Ask among the nations, Who has heard the like of this? The virgin Israel has done a very horrible thing.
- (14) Does the snow of Lebanon leave the crags of Sirion? Do the mountain waters run dry, the cold flowing streams?

27



- Jer 18:15-18
- (15) But **my people have forgotten me**; they make offerings to false gods; they made them stumble in their ways, in the ancient roads, and to walk into side roads, not the highway,
- (16) making their land a horror, a thing to be hissed at forever. Everyone who passes by it is horrified and shakes his head.
- (17) Like the east wind I will scatter them before the enemy. I will show them my back, not my face, in the day of their calamity."
- (18) **Then they said, "Come, let us make plots against Jeremiah**, for the law shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet. Come, let us strike him with the tongue, and let us not pay attention to any of his words."



28



- Jer 18:19-21
- (19) Hear me, O LORD, and listen to the voice of my adversaries.
- (20) Should good be repaid with evil? **Yet they have dug a pit for my life. Remember how I stood before you to speak good for them**, to turn away your wrath from them.
- (21) Therefore deliver up their children to famine; give them over to the power of the sword; let their wives become childless and widowed. May their men meet death by pestilence, their youths be struck down by the sword in battle.

29



- Jer 18:22-23
- (22) May a cry be heard from their houses, when you bring the plunderer suddenly upon them! For they have dug a pit to take me and laid snares for my feet.
- (23) **Yet you, O LORD, know all their plotting to kill me.** Forgive not their iniquity, nor blot out their sin from your sight. Let them be overthrown before you; deal with them in the time of your anger.

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Summary of Chapter 19



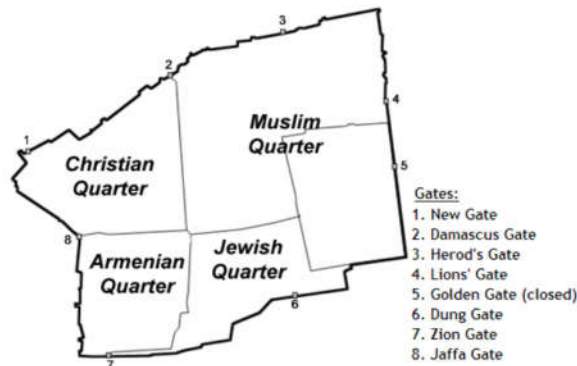
- Jeremiah visits the Son of Hinnom valley...with leaders
- Jeremiah proclaims the reasons for judgment
- Child sacrifice and worship of the hosts of heaven

31



- Jer 19:1-4
- (1) Thus says the LORD, "Go, buy a potter's earthenware flask, and take some of the elders of the people and some of the elders of the priests,
- (2) and go out to the Valley of the Son of Hinnom at the entry of the Potsherd Gate, and proclaim there the words that I tell you.
- (3) You shall say, 'Hear the word of the LORD, O kings of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem. Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I am bringing such disaster upon this place that the ears of everyone who hears of it will tingle.

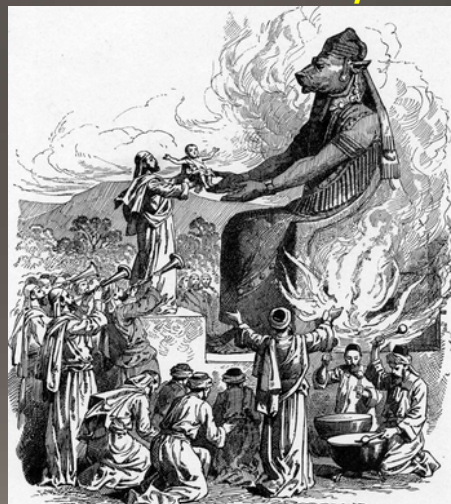
There are 8 gates of Jerusalem today. But the Bible promises 12 in the future.



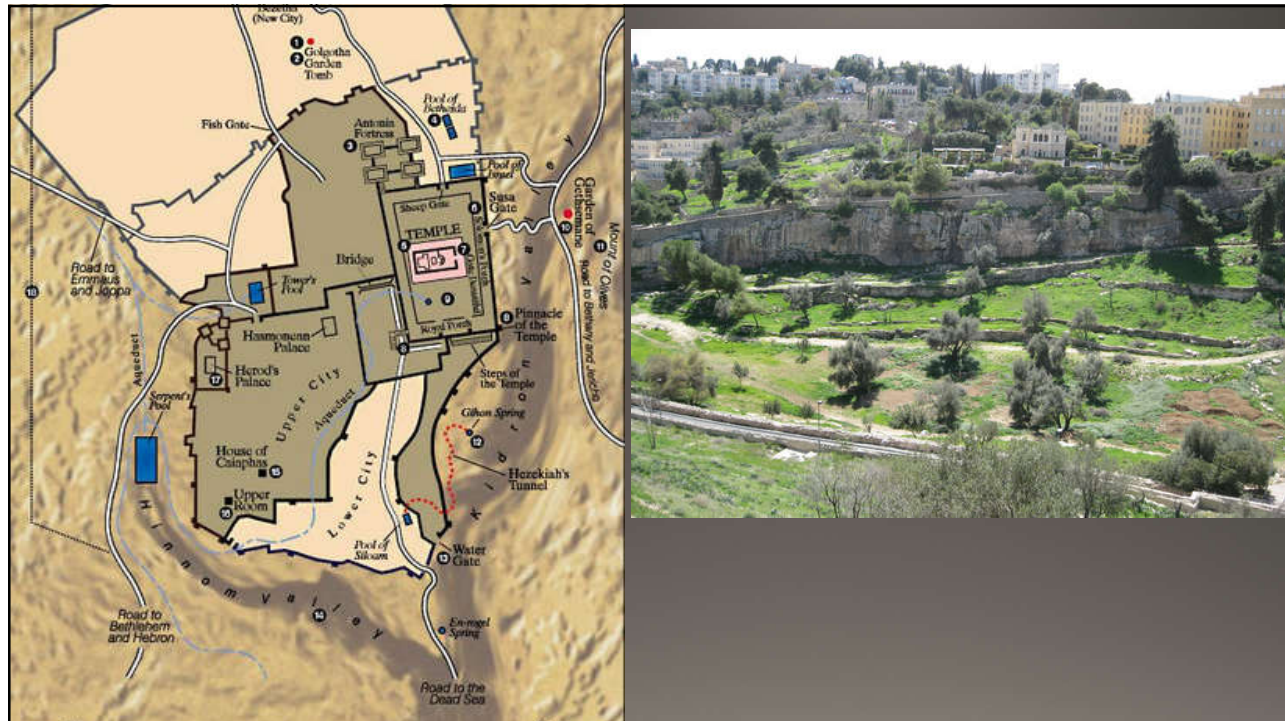
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- (4) **Because** the people have forsaken me and have profaned this place by making offerings in it to other gods whom neither they nor their fathers nor the kings of Judah have known; and because they have filled this place with the blood of innocents,



33



34



- Jer 19:5-8
- (5) and have built the **high places of Baal to burn their sons in the fire as burnt offerings to Baal**, which I did not command or decree, nor did it come into my mind--
- (6) therefore, behold, days are coming, declares the LORD, when this place shall no more be called Topheth, or the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, but the **Valley of Slaughter**.
- (7) And in this place I will make void the plans of Judah and Jerusalem, and will cause their people to fall by the sword before their enemies, and by the hand of those who seek their life. **I will give their dead bodies for food to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the earth.**
- (8) And I will make this city a horror, a thing to be hissed at. Everyone who passes by it will be horrified and will hiss because of all its wounds.

35



Topheth (Hinnom)=Gehinnom=Hell



- Jer 19:9-12
- (9) And **I will make them eat the flesh of their sons and their daughters, and everyone shall eat the flesh of his neighbor in the siege and in the distress,** with which their enemies and those who seek their life afflict them.'
- (10) "Then you shall break the flask in the sight of the men who go with you,
- (11) and shall say to them, '**Thus says the LORD of hosts: So will I break this people and this city, as one breaks a potter's vessel, so that it can never be mended. Men shall bury in Topheth because there will be no place else to bury.**
- (12) Thus will I do to this place, declares the LORD, and to its inhabitants, **making this city like Topheth.**

36



- Jer 19:13-15
- (13) The houses of Jerusalem and the houses of the kings of Judah--**all the houses on whose roofs offerings have been offered to all the host of heaven,** and drink offerings have been poured out to other gods--shall be defiled like the place of Topheth."
- (14) Then **Jeremiah** came from Topheth, where the LORD had sent him to prophesy, and he stood in the court of the LORD's house and said to all the people:
- (15) "**Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, behold, I am bringing upon this city and upon all its towns all the disaster that I have pronounced against it, because they have stiffened their neck, refusing to hear my words.**"

37

Summary of Chapter 20



A seal inscribed "Gedaliah son of Pashhur," mentioned in Jeremiah 38:1. (Gabri Laron/Hebrew University/Dr. Eilat Mazar)

- Pashhur the Priest has Jeremiah beaten and put in stocks
- Jeremiah prophesies against Pashhur
- The Wealth of Judah will be given away
- The LORD will stand with Jeremiah

38



A seal inscribed "Gedaliah son of Pashhur," mentioned in Jeremiah 38:1. (Gabri Laron/Hebrew University/Dr. Eilat Mazar)

Jer 20:1-4

(1) Now **Pashhur the priest**, the son of Immer, who was chief officer in the house of the LORD, heard Jeremiah prophesying these things.

(2) Then Pashhur beat Jeremiah the prophet, and put him in the stocks that were in the upper Benjamin Gate of the house of the LORD.

(3) The next day, when Pashhur released Jeremiah from the stocks, Jeremiah said to him, "**The LORD does not call your name Pashhur, but Terror on Every Side.**"

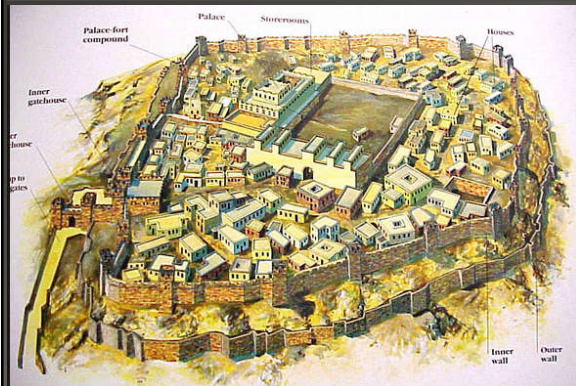
- (4) For thus says the LORD: Behold, I will make you a terror to yourself and to all your friends. They shall fall by the sword of their enemies while you look on. And I will give all Judah into the hand of the king of Babylon. He shall carry them captive to Babylon, and shall strike them down with the sword.

39

Fortress city of Lachish

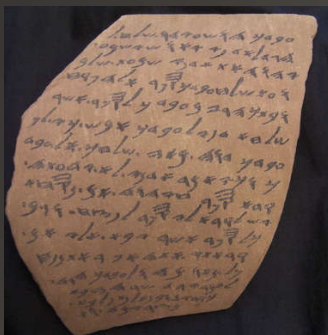
Jer 34:6-8

(6) Then Jeremiah the prophet spoke all these words to Zedekiah king of Judah, in Jerusalem, (7) when the army of the king of Babylon was fighting against Jerusalem and against all the cities of Judah that were left, Lachish and Azekah, for these were the only fortified cities of Judah that remained.



40

Ostracon (Pottery Shards) from Lachish



- The **Lachish Letters** or *Lachish Ostraca*, sometimes called *Hoshaiah Letters*, are a series of letters written in carbon ink in Ancient **Hebrew** on clay **ostraca**. The letters were discovered at the excavations at **Lachish** (Tell ed-Duweir).
- The **ostraca** were discovered by **James Leslie Starkey** in January–February, 1935 during the third campaign of the **Wellcome** excavations. They were published in 1938 by **Harry Torczyner** (name later changed to **Naftali Herz Tur-Sinai**) and have been much studied since then. Seventeen of them are currently located in the **British Museum** in London,^[1] a smaller number (including Letter 6) are on permanent display at the **Rockefeller Museum** in **Jerusalem, Israel**.^[2]

Material	Clay ostraca
Writing	Phoenician script / Paleo-Hebrew script
Created	c. 590 BC
Discovered	1935
Present location	British Museum and Israel Museum
Identification	ME 125701 to ME 125707, ME 125715a, IAA 1938.127 and 1938.128

Letter Number 3

Your servant, Hoshayahu, sent to inform my lord, Yaush: May YHWH cause my lord to hear tidings of peace and tidings of good. And now, open the ear of your servant concerning the letter which you sent to your servant last evening because the heart of your servant is ill since your sending it to your servant. And inasmuch as my lord said "Don't you know how to read a letter?" As YHWH lives if anyone has ever tried to read me a letter! And as for every letter that comes to me, if I read it. And furthermore, I will grant it as nothing. And to your servant it has been reported saying: The commander of the army Konyahu son of Elnatan, has gone down to go to Egypt and he sent to commander Hodawiyahu son of Aniyahu and his men from here. And as for the letter of Tobiyahu, the servant of the king, which came to Sallum, the son of Yaddua, from the prophet, saying, "Be on guard!" your ser[va]nt is sending it to my lord.^[7]

41

Lachish Ostracon #9: Shelemiah (Jer 38:1; 37:3) "Jucal son of Shelemiah"

Lachish Ostracon #9: Shelemiah (Jer 38:1; 37:3) "Jucal son of Shelemiah"

"May Yahweh cause my lord to hear reports of peace and of good news. And now, give 10 loaves of bread and 2 measures of wine. Bring back to your servant a

589 BC

word by the hand of Shelemiah concerning what we must do tomorrow"

www.bible.ca/ostraca

Lachish 1935 AD

Obverse (replica)

Reverse (replica)

British Museum

Lachish Ostracon #9:

Shelemiah (Jer 38:1; 37:3)

Jucal son of Shelemiah



Inscription on pottery shard:

"May Yahweh cause my lord to hear reports of peace and of good news. And now, give 10 loaves of bread and 2 measures of wine. Bring back to your servant a word by the hand of Shelemiah concerning what we must do tomorrow"

1935 AD Lachish: British Museum

Date of ostracon: 587 BC

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Jer 20:5-9

(5) Moreover, **I will give all the wealth of the city**, all its gains, all its prized belongings, and all the treasures of the kings of Judah into the hand of their enemies, who shall plunder them and seize them and carry them **to Babylon**.

(6) And you, Pashhur, and all who dwell in your house, shall go into captivity. To Babylon you shall go, and there you shall die, and **there you shall be buried, you and all your friends, to whom you have prophesied falsely.**


- (7) O LORD, you have deceived me, and I was deceived; you are stronger than I, and you have prevailed. **I have become a laughingstock all the day; everyone mocks me.**
- (8) For whenever I speak, I cry out, I shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the LORD has become for me a reproach and derision all day long.
- (9) If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," **there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.**

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- Jer 20:10-13
- (10) For I hear many whispering. Terror is on every side! "Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" **say all my close friends**, watching for my fall. "Perhaps he will be deceived; then we can overcome him and take our revenge on him."
- (11) But **the LORD is with me as a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble; they will not overcome me.** They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten.
- (12) O LORD of hosts, who tests the righteous, **who sees the heart and the mind**, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you have I committed my cause.
- (13) Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hand of evildoers.

44



- Jer 20:14-18
- (14) Cursed be the day on which I was born! The day when my mother bore me, let it not be blessed!
- (15) Cursed be the man who brought the news to my father, "A son is born to you," making him very glad.
- (16) Let that man be like the cities that the LORD overthrew without pity; let him hear a cry in the morning and an alarm at noon,
- (17) **because he did not kill me in the womb; so my mother would have been my grave, and her womb forever great.**
- (18) Why did I come out from the womb to see toil and sorrow, and spend my days in shame?

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