

# The WordSeekers : XtremeXplorationSundays

## Bible-Study Notes

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March 20, 2005

“Moving from Chair #2 to Chair #1  
Or, “What on Earth are we here for”

**FOCAL VERSES: Jeremiah 7: 1 – 10:25**

**Observation** ‘Satellite-Level’ Jeremiah Chapters: 7 - 10

**Chapter 7 describes the trust in rituals and false prophets by the people of Judah despite the persistent warnings from God through His spokesman, Jeremiah, of destruction and exile. (Living w/o Kingdom purpose)**

**Chapter 8 concerns a lost people and a lamenting prophet.**

Vv4 – 17: The people refuse to repent or “return” from their ways. The Hebrew word form, *shub*, is used six times in vv 4 – 6. “*Nacham*,” means ‘repent’ and is use once.

Even the religious leaders are included as they were guilty of substituting their own wisdom for God’s wisdom.

Vv8:18 – 9:6 Jeremiah was emotionally overwhelmed by the forthcoming tragedy to his nation and the fact they would not turn from their wicked ways.

He ‘laments’ Jeremiah had compassion for his countrymen and was deeply saddened by their spiritual choices.

**Chapter 9 tells of God’s announcement of His verdict on the people of Judah.**

V6: He found them guilty of deception and their refusal to know Him. Their sentence was ruin and exile.

V17 - 20: Jeremiah then calls the people to mourn and lament because of the certain and pending judgment of God.

V21 - 22: Jeremiah uses the imagery of “death” climbing through a window to indicate that there was no ay to escape from the imminent slaughter.

V23 - 24: Jeremiah encourages the people to seek what is genuinely worthwhile in life, that is, knowing God; having an intimate relationship with him. (Chair #1 people)

**In Chapter 10 Jeremiah reminds the people that idols can do nothing for them. “they can’t speak, they can’t walk, they can’t do any good.”**

V23: “I know, Lord, that a man’s way of life is not his own; no one who walks determines his own steps.” Proverbs 3: 5,6

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### Interpretation Chapter 7:

#### Verses - 1 - 4

V1: Jeremiah is giving a sermon at the temple gate, which is the religious public forum.

V3: God, through Jeremiah, is telling the people to not put their trust in the fact that He, God, has preserved them from destruction as He did the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Don't be fooled and don't keep on with your wicked ways, he is saying.

The fact that God speaks the words, the temple of the Lord, three times suggests the strong emphasis in what God is perceiving as deception and hypocrisy.

#### Verses 5 - 8

V5, 6: God is now stating the conditions of His covenant with His people. He states five conditions:

#1—if you will change their ways and actions

#2—if you will act justly toward one another

#3—if you no longer oppress the alien, fatherless and the widow

That is, the helpless

#4—if you no longer shed innocent blood

#5—if you no longer follow other gods.

V7: God's promise to the people, then:

#1-- "I will allow you to live in this place"

#2—"the land I gave to your ancestors forever and ever."

V8: "But," God is saying that He desires to bless them BUT they refuse to do their part of the covenant.

#### Verses 9 – 11

V9: Jeremiah is telling the people they have broken the Mosaic Law, basically, the Ten Commandments.

#8: stealing #6: murder #7: committing adultery #9: bearing false witness

From the 2<sup>nd</sup> table of the Ten Commandments ...

#2: burning incense #1: following other gods.

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V10: The people do wrongly and yet claim God as Supreme. They are not “walking the walk.”

V11: “...a den of robbers..” refers to caves robbers fled to after a crime only to return to do more crime after the dust clears.

### **Verses 12 - 15**

V12: God is reminding the people what happened at Shiloh, which was the original place where the ark of the covenant was placed.

At Shiloh, God destroyed that place and that land because of their wicked ways.

V13: “...I have spoken to you time and time again, but you wouldn’t listen...”  
God used His prophets to deliver His message, but the people repeatedly refused to comply.

V15: God is angered as He says, “..I will drive you from My presence, just as I drove out all of your brothers, ...”

V15: “descendants of Ephraim.” Ephraim was the younger son of Joseph. His descendants became one of the twelve tribes of Israel. The name is used here as an alternative to the name, Israel, which is a covenant name. What God seems to be saying is that His covenant is no longer valid!!

### **Application:**

- 1. Going to church, saying the right words, etc. without a contrite heart is meaningless—and offensive--to God.**
- 2. As these things occur, we should be mindful that they displease God**
- 3. We should recognize that as born-again Christians the Holy Spirit lives within us to help direct our very thoughts and deeds.**

### **QUESTION:**

**If you are in Chair #2, do you have an open heart to trust and obey so that you can move back to Chair #1”?**