

Jeremiah Lesson 3

Jeremiah 2:1 – 6:30

The Overlord's Message

- A Written Message to His Vassal Addressing Some Act of Rebellion
- An Appeal to the Vassal to Pay Attention, Followed by a Summons to the Earth and Sky as Witnesses
- The Accusations
- The Past Benefits From the Overlord
- The Futility of Ritual Compensations, Recourse to Foreign Cults or Other Kinds of Aid
- A Declaration of Guilt and a Threat of Judgment

The Appeal to the Vassal and the Summons to the Witnesses

- Yahweh (the Overlord) Appeals to Judah (the Vassal)
- Jeremiah 2: 4-5
- Jeremiah 2:12

The Accusations:

- Jeremiah 2:5
- Jeremiah 2:7
- Jeremiah 2:8
- Jeremiah 2:13
- Jeremiah 2:20
- Jeremiah 2:23
- Jeremiah 2:28
- Jeremiah 2:31
- Jeremiah 3:6-10
- Jeremiah 5:1

The Past Benefits:

- Jeremiah 2:2-3
- Jeremiah 2:6-7
- Jeremiah 2:20

The Declaration of Guilt and Threat of Judgment:

- Jeremiah 2:9
- Jeremiah 2:22
- Jeremiah 2:26
- Jeremiah 2:30
- Jeremiah 2:36-17
- Jeremiah 3:3
- Jeremiah 4:6

Jeremiah's Poetry

- Judah as a Bride and Yahweh as Her Bridegroom
- In the First Early Days of Marriage, the Bride is Eager to Love and Serve Her Husband
 - Jeremiah 2:2
 - Jeremiah 2:32
 - Jeremiah 3:19



The Jewish Bride; circa
1665-1669; Rembrandt;
Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam,
the Netherlands

The Bride Has Become an Adulterous Prostitute

- Jeremiah 2:20
- Jeremiah 2:24
- Jeremiah 2:33
- Jeremiah 3:1-2
- Jeremiah 3:6
- Jeremiah 3:8-9

Ritual Prostitution

- Josiah's Reforms
- 2 Kings 23:7

God's Complaints About Judah

- An Unfaithful Wife (various passages)
- Broken Cisterns (Jeremiah 2:13)
- A Plundered Slave (Jeremiah 2:14-16)
- A Stubborn Animal (Jeremiah 2:20)
- A Degenerate Vine (Jeremiah 2:21)
- A Defiled Body (Jeremiah 2:22)
- A Desert Animal (Jeremiah 2:23-24)



A Broken Cistern



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Wild Vines and Thorny
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God's Complaints About Judah

- A Disgraced Thief (Jeremiah 2:26)
- Incurrigible Children (Jeremiah 2:30)
- Prisoners of War (Jeremiah 2:36-37)
- A Patient With an Unhealthy, Uncircumcised Heart (Jeremiah 3:22; Jeremiah 4:4)
- An Unplowed Field (Jeremiah 4:3)



The Lachish Relief;
Assyrian Soldiers
Leading Captives Into
Exile; copyright:
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A Message to Israel

- Jeremiah 3:12-18
- Remember the Events of 2 Kings 17:22-23
- Jeremiah 3:12-18 is a Clear Example of God's Grace
- Imagine No Ark of the Covenant!
- Some Subtle Irony
- Repent
- Only a Remnant Will Return From Israel
- Only a Remnant Will Return From Judah as Well (Jeremiah 5:9-10)

Jeremiah

Lesson 3: Jeremiah 2:1 – 6:30

- According to J. A. Thompson's commentary on Jeremiah, at the time Jeremiah lived, there was a legal form in the secular world which addressed some act of rebellion by lesser kings against their overlords. In this case, the overlord delivered a written message to the lesser king with the following sections:
 - An appeal to the vassal to pay attention to the charges, followed by a summons to the earth and the sky to act as witnesses
 - A series of questions, each of which was an implied accusation
 - A recitation of past benefits that the overlord had bestowed on the vassal followed by a list of the offenses by the vassal which had broken the treaty/covenant
 - A statement which indicated that ritual compensations, recourse to foreign cults or other kinds of aid were futile
 - A declaration of guilt and a threat of judgment
- If one looks closely at Jeremiah Chapters 2 -5, the points of this legal form, used here in a religious sense, may be observed.
- The Appeal to the Vassal: Yahweh (the overlord) appeals to Judah (the vassal)
 - Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the clans of the house of Israel. ⁵ Thus says the LORD Jeremiah 2:4-5
- A Summons to the earth and the sky to act as witnesses:
 - Be appalled, O heavens, at this; be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the LORD, Jeremiah 2:12
- The Accusations:
 - What wrong did your fathers find in me that they went far from me, and went after worthlessness, and became worthless? Jeremiah 2:5
 - But when you came in, you defiled my land and made my heritage an abomination. Jeremiah 2:7

- The priests did not say, ‘Where is the LORD?’ Those who handle the law did not know me; the shepherds transgressed against me; Jeremiah 2:8
- for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water Jeremiah 2:13
- For long ago I broke your yoke and burst your bonds; but you said, I will not serve.’ Yes, on every high hill and under every green tree you bowed down like a whore. Jeremiah 2:20
- How can you say, ‘I am not unclean, I have not gone after the Baals’? Jeremiah 2:23
- But where are your gods that you made for yourself? Let them arise, if they can save you, in your time of trouble; for as many as your cities are your gods, O Judah. Jeremiah 2:28
- Have I been a wilderness to Israel, or a land of thick darkness? Jeremiah 2:31
- Have you seen what she did, that faithless one, Israel, how she went up on every high hill and under every green tree, and there played the whore? ⁷ And I thought, ‘After she has done all this she will return to me,’ but she did not return, and her treacherous sister Judah saw it. ⁸ She saw that for all the adulteries of that faithless one, Israel, I had sent her away with a decree of divorce. Yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but she too went and played the whore. ⁹ Because she took her whoredom lightly, she polluted the land, committing adultery with stone and tree. ¹⁰ Yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah did not return to me with her whole heart, but in pretense, declares the LORD.” Jeremiah 3:6-10
- Run to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, look and take note! Search her squares to see if you can find a man, one who does justice and seeks truth, that I may pardon her. Jeremiah 5:1
- The Past Benefits:
 - I remember the devotion of your youth, your love as a bride, how you followed me in the wilderness, in a land not sown. ³ Israel was holy to the LORD, the firstfruits of his harvest. All who ate of it incurred guilt; disaster came upon them, declares the LORD.” Jeremiah 2:2-3

- Where is the LORD who brought us up from the land of Egypt, who led us in the wilderness, in a land of deserts and pits, in a land of drought and deep darkness, in a land that none passes through, where no man dwells?’⁷ And I brought you into a plentiful land to enjoy its fruits and its good things. Jeremiah 2:6-7
- For long ago I broke your yoke and burst your bonds; Jeremiah 2:20
- Ritual Compensations and Foreign Cults are Futile:
 - Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods? But my people have changed their glory for that which does not profit. Jeremiah 2:11
 - Moreover, the men of Memphis and Tahpanhes have shaved the crown of your head. Jeremiah 2:16
 - And now what do you gain by going to Egypt to drink the waters of the Nile? Or what do you gain by going to Assyria to drink the waters of the Euphrates? Jeremiah 2:18
 - But where are your gods that you made for yourself? Let them arise, if they can save you, in your time of trouble; for as many as your cities are your gods, O Judah. Jeremiah 2:28
- The Declaration of Guilt and Threat of Judgment:
 - Therefore I still contend with you, declares the LORD, and with your children's children I will contend. Jeremiah 2:9
 - Though you wash yourself with lye and use much soap, the stain of your guilt is still before me, declares the Lord GOD. Jeremiah 2:22
 - In vain have I struck your children; they took no correction; your own sword devoured your prophets like a ravaging lion. Jeremiah 2:30
 - As a thief is shamed when caught, so the house of Israel shall be shamed: they, their kings, their officials, their priests, and their prophets, Jeremiah 2:26
 - You shall be put to shame by Egypt as you were put to shame by Assyria.
³⁷ From it too you will come away with your hands on your head, for the LORD has rejected those in whom you trust, and you will not prosper by them. Jeremiah 2:36-37

- Therefore the showers have been withheld,
and the spring rain has not come; Jeremiah 3:3
- for I bring disaster from the north, and great destruction. Jeremiah 4:6
- Beginning with Jeremiah 2, we see what a wonderful poet Jeremiah was. His word pictures and analogies are stunning.
- Most particularly, we see Judah described as a bride and Yahweh as her bridegroom.
 - In the first early days of marriage, the bride is eager to love and serve her husband.
 - I remember the devotion of your youth, your love as a bride, how you followed me in the wilderness, in a land not sown. Jeremiah 2:2
 - Can a virgin forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? Jeremiah 2:32
 - I said, How I would set you among my sons, and give you a pleasant land, a heritage most beautiful of all nations. And I thought you would call me, My Father, and would not turn from following me. Jeremiah 3:19
 - Both Israel and Judah had turned away from God to follow other gods. Jeremiah describes this as adultery. Worse yet, the bride has become a prostitute. This is the same analogy we see in the writings of the prophet Hosea about his wife Gomer.
 - Yes, on every high hill and under every green tree you bowed down like a whore. Jeremiah 2:20
 - a wild donkey used to the wilderness, in her heat sniffing the wind! Who can restrain her lust? None who seek her need weary themselves; in her month they will find her. Jeremiah 2:24
 - How well you direct your course to seek love! So that even to wicked women you have taught your ways. Jeremiah 2:33

- If a man divorces his wife and she goes from him and becomes another man's wife, will he return to her? Would not that land be greatly polluted? You have played the whore with many lovers; and would you return to me? declares the LORD. ² Lift up your eyes to the bare heights and see! Where have you not been ravished? By the waysides you have sat waiting lovers like an Arab in the wilderness. You have polluted the land with your vile whoredom. Jeremiah 3:1-2
 - The LORD said to me in the days of King Josiah: “Have you seen what she did, that faithless one, Israel, how she went up on every high hill and under every green tree, and there played the whore? Jeremiah 3:6
 - Yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear, but she too went and played the whore. ⁹ Because she took her whoredom lightly, she polluted the land, committing adultery with stone and tree. Jeremiah 3:8-9
- Israel and Judah had prostituted themselves to other gods. In addition, Jeremiah’s poetry also points to the ritual prostitution which accompanied the idol worship. We know this ritual prostitution exists because we have this sentence from 2 Kings 23:7 about King Josiah’s reforms:
 - And he broke down the houses of the male cult prostitutes who were in the house of the LORD
- In his commentary on Jeremiah chapters 2-6, Warren Wiersbe does an excellent job summarizing God’s descriptions of and complaints about the people of Judah.
 - An unfaithful wife, which we just covered
 - Broken cisterns (from your lesson)
 - A plundered slave from Jeremiah 2: 14-16:
 - Is Israel a slave? Is he a homeborn servant? Why then has he become a prey? ¹⁵ The lions have roared against him; they have roared loudly. They have made his land a waste; his cities are in ruins, without inhabitant. ¹⁶ Moreover, the men of Memphis and Tahpanhes have shaved the crown of your head.
 - The “men of Memphis and Tahpanhes” refers to the Egyptians to whom the Israelites had repeatedly turned to for aid.

- A stubborn animal from Jeremiah 2:20:
 - For long ago I broke your yoke and burst your bonds; but you said, I will not serve.
 - Here the reference is to an unruly animal that won't wear a yoke.
- A degenerate vine from Jeremiah 2:21:
 - Yet I planted you a choice vine, wholly of pure seed. How then have you turned degenerate and become a wild vine?
- A defiled body from Jeremiah 2:22:
 - Though you wash yourself with lye and use much soap, the stain of your guilt is still before me, declares the Lord GOD.
- An animal in the desert from Jeremiah 2: 23-24:
 - a restless young camel running here and there, a wild donkey used to the wilderness, in her heat sniffing the wind!
- A disgraced thief from Jeremiah 2:26:
 - As a thief is shamed when caught, so the house of Israel shall be shamed
- Incurable children from Jeremiah 2:30:
 - In vain have I struck your children; they took no correction
- Prisoners of war from Jeremiah 2: 36-37:
 - You shall be put to shame by Egypt as you were put to shame by Assyria.
³⁷ From it too you will come away with your hands on your head, for the LORD has rejected those in whom you trust, and you will not prosper by them.

- A patient with an unhealthy, uncircumcised heart from Jeremiah 3: 22 and Jeremiah 4:4:
 - Return, O faithless sons; I will heal your faithlessness
 - Circumcise yourselves to the LORD; remove the foreskin of your hearts, O men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem
 - A Jewish boy's circumcision at eight days old made him a son of the Covenant. Jews thought that this ritual was a guarantee of salvation. But their hearts were faithless, callous, and disobedient. God wanted them to operate on their hearts to remove their sinfulness and turn back to worshipping the Lord.
- An unplowed field from Jeremiah 4:3:
 - For thus says the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem: "Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns.
 - Wiersbe says "their hearts were hard and crowded with thorns like a neglected, unplowed field."
- The last topic for this week is the interesting passage from Jeremiah 3: 12-18 addressed to fallen nation of Israel, now in exile in Assyria:
 - Go, and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, "'Return, faithless Israel, declares the LORD. I will not look on you in anger, for I am merciful, declares the LORD; I will not be angry forever. ¹³ Only acknowledge your guilt, that you rebelled against the LORD your God and scattered your favors among foreigners under every green tree, and that you have not obeyed my voice, declares the LORD. ¹⁴ Return, O faithless children, declares the LORD; for I am your master; I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion. And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding. ¹⁶ And when you have multiplied and been fruitful in the land, in those days, declares the LORD, they shall no more say, "The ark of the covenant of the LORD." It shall not come to mind or be remembered or missed; it shall not be made again. ¹⁷ At that time Jerusalem shall be called the throne of the LORD, and all nations shall gather to it, to the presence of the LORD in Jerusalem, and they shall no more stubbornly follow their own evil heart. ¹⁸ In those days the house of Judah shall join the house of Israel, and together they shall come from the land of the north to the land that I gave your fathers for a heritage.

- This passage is astounding given the events of 2 Kings 17:22-23:
 - The people of Israel walked in all the sins that Jeroboam did. They did not depart from them, ²³ until the LORD removed Israel out of his sight, as he had spoken by all his servants the prophets. So Israel was exiled from their own land to Assyria until this day.
- This is absolutely a clear example of God's grace, given Israel's persistent and pernicious apostasy.
- Imagine the response of the people when they heard Jeremiah's words that the Ark of the Covenant would be gone and forgotten. The people had depended on the Ark, the Temple, the rituals, and the Covenant. They could not envision a time when these items would no longer exist or be needed. This passage clearly points to Jesus and the early church, particularly after the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD. There is also some irony in this passage as we know that Israel, and Judah, had already abandoned the Ark, the Temple, the rituals and the Covenant for false gods with false promises.
- We see one other key item in this passage: the remnant. God does not plan to bring all of Israel from exile – only those who truly repent and even then, only a remnant (one from a city and two from a family).
- There is also a picture of the remnant from Judah in Jeremiah 5:9-10:
 - Shall I not punish them for these things? declares the LORD; and shall I not avenge myself on a nation such as this? ¹⁰ “Go up through her vine rows and destroy, but make not a full end; strip away her branches, for they are not the LORD'S.
 - God is going to use Babylon and the Babylonian exile to remove the degenerate vines from his vineyard, leaving vine which will produce firstfruits worthy of the Lord.

Jeremiah

Lesson 3: Jeremiah 2:1 – 6:30

Israel Has Been a Faithless Spouse (2:1-3:5)

1. The Lord begins by recalling his love for the people of Israel. What are some of the ways he showed his covenant love for them? (Look especially at 2:1-7).
 - Israel was holy to the LORD, the firstfruits of his harvest. Jeremiah 2:3
 - Where is the LORD who brought us up from the land of Egypt, who led us in the wilderness, in a land of deserts and pits, in a land of drought and deep darkness, in a land that none passes through, where no man dwells? Jeremiah 2:6
 - And I brought you into a plentiful land to enjoy its fruits and its good things. Jeremiah 2:7
 - For long ago I broke your yoke and burst your bonds; Jeremiah 2:20
 - Yet I planted you a choice vine, wholly of pure seed. Jeremiah 2:21
 - Return, faithless Israel declares the LORD. I will not look on you in anger, for I am merciful, declares the LORD; I will not be angry forever. Jeremiah 3:12
 - And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding. Jeremiah 3:15
2. Despite Yahweh's extravagant love, Israel has "changed its gods, even though they are no gods[?]. . . my people have changed their glory for that which does not profit" (2:11). What does it mean that they have "hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water" (v.13)?
 - for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water. Jeremiah 2:13
 - NIV footnote: "Watertight plaster was used to keep cisterns from losing water. Idols, like broken cisterns, will always fail their worshipers; by contrast, God provides life abundant and unfailing."

Israel Can and Should Repent (3:6-4:4)

3. Despite seeing God judge the northern kingdom of Israel for its idolatry, Judah not only followed in her footsteps but surpassed her in wickedness (3:6-11). So Yahweh calls Judah to “return,” or repent. According to 3:12-14, what does repentance look like? (You may also want to consult 3:19-25 and 4:1-4.)
 - Acknowledge your guilt that you rebelled against God, that you bound yourself to foreigners, and that you have not obeyed God’s voice (3:13)
 - Call God “My Father” and follow Him (3:19)
 - Call God “Lord”; declare that God is the salvation of Israel (3:22-23)
 - Declare that you have sinned before God, yourself and your fathers (3:25)
 - Swear “As the Lord lives” (4:2)
 - Circumcise yourselves to the Lord and remove the foreskin of your hearts (4:4)
4. According to 3:15-18, what does God promise to do for those who repent?
 - **And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.** ¹⁶ And when you have multiplied and been fruitful in the land, in those days, declares the LORD, they shall no more say, “**The ark of the covenant of the LORD.**” **It shall not come to mind or be remembered or missed; it shall not be made again.** ¹⁷ **At that time Jerusalem shall be called the throne of the LORD, and all nations shall gather to it, to the presence of the LORD in Jerusalem, and they shall no more stubbornly follow their own evil heart.** ¹⁸ **In those days the house of Judah shall join the house of Israel, and together they shall come from the land of the north to the land that I gave your fathers for a heritage.** Jeremiah 3:15-18
 - Note on verse 15: Like King David
 - Notes on verse 16: “in those days refers to the Messianic age.” The ark of the covenant, symbolizing the presence of God, will not be necessary when the Messiah comes.
 - Notes on verse 17: Jerusalem will replace the ark as the throne of God.

Disaster is Coming (4:5-31)

5. God now instructs Jeremiah to warn Judah of the coming judgment. The disaster is coming “from the north” (4:6) in the form of the Babylonians. What images of judgment are used in this section (vv. 7-18)?
 - A destroyer of nations (4:7)
 - Make your land a waste and your cities ruins with no inhabitants (4:7)
 - The people will put on sackcloth, lament, and wail (4:8)
 - Kings and officials will lose their courage (4:9)
 - The destroyer king comes with chariots like a whirlwind and with horses swifter than eagles (4:13)
 - The besiegers will surround the cities of Judah (4:16-17)
6. What does Jeremiah’s use of language from Genesis 1 tell us about the coming judgment (4:23-26)?
 - I looked on the earth, and behold, it was without form and void; and to the heavens, and they had no light.
²⁴ I looked on the mountains, and behold, they were quaking, and all the hills moved to and fro.
²⁵ I looked, and behold, there was no man, and all the birds of the air had fled.
²⁶ I looked, and behold, the fruitful land was a desert, and all its cities were laid in ruins before the LORD, before his fierce anger. Jeremiah 4:23-26
 - The coming judgment will be so complete that it will leave the land barren and dark. There will be no birds and no people. Creation will be undone.

Judah's Unwillingness to Repent and Its Consequences (5:1-31)

7. Despite warnings of judgment (4:5-31) and promises of restoration (3:15-18), Judah is not interested in repentance. Look at 5:1-13. What classes of people have sinned and angered Yahweh? What reasons does God give for not pardoning Judah?
- Search her squares to **see if you can find a man, one who does justice and seeks truth**, Jeremiah 5:1
 - Though they say, "As the LORD lives," yet **they swear falsely**. Jeremiah 5:2
 - You have struck them down, but **they felt no anguish**; you have consumed them, but **they refused to take correction. They have made their faces harder than rock; they have refused to repent**. Jeremiah 5:3
 - These are only the **poor; they have no sense; for they do not know the way of the LORD**, the justice of their God. Jeremiah 5:4
 - I will go to **the great** and will speak to them, for they know the way of the LORD, the justice of their God." But **they all alike had broken the yoke; they had burst the bonds**. Jeremiah 5:5
 - because **their transgressions are many, their apostasies are great**. Jeremiah 5:6
 - **Your children have forsaken me and have sworn by those who are no gods**. Jeremiah 5:7
 - When I fed them to the full, **they committed adultery and trooped to the houses of whores**. Jeremiah 5:7
 - They were well-fed, **lusty stallions, each neighing for his neighbor's wife**. Jeremiah 5:8
 - For **the house of Israel and the house of Judah have been utterly treacherous to me**, Jeremiah 5:11
 - **They have spoken falsely of the LORD and have said, 'He will do nothing; no disaster will come upon us, nor shall we see sword or famine**. Jeremiah 5:12
 - The prophets will become wind; **the word is not in them**. Jeremiah 5:13

God has Rejected His people (6:1-30).

8. Yahweh's judgment will sweep across the whole land, from the least to the greatest (6:1-15). According to 6:16, how should the people respond to the warnings of judgment?
 - Thus says the LORD: “Stand by the roads, and look, and **ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.** But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’ Jeremiah 6:16
9. Compare Yahweh's words in 6:16 with Psalm 1 and Jesus' words in Matthew 11:28-30. In light of these comparisons, what does it mean for believers to walk in the “ancient paths”?
 - Do not listen to the counsel of wicked people; do not consort with sinners or sit with scoffers (Ps 1:1)
 - Delight in God's law and meditate on it day and night. (Ps 1:2)
 - Be planted by a stream of living water so that you can yield fruit in all seasons, not wither, and prosper (Ps 1:3)
 - Stay in a congregation of the righteous (Ps 1:5)
 - Jesus will give you rest from your burdens and rest for your soul (Mt 11:28-29)
 - Learn from Jesus, who is gentle and lowly (Mt 11:29)
 - Jesus' teachings are easy and the burden he places upon you with them is light (Mt 11:30)

Personal Implications

10. Gospel Glimpses
 - Repentance:
 - Being baptized into Christ Jesus means we are forgiven of our sins, “as far as the east is from the west.” All our sins (past, present, and future) were placed upon Jesus as he suffered on the cross. We are freed from the power of sin but not from the presence of sin. I am not sinless, but I do sin less. Because I still sin, it is important to ask for God's forgiveness. We need to acknowledge our sins before God so that he knows we truly realize that what we have done is sin. We ask him to help us, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to stop sinning.

- What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Romans 6:1-2
- Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. ¹³ Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace. Romans 6:12-14
- What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶ Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹ Romans 6:15-19
- The Ancient Paths:
 - Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved. Psalms 55:22
 - Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. Romans 3:27-28
 - Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. ⁵ For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. ⁶ But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code. Romans 7:4-6

11. Whole-Bible Connections

- Shepherds

- God expected his shepherds to lead His people in the paths of righteousness as outlined in Jeremiah, 1 Samuel, Ezekiel, Acts, and John.
- Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³ not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. ⁴ He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, ⁵ for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? ⁶ He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. ⁷ Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil. 1 Timothy 3:2-7
- So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: ² shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; ³ not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. 1 Peter 5:1-3
- However, shepherds have led people astray.
 - for those who guide this people have been leading them astray, and those who are guided by them are swallowed up. Isaiah 9:16
 - Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture!” declares the LORD. ² Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who care for my people: “You have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for your evil deeds, declares the LORD. ³ Jeremiah 23:1-3
 - For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. Jude 1:4

- We resemble what we worship:
 - For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. ¹⁹ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. ²¹ For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² **Claiming to be wise, they became fools, ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.** ²⁴ **Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, ²⁵ because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Romans 1:18-25**
 - For this reason God **gave them up to dishonorable passions.** Romans 1:26
 - **And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done.** ²⁹ They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ³¹ foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. ³² Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them. Romans 1:28-32
- Worshipping God in spirit and in truth means:
 - God's Word is truth. It forms the basis for our worship – how we worship and whom we worship.
 - God lives within us in the form of the Holy Spirit.
 - God has written his truths on our hearts.
 - We do not worship things or idols. We worship a God who is spirit – not physical.

12. Theological Soundings

- Human Sinfulness:
 - There is nothing new under the sun when it comes to sin. Look back across cultures for thousands of years and the same sins appear.
 - When people turn away from God and give themselves over to sin, God lets people fall into greater depths of sinfulness: impure hearts, dishonorable passions, debased minds. (Romans 1).
 - We have no power over sin without God's saving grace in the person of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.
- God's Patience:
 - The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. 2 Peter 3:9
 - The book of Jeremiah shows exactly what happens to a culture when people refuse to repent and turn back to God. God will use another culture/nation to punish the unrepentant, even if it means the death of many and leaving a vast wasteland.
 - The Book of Revelation says that when the last person from the last tribe/nation is saved, God will usher in the new heavens and the new earth. At that point, it will be too late to turn back to the Lord for salvation.

13. Jeremiah 2:1 – 6:30 in total.

- I like Jeremiah 3:15-18. Early in the book we are gifted with a vision of the Messiah and a life in Christ.
- The litany of sins in Jeremiah 5 is very much like that in Isaiah, Amos, Micah, and many other prophets. The people do not want to be burdened by God and his covenant. They're happier worshipping worthless idols that provide no satisfaction.