

Jeremiah Lesson 4

Jeremiah 7:1 – 10:25

The Temple Sermon(s)

- Jeremiah 7 and Jeremiah 26
 - 2 Different Sermons at Different Times?
 - Just One Sermon?
- Jeremiah 26:1 States the Sermon Took Place at the Beginning of the Reign of Jehoiakim, Josiah's Son
- Deuteronomy 16:16
- Jeremiah 7:2
- The Hebrew Word for Worship
- Some Irony in Jeremiah 7:2



Der Prophet Jeremia.

Wahr ist es, daß die Welt nicht ohne die Propheten wäre, und die Welt nicht wäre, wenn nicht diese Propheten wären, und die Welt nicht wäre.
Die Propheten sind die Stimmen der Wahrheit, und die Welt nicht wäre, wenn nicht diese Propheten wären.
Jeremia 1:1-10

Jeremiah; Julius Schnorr
von Carolsfeld; Die Bibel
in Bildern (The Bible in
Pictures); 1860; Germany

The Temple Sermon(s)

- Jeremiah 7:11
- Matthew 21:13
- Temple Ceremonies Covered Up Secret Sins
- Brazen Idol Worship Even in the Temple
- God Would Never Destroy the Temple, Would He?
- Jeremiah 7:12: Go to Shiloh
- 1 Samuel: the Ark of the Covenant at Shiloh; the Ark is Captured; Shiloh is Destroyed
- Psalm 78:60



Jesus Driving the Money
Changers from the Temple:
El Greco; The Frick
Museum, New York City,
New York



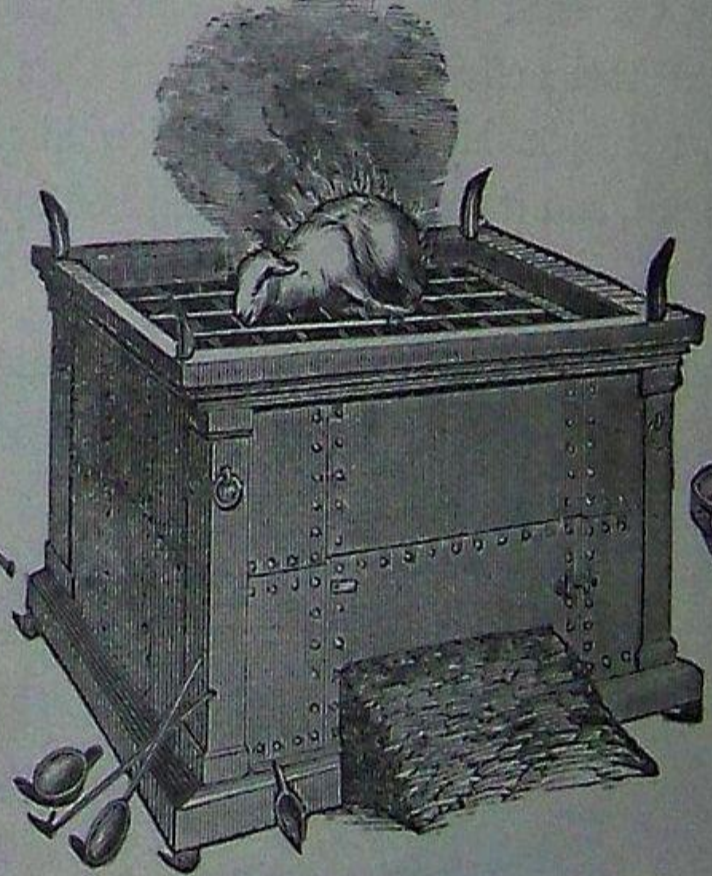
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The Temple Sermon(s)

- Jeremiah 7:21: Burnt Offerings
- Leviticus 1:9
- All Sacrifices are Treated the Same
- God Now Rejects All Sacrifices Made in His Temple



ALTAR OF INCENSE.



ALTAR OF BURNT-OFFERING.



LAVER.

Judaism (Burnt Offering);
drawing from the Holman
Bible; 1890

The Valley of Slaughter

- Jeremiah 7:30 – 8:3
- Topheth, the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, Was a Fireplace to the god Molech
- Leviticus 18:21
- With the Babylonian Conquest, It Will Become an Open Burial Ground



Photo of Temple Mount
taken from the Valley of
Hinnom; Palestine; 1950;
Matson Middle East
Photographic Service;
Library of Congress;
www.loc.gov

The 9th of Ab, Tish'a beAB

- Jeremiah 8:13-9:24
- Jewish National Day of Mourning
- Late July or Early August of Each Year
- Commemorates:
 - Numbers 14: 40 Years in the Wilderness
 - 2 Chronicles 36: Jerusalem and the Temple Destroyed
 - 68 AD: Romans Destroy the 2nd Temple
 - 135 AD: Jews Revolt Against the Romans; Temple Area Plowed Over



Triumphal parade in Rome of Jewish religious articles (a seven-branched candlestick, a table for shewbread, and sacred trumpets) removed after the sack of Jerusalem in 70 CE; detail of reliefs from the Arch of Titus, Rome, 81 CE

The 9th of Ab, Tish'a beAB

- Commemorates:
 - 1096: the First Crusade
 - 1290: Jews Expelled From England
 - 1492: Jews Expelled from Spain
 - 1914: Germany Enters World War I
 - 1941: The “Final Solution” Approved; the Holocaust Began
 - 1942: Deportation of the Jews From the Warsaw Ghetto



Embarquement of the Moriscos at
Valencia (Expulsion of the Jews from
Valencia Spain);Pere Oromig; 1616



Deportation of Jewish Women from the Warsaw Ghetto, Poland; 1942-1943; United States Holocaust Museum, Washington, D. C.

No Prayers for Judah

- Jeremiah 7:16
- Jeremiah 10: 23-25
 - Jeremiah Prays for Himself
 - Jeremiah Indirectly Prays for Judah
 - A Measure of Mercy for Judah?
 - No Mercy for the Other Nations

Jeremiah

Lesson 4: Jeremiah 7:1 – 10:25

- There are 2 Temple Sermons in Jeremiah: Jeremiah 7 and Jeremiah 26. Some scholars have argued that these sermons took place at 2 different times (during Josiah's reign and at the start at Jehoiakim's reign or during Josiah's reign alone). Those opting that the 2 sermons are one and the same state that Jeremiah 7 is contains more content while Jeremiah 26 provides the results of the sermon (Jeremiah receiving death threats).
- Keeping in mind that the chapters of Jeremiah are not in chronological order, it is conceivable that Chapters 7 and 26 refer to the same Temple Sermon.
- Jeremiah 26:1 tells us that the sermon took place at the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim, Josiah's son.
- Pharaoh Neco had wounded King Josiah at the battle of Megiddo. Josiah was taken back to Jerusalem where he died. Josiah's son Jehoahaz reigned for 3 months and was then deposed by Pharaoh Neco. Judah became Egypt's vassal state. Pharaoh Neco put Jehoahaz's brother Eliakim (whose name meant "God sets up") on the throne and changed his name to Jehoiakim ("Yahu raises up".) So, the sermon occurred in 609 BC.
- Deuteronomy 16:16 commanded the following:
 - Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God at the place that he will choose: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Booths.
- God may have commanded Jeremiah to deliver his sermon at one of these scheduled Feasts for maximum effect and penetration among the people.
- Jeremiah 7:2 says:
 - Hear the word of the LORD, all you men of Judah who enter these gates to worship the LORD.
- J. A. Thompson says that the Hebrew verb for worship comes from a metaphor of bowing down or prostrating oneself before someone whose high state is acknowledged and to whom allegiance should be made. He further states that acknowledging Yahweh as Lord meant glad acceptance of God's covenants, laws, and statutes.

- There is certainly some irony in Jeremiah 7:2, for the people may have come to worship Yahweh, but they also came to worship Baal, Ashtoreth, Chemosh, Molech, Astarte (the “Queen of Heaven”), and countless other gods. In their hearts they serviced the idols while, at the same time, they paid lip service to Yahweh. Blasphemy!
- Did you notice Jeremiah 7:11?
 - Has this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes?
- Jesus referred to these words in Matthew 21:13 after he had cleansed the Temple:
 - He said to them, “It is written, My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you make it a den of robbers.”
- Warren Wiersbe says, “the Jews were using the temple ceremonies to cover up their secret sins.”
- The Jews thought they could continue their sinful idol worship, brazenly even in the Temple, and that God would not destroy his dwelling place, the Temple.
- In Jeremiah 7:12, God gives Jeremiah these words:
 - Go now to my place that was in Shiloh, where I made my name dwell at first, and see what I did to it because of the evil of my people Israel.
- In 1 Samuel, we read that the Ark of the Covenant was kept at Shiloh within the Tabernacle. The Philistines invaded Israel. In fear, the Israelites removed the Ark from the Tabernacle and took it into battle with them, thinking it would protect them from the Philistines. Instead, the Philistines defeated Israel and captured the Ark. Although not explicitly stated in Scripture, it appears that the Philistines had also destroyed Shiloh itself. After the Lord afflicted the Philistines with tumors, the Ark was returned to Israel, but never again resided at Shiloh. Psalm 78:60 says:
 - He forsook his dwelling at Shiloh, the tent where he dwelt among mankind
 - Shiloh is never again mentioned in the Bible as a significant dwelling place.

- Another comment from the Temple sermon concerns Jeremiah 7:21:
 - Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: “Add your burnt offerings to your sacrifices, and eat the flesh.
 - Leviticus 1:9 gives the following instructions about the burnt offering:
 - And the priest shall burn all of it on the altar, as a burnt offering, a food offering with a pleasing aroma to the LORD.
 - The burnt offering was to be totally consumed on the sacrificial altar of the Lord.
 - In Jeremiah 7:21, we see God saying that all the sacrifices are now treated in the same way. Go ahead and eat the flesh of the burnt offering. God now rejects **all** the sacrifices made in his Temple.

- Jeremiah 7:30 – 8:3 is described as the Valley of Slaughter in the NIV.
 - Topheth, the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, was a fireplace, a place of human sacrifices to the God Molech. This was forbidden in the Mosaic Law:
 - You shall not give any of your children to offer them to Molech, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD. Leviticus 18:21
 - Topheth will become the Valley of Slaughter. When the Babylonians invade, people will be buried in Topheth because there is no other burial place. But their bodies will lie out in the open, food for vultures and other beasts.

- Jeremiah 8:13 – 9:24 is read aloud in synagogues every year on the ninth of Ab, Tish’a beAb. This is the Jewish National Day of Mourning, and it generally falls in late July or early August each year. The day commemorates the following events which occurred on the 9th of Ab:
 - Numbers 14: When the 12 spies returned from the Promised Land, 10 spies gave a negative report, and the people then had no faith that they could conquer the land. Therefore, God decreed that the people would wander in the desert for 40 years.
 - 2 Chronicles 36: Jerusalem was burned, and the Temple destroyed by the Babylonians.
 - In 68 AD, the Romans destroyed the 2nd, Temple.

- In 135 AD, the Jews revolted against the Romans. Troops under the Emperor Hadrian slaughtered hundreds of thousands of Jews and left their bodies out in the open to rot. The Temple area was plowed over, and the Jews were forbidden access to Jerusalem.
 - The First Crusade started on the 9th of Ab of 1096, killing 10,000 Jews in its first month and destroying Jewish communities in France and the Rhineland. 1.2 million Jews were killed by this crusade.
 - The Jews were expelled from England on 9th of Ab, July 18th, 1290.
 - In 1492, the Jews were expelled from Spain.
 - Germany entered World War I on August 1-2, 1914, which caused massive upheaval in European Jewry and whose aftermath led to the Holocaust.
 - On August 2, 1941, SS commander Heinrich Himmler formally received approval from the Nazi Party for “The Final Solution.” As a result, the Holocaust began during which almost one third of the world’s Jewish population perished.
 - On July 23, 1942, began the mass deportation of Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto, en route to Treblinka.
- In Jeremiah 7:16, God had ordered Jeremiah not to pray for the people of Judah:
 - As for you, do not pray for this people, or lift up a cry or prayer for them, and do not intercede with me, for I will not hear you.
 - In your lesson, you studied how Jeremiah grieved over the sins of Judah. In Jeremiah 10: 23-25, we read the following:
 - I know, O LORD, that the way of man is not in himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps. ²⁴ Correct me, O LORD, but in justice; not in your anger, lest you bring me to nothing. Pour out your wrath on the nations that know you not, and on the peoples that call not on your name, for they have devoured Jacob; they have devoured him and consumed him, and have laid waste his habitation.
 - Here, Jeremiah is praying for himself, as God’s representative to Judah. He knows he is a mere man, who, like us, walks in sin without the help of the Lord. He pleads with God to correct him with mercy when he sins.

- To a greater extent, Jeremiah is also indirectly praying for the people of Judah who, no longer walking with the Lord, have sinned greatly. Do they not also deserve a measure of mercy, punishment with restraint? Yes, they do, and we have seen that God intends to preserve a remnant of the Jews from the Babylonian exile.

- Lastly, Jeremiah says that the nations who had devoured Israel and Judah are worthy of punishment, the full wrath of God.

Jeremiah

Lesson 4: Jeremiah 7:1 – 10:25

Judah's Improper Reliance on the Temple (7:1 – 8:3)

1. What were the people putting their confidence in to avoid destruction by the Babylonians? Why was this confidence so misplaced?
 - The false words of false prophets who told them it was ok to worship in the Temple, even though it had often been defiled with the presence of false idols. The false prophets also told them that God's temple and Jerusalem could not be destroyed:
 - Do not trust in these deceptive words: 'This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD.' Jeremiah 7:4
 - They have set their detestable things in the house that is called by my name, to defile it. Jeremiah 7:30
 - Idol worship and sacrificing their children to idols:
 - make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known Jeremiah 7:9
 - Add your burnt offerings to your sacrifices, and eat the flesh. Jeremiah 7:21
 - They have set their detestable things in the house that is called by my name, to defile it. ³¹ And they have built the high places of Topheth, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, Jeremiah 7:30-31
 - God said they put their confidence in false words and idols to no avail. These words and idols would not save Judah. Because of Judah's sins, God was going to destroy it just like he did the nation of Israel.
 - **Behold, you trust in deceptive words to no avail.** ⁹ Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known, ¹⁰ and **then come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, 'We are delivered!'**—**only to go on doing all these abominations?** ¹¹ Has this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, I myself have seen it, declares the LORD. ¹² Go now to my place that was in Shiloh, where I made

my name dwell at first, and see what I did to it because of the evil of my people Israel. ¹³ And now, because you have done all these things, declares the LORD, and when I spoke to you persistently you did not listen, and when I called you, you did not answer, ¹⁴ therefore **I will do to the house that is called by my name, and in which you trust, and to the place that I gave to you and to your fathers, as I did to Shiloh. ¹⁵ And I will cast you out of my sight,** as I cast out all your kinsmen, all the offspring of Ephraim. Jeremiah 7:8-15

2. How were the people living as a result of their misplaced confidence?

- Unequal justice; oppression of sojourners, widows, and orphans; killing innocent people; worshipping other gods; stealing; murder; adultery; making false statements; sacrificing their children to idols; failing to worship God Almighty as he had commanded; defiling the Temple
 - if you truly execute justice one with another, ⁶ if you do not oppress the sojourner, the fatherless, or the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own harm Jeremiah 7:5-6
 - Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known, Jeremiah 7:9
 - The children gather wood, the fathers kindle fire, and the women knead dough, to make cakes for the queen of heaven. And they pour out drink offerings to other gods, Jeremiah 7:18
 - Add your burnt offerings to your sacrifices, and eat the flesh Jeremiah 7:21
 - They have set their detestable things in the house that is called by my name, to defile it. ³¹ And they have built the high places of Topheth, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, which I did not command, nor did it come into my mind. ³² Jeremiah 7:30-32

3. God commands Jeremiah not to pray for the people (7:16). What reasons does he give (vv. 17-18)? Why is this situation different from Moses interceding for the Israelites when they sinned with the golden calf (Exodus 32-34)?
- As for you, do not pray for this people, or lift up a cry or prayer for them, and do not intercede with me, for I will not hear you. ¹⁷ Do you not see what they are doing in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? ¹⁸ The children gather wood, the fathers kindle fire, and the women knead dough, to make cakes for the queen of heaven. And they pour out drink offerings to other gods, to provoke me to anger. Jeremiah 7:16-18
 - The sins of Judah are too great for God to relent. (It is important to note that God did not let the worship of the golden calf go unpunished. Moses ordered the Levites to kill those who had worshipped the golden calf; 3000 died. Also, God struck the Israelites with a plague.)
 - For in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, I did not speak to your fathers or command them concerning burnt offerings and sacrifices. ²³ But this command I gave them: Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people. And walk in all the way that I command you, that it may be well with you.’ ²⁴ But they did not obey or incline their ear, but walked in their own counsels and the stubbornness of their evil hearts, and went backward and not forward. ²⁵ **From the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt to this day, I have persistently sent all my servants the prophets to them, day after day. ²⁶ Yet they did not listen to me or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck. They did worse than their fathers.** Jeremiah 7:22-26
 - And you shall say to them, ‘This is the nation that did not obey the voice of the LORD their God, and did not accept discipline; truth has perished; it is cut off from their lips. ²⁹ “‘Cut off your hair and cast it away; raise a lamentation on the bare heights, **for the LORD has rejected and forsaken the generation of his wrath.**’ Jeremiah 7:28-29

Judah Rejects God's Torah (8:4-17)

4. Because they reject the Law of the Lord, the people are continually backsliding; they are worse than animals, who at least know the seasons (8:4-7). What role have Judah's leaders played in the failure of the people (vv. 8-15)?
 - The governmental and religious leaders claimed to be wise and that they had God on their side. But they lied, rejected God's Word, were greedy, committed injustices, told the people what they wanted to hear, had no shame, were empty vessels.
 - How can you say, 'We are wise, and the law of the LORD is with us'? But behold, the lying pen of the scribes has made it into a lie. Jeremiah 8:8
 - everyone is greedy for unjust gain; from prophet to priest, everyone deals falsely. Jeremiah 8:10
 - They have healed the wound of my people lightly, saying, 'Peace, peace,' when there is no peace. Jeremiah 8:11
 - Were they ashamed when they committed abomination? No, they were not at all ashamed; Jeremiah 8:12
 - When I would gather them, declares the LORD, there are no grapes on the vine, nor figs on the fig tree; even the leaves are withered, and what I gave them has passed away from them." Jeremiah 8:13

Jeremiah Grieves Judah's Deceitful Living (8:18-9:26)

5. How does Jeremiah's grief express itself? How does it compare to Paul's grief in Romans 9:1-5?
 - No joy; grief; a sick and wounded heart; no balm for his soul; continual weeping; a desire to escape Judah; mourning; dismay.
 - My joy is gone; grief is upon me; my heart is sick within me. Jeremiah 8:18
 - For the wound of the daughter of my people is my heart wounded; I mourn, and dismay has taken hold on me. Jeremiah 8:21
 - Is there no balm in Gilead? Jeremiah 8:22
 - Oh that my head were waters, and my eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people! Jeremiah 9:1

- Oh that I had in the desert a travelers' lodging place, that I might leave my people and go away from them! Jeremiah 9:2
- I will take up weeping and wailing for the mountains, and a lamentation for the pastures of the wilderness, Jeremiah 9:10
- In Romans 9:1-5, Paul expresses great sorrow and unceasing anguish in his heart. He wishes that he were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of his brothers in the flesh (fellow Jews). In Paul's case, he is not bemoaning the immediate destruction of these Jews. Rather, he is bemoaning the fact that these Jews pursued a righteousness, not by faith, but by works. In addition, they did not accept Jesus as the Son of God, nor did they accept his teachings.
 - that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh. Romans 9:2-3
 - but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. ³² Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, ³³ as it is written, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." Romans 9:31-33
- 6. Jeremiah gives several examples of Judah's deceitful living (9:3-9). Which of these examples stands out to you? Do any in particular hit close to home for you?
 - Adulterers; treacherous men; liars; bend the truth; evil; slander and deceive their neighbors; speak peace to a neighbor but harbor treachery in their heart.
 - They bend their tongue like a bow; falsehood and not truth has grown strong in the land; for they proceed from evil to evil, Jeremiah 9:3
 - for every brother is a deceiver, and every neighbor goes about as a slanderer. Jeremiah 9:4
 - and no one speaks the truth; they have taught their tongue to speak lies; Jeremiah 9:5
 - with his mouth each speaks peace to his neighbor, but in his heart he plans an ambush for him. Jeremiah 9:8
 - The example that stands out the most for me and hits closest to home is bending the truth. It is so tempting to tell a white lie and I have been guilty of it more than once.

7. Twice in this passage (vv. 12-16 and vv. 23-24) Yahweh refers to the need for wisdom. What do we learn about wisdom from these passages?
- We should not seek nor depend on earthly wisdom. We should turn to God and ask him for wisdom. We should not boast in our own wisdom but boast in the Lord, that we understand Him and know Him.
 - Who is the man so wise that he can understand this? To whom has the mouth of the LORD spoken, that he may declare it? Jeremiah 9:12
 - Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, ²⁴ but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.” Jeremiah 9:23-24
 - The Apostle Paul used similar words in his 2nd letter to the Corinthians when he wrote about boasting and in his 1st letter to the Corinthians when he speaks about wisdom from above:
 - I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, 2 Corinthians 12:1
 - but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses 2 Corinthians 12:5
 - Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10
 - And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, ⁴ and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. 1 Corinthians 2:1-5
 - Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷ But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. 1 Corinthians 2:6-7

8. Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31. How does Paul apply Jeremiah 9:24 to believers?
- but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.” Jeremiah 9:24
 - Paul says that people seek earthly wisdom. Believers seek Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, offering righteousness, redemption, and sanctification. We boast not in earthly wisdom, but in the Lord. Believers may appear foolish to the world, because they do not seek God and they do not seek His wisdom.
 - Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ² 1 Corinthians 1:20-21
 - For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise 1 Corinthians 1:26-27
 - And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.” 1 Corinthians 1:30-31
9. Since God wants us to know him for who he truly is, what attributes of Yahweh are emphasized in 9:23-26? How does this list compare with what God reveals about himself in Exodus 34:6-7?
- I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. Jeremiah 9:24
 - The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, ⁷ keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation.” Exodus 34:6-7
 - Both passages speak about steadfast love and justice. The Jeremiah passage includes righteousness. The Exodus passage speaks of God’s mercy, graciousness, slow to anger, faithfulness, steadfastness, and forgiveness.

Judah Engages in Idolatry and Will Be Sent into Exile (10:1-25)

10. In the opening section of this passage (10:1-16), a contrast is drawn between idols and Yahweh, the true and living God. How is Yahweh distinguished from the idols of the nations?

- Idols are crafted from wood and decorated with silver and gold. They cannot move, breathe, speak, walk, do evil, or do good. They are stupid, foolish, and false. They created nothing.
 - A tree from the forest is cut down and worked with an axe by the hands of a craftsman. ⁴ They decorate it with silver and gold; they fasten it with hammer and nails so that it cannot move. ⁵ Their idols are like scarecrows in a cucumber field, and they cannot speak; they have to be carried, for they cannot walk. Do not be afraid of them, for they cannot do evil, neither is it in them to do good.” Jeremiah 10:3-5
 - They are both stupid and foolish; the instruction of idols is but wood! Jeremiah 10:8
 - or his images are false, and there is no breath in them. Jeremiah 10:14
 - The gods who did not make the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under the heavens.” Jeremiah 10:11
- Yahweh is great. He is King over all the nations. There is none like Him. God is living and everlasting. The earth and the nations cannot endure his anger. God made the heavens and the earth and everything in both.
 - There is none like you, O LORD; you are great, and your name is great in might. Jeremiah 10:6
 - But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King. At his wrath the earth quakes, and the nations cannot endure his indignation. Jeremiah 10:10
 - It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding stretched out the heavens. ¹³ When he utters his voice, there is a tumult of waters in the heavens, and he makes the mist rise from the ends of the earth. He makes lightning for the rain, and he brings forth the wind from his storehouses. Jeremiah 10:12-13
 - for he is the one who formed all things, Jeremiah 10:16

11. Once again Yahweh promises to send Judah into exile for their sin (10:17-22). How does Jeremiah respond (vv. 23-24)? Why do you think he responds in this way?
- I know, O LORD, that the way of man is not in himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps. ²⁴ Correct me, O LORD, but in justice; not in your anger, lest you bring me to nothing. ²⁵ Pour out your wrath on the nations that know you not, and on the peoples that call not on your name, for they have devoured Jacob; they have devoured him and consumed him, and have laid waste his habitation. Jeremiah 10:23-25
 - Jeremiah is grieved that God is going to destroy Judah. He understands why but it is still hard for him to bear personally. In verse 24, he prays for himself. (God had already instructed Jeremiah not to pray for Judah.) Jeremiah prays for reproof and not destruction. In verse 25, he pleads with God to destroy the nations around Judah that do not know God and have invaded and laid waste to Judah.

Personal Implications

12. Gospel Glimpses

- God delights in being known for who he truly is.
 - We can know who God really is by working to know Jesus. Jesus said, “If you knew me, you would know my Father also” (John 8:19) and “I and the Father are one” John 10:30.
 - Jesus is talking about “whole-body” knowing: heart, mind, soul. This only comes with prayer, reading God’s word, and following Jesus’ teachings. It is the power of the Holy Spirit within us that makes this possible.
- God gives his people prophets.
 - The prophets God sent before Jesus were certainly holy men, but they were imperfect just the same. Jesus was the only perfect prophet because he only did what the Father told him to do, and he obeyed the Father fully.
 - Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. ²⁰ For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. John 5:19-20

- We have no need for further prophets. We have God’s word, Jesus’ teachings, and the Holy Spirit for guidance and for life. This is all we need until Jesus returns again.

13. Whole-Bible Connections

- Temple
 - John 1:14 says, “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” The word “dwelt” used here is the same word as tabernacle. Jesus came and tabernacled with us. He was Immanuel, which means God with us. When Jesus went back to Heaven after his death to be with God, he left us the Holy Spirit so that God would live in us; tabernacling within us.
 - “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?” 1 Corinthians 6:19
- “I will be your God, and you shall be my people.”
 - Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. Revelation 21:1-3
 - And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. Revelation 21:22
 - Jesus brought us a new covenant with God. We are able to keep this covenant because of God’s grace (he called us to himself) and through the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. ³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will

forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.” Jeremiah 31:31-34

14. Theological Soundings

- Hypocrisy and the Human Heart
 - We like to think that hypocrisy ended when Jesus came to earth. Not so. The Pharisees refused to acknowledge Jesus as the Son of God and criticized his teachings. Jesus called them hypocrites and “a brood of vipers.”
 - You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? Matthew 12:34
 - Jesus admonished his followers to avoid judging others. We must first look within ourselves for our own sinful behavior.
 - Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? ⁵ You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye. Matthew 7:4-5
 - Peter had to admonish members of the early church not to be hypocrites. It’s tempting to say one thing and then do another.
 - So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. 1 Peter 2:1

15. Jeremiah 7:1 – 10:25 in total.

- Just like in Jeremiah’s time, we need to learn that things (like the Temple) cannot save us. Good works cannot save us.
- God is holy and he must punish sinful behavior.
- We may not have idols of wood, but do we worship fame, money, things, or power? What are we putting in place of God?
- Our sins grieve the Holy Spirit, Jesus, and God the Father.