

Jeremiah 14:1-22 **Message concerning the droughts**

Sword, Famine, and Pestilence

1 The word of the Lord that came to Jeremiah concerning the droughts.

2 "Judah mourns, And her gates languish; They mourn for the land, And the cry of Jerusalem has gone up.

3 Their nobles have sent their lads for water; They went to the cisterns and found no water. They returned with their vessels empty; They were ashamed and confounded And covered their heads.

4 Because the ground is parched, For there was no rain in the land, The plowmen were ashamed; They covered their heads.

5 Yes, the deer also gave birth in the field, But left because there was no grass.

6 And the wild donkeys stood in the desolate heights; They sniffed at the wind like jackals; Their eyes failed because there was no grass."

Jeremiah's Prayer of Intercession

7 O Lord, though our iniquities testify against us, Do it for Your name's sake; For our backslidings are many, We have sinned against You.

8 O the Hope of Israel, his Savior in time of trouble, Why should You be like a stranger in the land, And like a traveler who turns aside to tarry for a night?

9 Why should You be like a man astonished, Like a mighty one who cannot save? Yet You, O Lord, are in our midst, And we are called by Your name; Do not leave us!

Yahweh's Answer

10 Thus says the Lord to this people:

"Thus they have loved to wander; They have not restrained their feet. Therefore the Lord does not accept them; He will remember their iniquity now, And punish their sins."

11 Then the Lord said to me, "Do not pray for this people, for their good.

12 When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and grain offering, I will not accept them. But I will consume them by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence."

Jeremiah's Prayer

13 Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Behold, the prophets say to them, 'You shall not see the sword, nor shall you have famine, but I will give you assured peace in this place.'"

Yahweh's Response – False Prophets who speak lies and the people will be judged

14 And the Lord said to me, "The prophets prophesy lies in My name. I have not sent them, commanded them, nor spoken to them; they prophesy to you a false vision, divination, a worthless thing, and the deceit of their heart.

15 Therefore thus says the Lord concerning the prophets who prophesy in My name, whom I did not send, and who say, 'Sword and famine shall not be in this land' — 'By sword and famine those prophets shall be consumed!

16 And the people to whom they prophesy shall be cast out in the streets of Jerusalem because of the famine and the sword; they will have no one to bury them — them nor their wives, their sons nor their daughters — for I will pour their wickedness on them.'

17 "Therefore you shall say this word to them:

'Let my eyes flow with tears night and day, And let them not cease; For the virgin daughter of my people Has been broken with a mighty stroke, with a very severe blow.

18 If I go out to the field, Then behold, those slain with the sword! And if I enter the city, Then behold, those sick from famine! Yes, both prophet and priest go about in a land they do not know."

The People Plead for Mercy

19 Have You utterly rejected Judah? Has Your soul loathed Zion? Why have You stricken us so that there is no healing for us? We looked for peace, but there was no good; And for the time of healing, and there was trouble.

20 We acknowledge, O Lord, our wickedness And the iniquity of our fathers, For we have sinned against You.

21 Do not abhor us, for Your name's sake; Do not disgrace the throne of Your glory. Remember, do not break Your covenant with us.

22 Are there any among the idols of the nations that can cause rain? Or can the heavens give showers? Are You not He, O Lord our God? Therefore we will wait for You, Since You have made all these.

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Sword, Famine, and Pestilence

✧ The word of Yahweh (the Lord) that came to Jeremiah concerning the droughts.

"Judah mourns, And her gates languish; They mourn for the land, And the cry of Jerusalem has gone up.

Their nobles have sent their lads for water; They went to the cisterns and found no water. They returned with their vessels empty; They were ashamed and confounded And covered their heads.

Because the ground is parched, For there was no rain in the land, The plowmen were ashamed; They covered their heads.

Yes, the deer also gave birth in the field, But left because there was no grass.

And the wild donkeys stood in the desolate heights; They sniffed at the wind like jackals; Their eyes failed because there was no grass." [Jeremiah 14:1-6](#)]

◇ The situation at hand is severe drought in the land causing suffering for the people and animal life.

◇ Yahweh has withheld the rain because of the people's sins just as He said He would do.

[\[Deuteronomy 11:16-17, Jeremiah 3:1-3\]](#)

Jeremiah's Prayer of Intercession

✧ O Lord, though our iniquities testify against us, Do it for Your name's sake; For our backslidings are many, We have sinned against You.

O the Hope of Israel, his Savior in time of trouble, Why should You be like a stranger in the land, And like a traveler who turns aside to tarry for a night?

Why should You be like a man astonished, Like a mighty one who cannot save? Yet You, O Yahweh (Lord), are in our midst, And we are called by Your name; Do not leave us! [\[Jeremiah 14:7-9\]](#)

◇ Jeremiah acknowledged that the iniquity of the people is the cause of Yahweh withholding rain, but he knows nowhere else to turn for relief.

Yahweh's Answer

- ✧ Thus says Yahweh (the Lord) to this people:
"Thus they have loved to wander; They have not restrained their feet. Therefore Yahweh (the Lord) does not accept them; He will remember their iniquity now, And punish their sins."

Then Yahweh (the Lord) said to me, "**Do not pray for this people**, for their good. When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and grain offering, I will not accept them. But I will consume them by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence." [Jeremiah 14:10-12]

- ✧ Yahweh does not accept the people because they left Him.
- ✧ When Yahweh has begun His punishment against a sinful people, He will not even listen to a prayer on their behalf and commanded Jeremiah not to pray for them.
- ✧ When the acceptable time of repentance has past and the time of punishment has come, it is too late for prayer. [Psalm 69:13, Isaiah 49:8, 2 Corinthians 6:2]
- ✧ The time to pray is before the sentence of judgment is passed down.

Jeremiah's Prayer

- ✧ Then I said, "Ah, Adoney Yahweh (Lord God)! Behold, the prophets say to them, 'You shall not see the sword, nor shall you have famine, but I will give you assured peace in this place.'" [Jeremiah 14:13]
- ✧ Jeremiah lays the blame on the false prophets.

Yahweh's Response – False Prophets who speak lies and the people will be judged

- ✧ And Yahweh (the Lord) said to me, "The prophets prophesy lies in My name. I have not sent them, commanded them, nor spoken to them; they prophesy to you a false vision, divination, a worthless thing, and the deceit of their heart.
Therefore thus says the Lord concerning the prophets who prophesy in My name, whom I did not send, and who say, 'Sword and famine shall not be in this land' — 'By sword and famine those prophets shall be consumed!

And the people to whom they prophesy shall be cast out in the streets of Jerusalem because of the famine and the sword; they will have no one to bury them — them nor their wives, their sons nor their daughters — for I will pour their wickedness on them.'

"Therefore you shall say this word to them:

'Let my eyes flow with tears night and day, And let them not cease; For the virgin daughter of my people Has been broken with a mighty stroke, with a very severe blow.

If I go out to the field, Then behold, those slain with the sword! And if I enter the city, Then behold, those sick from famine! Yes, both prophet and priest go about in a land they do not know.'" [Jeremiah 14:14-18]

- ✧ Yahweh agreed that the false prophets were not sent by Him and their message is a lie contrived in their own deceitful hearts, and not from Yahweh.
- ✧ Because the false prophets gave false messages of peace causing the people to feel complacent in their sins, Yahweh will destroy those false prophets.
- ✧ Because the people did not exercise discernment when they heard the false messages but they believed the lie, Wrath will come upon them also.
- ✧ Yahweh called for lamentation for things coming upon the people as a testimony against their wickedness.
- ✧ The prophets and priests are speaking out of ignorance when they should have shown discernment from the many revelations of Yahweh in the Law and from true prophets.

- ✧ Yahweh calls for discernment on the part of the hearer. [[1 Corinthians 14:29](#)]
- ✧ Does the message agree with scripture for the situation at hand?
- ✧ Can you assure the people of continuing peace when they are living in sin?

The People Plead for Mercy

- ✧ Have You utterly rejected Judah? Has Your soul loathed Zion? Why have You stricken us so that there is no healing for us? We looked for peace, but there was no good; And for the time of healing, and there was trouble.

We acknowledge, O Yahweh (Lord), our wickedness And the iniquity of our fathers, For we have sinned against You.

Do not abhor us, for Your name's sake; Do not disgrace the throne of Your glory. Remember, do not break Your covenant with us.

Are there any among the idols of the nations that can cause rain? Or can the heavens give showers? Are You not He, O Yahweh Eloheynu (Lord our God)? Therefore we will wait for You, Since You have made all these. [[Jeremiah 14:19-22](#)]

- ✧ The people acknowledged that they were looking for peace, good, and healing.
- ✧ They received only trouble because they listened to false prophets and did not repent.
- ✧ Now they confess their sins and acknowledge that the idols are useless.
- ✧ Then they claimed acknowledgment of Yahweh Eloheynu as the One who can help, promising to wait on Him who is the creator of all.
- ✧ It would be best to stay with Yahweh and away from idolatry altogether.
- ✧ We must exercise discernment when we hear someone speaking something as a prophecy, their message of peace might be a lie in the presence of sinfulness.