

Jeremiah 4:1-31 **Lamentation over Judah and Jerusalem**

Call to Repentance

1 "If you will return, O Israel," says the Lord, "Return to Me; And if you will put away your abominations out of My sight, Then you shall not be moved.

2 And you shall swear, 'The Lord lives,' In truth, in judgment, and in righteousness; The nations shall bless themselves in Him, And in Him they shall glory."

3 For thus says the Lord to the men of Judah and Jerusalem:

"Break up your fallow ground, And do not sow among thorns.

4 Circumcise yourselves to the Lord, And take away the foreskins of your hearts, You men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, Lest My fury come forth like fire, And burn so that no one can quench it, Because of the evil of your doings."

An Imminent Invasion

5 Declare in Judah and proclaim in Jerusalem, and say:

"Blow the trumpet in the land; Cry, 'Gather together,' And say, 'Assemble yourselves, And let us go into the fortified cities.'

6 Set up the standard toward Zion. Take refuge! Do not delay! For I will bring disaster from the north, And great destruction."

7 The lion has come up from his thicket, And the destroyer of nations is on his way. He has gone forth from his place To make your land desolate. Your cities will be laid waste, Without inhabitant.

8 For this, clothe yourself with sackcloth, Lament and wail. For the fierce anger of the Lord Has not turned back from us.

9 "And it shall come to pass in that day," says the Lord, "That the heart of the king shall perish, And the heart of the princes; The priests shall be astonished, And the prophets shall wonder."

Jeremiah's response

10 Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Surely You have greatly deceived this people and Jerusalem, Saying, 'You shall have peace,' Whereas the sword reaches to the heart."

Invasion on its way

11 At that time it will be said To this people and to Jerusalem, "A dry wind of the desolate heights blows in the wilderness Toward the daughter of My people — Not to fan or to cleanse —

12 A wind too strong for these will come for Me; Now I will also speak judgment against them."

13 "Behold, he shall come up like clouds, And his chariots like a whirlwind. His horses are swifter than eagles. Woe to us, for we are plundered!"

Call to Repentance with Warning

14 O Jerusalem, wash your heart from wickedness, That you may be saved. How long shall your evil thoughts lodge within you?

15 For a voice declares from Dan And proclaims affliction from Mount Ephraim:

16 "Make mention to the nations, Yes, proclaim against Jerusalem, That watchers come from a far country And raise their voice against the cities of Judah.

17 Like keepers of a field they are against her all around, Because she has been rebellious against

Me," says the Lord.

18 "Your ways and your doings Have procured these things for you. This is your wickedness,
Because it is bitter, Because it reaches to your heart."

Sorrow for the Doomed Nation

19 O my soul, my soul! I am pained in my very heart! My heart makes a noise in me; I cannot hold
my peace, Because you have heard, O my soul, The sound of the trumpet, The alarm of war.

20 Destruction upon destruction is cried, For the whole land is plundered. Suddenly my tents are
plundered, And my curtains in a moment.

21 How long will I see the standard, And hear the sound of the trumpet?

Foolish people who do not know God

22 "For My people are foolish, They have not known Me. They are silly children, And they have no
understanding. They are wise to do evil, But to do good they have no knowledge."

23 I beheld the earth, and indeed it was without form, and void; And the heavens, they had no light.

24 I beheld the mountains, and indeed they trembled, And all the hills moved back and forth.

25 I beheld, and indeed there was no man, And all the birds of the heavens had fled.

26 I beheld, and indeed the fruitful land was a wilderness, And all its cities were broken down At the
presence of the Lord, By His fierce anger.

Result of the Invasion

27 For thus says the Lord:

"The whole land shall be desolate; Yet I will not make a full end.

28 For this shall the earth mourn, And the heavens above be black, Because I have spoken. I have
purposed and will not relent, Nor will I turn back from it.

29 The whole city shall flee from the noise of the horsemen and bowmen. They shall go into thickets
and climb up on the rocks. Every city shall be forsaken, And not a man shall dwell in it.

30 "And when you are plundered, What will you do? Though you clothe yourself with crimson,
Though you adorn yourself with ornaments of gold, Though you enlarge your eyes with paint, In
vain you will make yourself fair; Your lovers will despise you; They will seek your life.

31 "For I have heard a voice as of a woman in labor, The anguish as of her who brings forth her first
child, The voice of the daughter of Zion bewailing herself; She spreads her hands, saying, 'Woe is
me now, for my soul is weary Because of murderers!'

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Facts Revealed:

Requirement for Repentance

- ✧ "If you will return, O Israel," says Yahweh (the Lord), "Return to Me; And if you will put
away your abominations out of My sight, Then you shall not be moved.
And you shall swear, 'Yahweh (The Lord) lives,' In truth, in judgment, and in righteousness;
The nations shall bless themselves in Him, And in Him they shall glory."

For thus says the Lord to the men of Judah and Jerusalem:

"Break up your fallow ground, And do not sow among thorns.

Circumcise yourselves to the Lord, And take away the foreskins of your hearts, You men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, Lest My fury come forth like fire, And burn so that no one can quench it, Because of the evil of your doings." [Jeremiah 4:1-4]

- ✧ Yahweh said that if Israel should return to Him it must be fully and with the whole heart.
- ✧ They must put away all their abominations.
- ✧ If they do that, they will be secure in their own land.
- ✧ Returning includes the acknowledgment that Yahweh is the living God.
- ✧ It must be in truth, in judgment, and righteousness.
- ✧ They must acknowledge that the Gentile nations will be blessed and glory in Him.
- ✧ This is a call for the men of Judah and Jerusalem to break up the hardness of their hearts and be receptive to the seed of God's truth without the distractions from the cares of the world. [Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23, Mark 4:3-8, 13-20, Luke 8:5-8, 11-15]
- ✧ This requires a conscious choice to open the heart to the truth.
- ✧ It bears a warning that to fail to do so will result in the full fury of God's wrath in eternal fire that no one can quench. [Mark 9:42-48]
- ✧ Wrath of God is because of the evil of their doings.

An Imminent Invasion

- ✧ Declare in Judah and proclaim in Jerusalem, and say:
"Blow the trumpet in the land; Cry, 'Gather together,' And say, 'Assemble yourselves, And let us go into the fortified cities.'
Set up the standard toward Zion. Take refuge! Do not delay! For I will bring disaster from the north, And great destruction."
The lion has come up from his thicket, And the destroyer of nations is on his way. He has gone forth from his place To make your land desolate. Your cities will be laid waste, Without inhabitant.
For this, clothe yourself with sackcloth, Lament and wail. For the fierce anger of Yahweh (the Lord) Has not turned back from us.

"And it shall come to pass in that day," says Yahweh (the Lord), "That the heart of the king shall perish, And the heart of the princes; The priests shall be astonished, And the prophets shall wonder." [Jeremiah 4:5-9]

- ✧ The warning informs the people that the enemy bring the destructive wrath of God is presently preparing for the invasion and is on His way to destroy both Judah and Jerusalem.
- ✧ Israel must prepare for the invasion. This calls for lamentation because the fierce anger of Yahweh has not turned back from us.
- ✧ The result of the invasion will impact everyone from the king, princes, priests, and prophets.

Jeremiah's response

- ✧ Then I said, "Ah, Adoney Yahweh (Lord God)! Surely You have greatly deceived this people and Jerusalem, Saying, 'You shall have peace,' Whereas the sword reaches to the heart." [Jeremiah 4:10]
- ✧ Like many today, Jeremiah was troubled with the contrast of God's promise of peace for a faithful people and the impending destruction on its way because of their rejection of His ways.

Invasion on its way

- ✧ At that time it will be said To this people and to Jerusalem, "A dry wind of the desolate heights blows in the wilderness Toward the daughter of My people — Not to fan or to cleanse

— A wind too strong for these will come for Me; Now I will also speak judgment against them."

"Behold, he shall come up like clouds, And his chariots like a whirlwind. His horses are swifter than eagles. Woe to us, for we are plundered!" [Jeremiah 4:11-13]

- ✧ When the invasion arrives, it will be like a powerful destructive wind against the people of Judah and Jerusalem.
- ✧ Yahweh is speaking judgment against His people.
- ✧ The message is to cause them to fear saying "Woe to us for we are plundered."

Call to Repentance with Warning

- ✧ O Jerusalem, wash your heart from wickedness, That you may be saved. How long shall your evil thoughts lodge within you?

For a voice declares from Dan And proclaims affliction from Mount Ephraim:

"Make mention to the nations, Yes, proclaim against Jerusalem, That watchers come from a far country And raise their voice against the cities of Judah.

Like keepers of a field they are against her all around, Because she has been rebellious against Me," says Yahweh (the Lord).

"Your ways and your doings Have procured these things for you. This is your wickedness, Because it is bitter, Because it reaches to your heart." [Jeremiah 4:14-18]

- ✧ To be saved, the people must cleanse away the wickedness from their hearts and thoughts.
- ✧ The message is the voice of the People of Israel who were carried away captive by the Assyrians as the example that was established for the people of Judah who saw it happen.
- ✧ The message is against Jerusalem that watchers came from Heaven with a warning against the cities of Judah.
- ✧ The reason for impending judgment is the fact that the people have been rebellious against Yahweh. Their wickedness reaches to their heart.

Sorrow for the Doomed Nation

- ✧ O my soul, my soul! I am pained in my very heart! My heart makes a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, Because you have heard, O my soul, The sound of the trumpet, The alarm of war.

Destruction upon destruction is cried, For the whole land is plundered. Suddenly my tents are plundered, And my curtains in a moment.

How long will I see the standard, And hear the sound of the trumpet? [Jeremiah 4:19-21]

- ✧ Jeremiah is grieved heart and soul because of the danger coming against his people.

Foolish people who do not know God

- ✧ "For My people are foolish, They have not known Me. They are silly children, And they have no understanding. They are wise to do evil, But to do good they have no knowledge."

I beheld the earth, and indeed it was without form, and void; And the heavens, they had no light.

I beheld the mountains, and indeed they trembled, And all the hills moved back and forth.

I beheld, and indeed there was no man, And all the birds of the heavens had fled.

I beheld, and indeed the fruitful land was a wilderness, And all its cities were broken down At the presence of Yahweh (the Lord), By His fierce anger. [Jeremiah 4:22-26]

- ✧ The foolishness of silly people who do not know God, who have no discernment and are so sold out to wickedness they have no knowledge to do good.
- ✧ The abomination of their wickedness has impacted the heavens and earth.
- ✧ All is desolate at the presence of Yahweh by His fierce anger.

Result of the Invasion

☆ For thus says the Lord:

"The whole land shall be desolate; Yet I will not make a full end.

For this shall the earth mourn, And the heavens above be black, Because I have spoken. I have purposed and will not relent, Nor will I turn back from it.

The whole city shall flee from the noise of the horsemen and bowmen. They shall go into thickets and climb up on the rocks. Every city shall be forsaken, And not a man shall dwell in it. [\[Jeremiah 4:27-29\]](#)

◇ Though the whole land becomes desolate, still Yahweh retains His promise to save a remnant for Himself.

◇ However, all Yahweh has spoken He has purposed and it will happen as He said because He will not relent or turn from it. It is purposed and it will happen.

☆ "And when you are plundered, What will you do? Though you clothe yourself with crimson, Though you adorn yourself with ornaments of gold, Though you enlarge your eyes with paint, In vain you will make yourself fair; Your lovers will despise you; They will seek your life. [\[Jeremiah 4:30\]](#)

◇ All your adornment for earthly appeal will be of no value to save you.

◇ The invaders will come to kill and destroy.

☆ "For I have heard a voice as of a woman in labor, The anguish as of her who brings forth her first child, The voice of the daughter of Zion bewailing herself; She spreads her hands, saying, 'Woe is me now, for my soul is weary Because of murderers!' [\[Jeremiah 4:31\]](#)

◇ The suffering of the people in Zion will be like that of a woman in anguish of labor.

◇ They will say, "Woe is me, for my soul is weary because of murderers."

◇ It will be a time of great sorrow and grief.