

Jeremiah 5:1-31 **Yahweh's Judgment Against Jerusalem is Justified**

Search for a Righteous and Just man

1 "Run to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem; See now and know; And seek in her open places
If you can find a man, If there is anyone who executes judgment, Who seeks the truth, And I will
pardon her.

2 Though they say, 'As the Lord lives,' Surely they swear falsely."

3 O Lord, are not Your eyes on the truth? You have stricken them, But they have not grieved; You
have consumed them, But they have refused to receive correction. They have made their faces
harder than rock; They have refused to return.

4 Therefore I said, "Surely these are poor. They are foolish; For they do not know the way of the
Lord, The judgment of their God.

5 I will go to the great men and speak to them, For they have known the way of the Lord, The
judgment of their God."

But these have altogether broken the yoke And burst the bonds.

Judgment Deserved

6 Therefore a lion from the forest shall slay them, A wolf of the deserts shall destroy them; A
leopard will watch over their cities. Everyone who goes out from there shall be torn in pieces,
Because their transgressions are many; Their backslidings have increased.

7 "How shall I pardon you for this? Your children have forsaken Me And sworn by those that are
not gods. When I had fed them to the full, Then they committed adultery And assembled themselves
by troops in the harlots' houses.

8 They were like well-fed lusty stallions; Every one neighed after his neighbor's wife.

9 Shall I not punish them for these things?" says the Lord. "And shall I not avenge Myself on such a
nation as this?

Destroy but Save a Remnant

10 "Go up on her walls and destroy, But do not make a complete end. Take away her branches, For
they are not the Lord's.

11 For the house of Israel and the house of Judah Have dealt very treacherously with Me," says the
Lord.

12 They have lied about the Lord, And said, "It is not He. Neither will evil come upon us, Nor shall
we see sword or famine.

13 And the prophets become wind, For the word is not in them. Thus shall it be done to them."

14 Therefore thus says the Lord God of hosts:

"Because you speak this word, Behold, I will make My words in your mouth fire, And this people
wood, And it shall devour them.

15 Behold, I will bring a nation against you from afar, O house of Israel," says the Lord. "It is a
mighty nation, It is an ancient nation, A nation whose language you do not know, Nor can you
understand what they say.

16 Their quiver is like an open tomb; They are all mighty men.

Desolation from the invasion – Remnant Saved

17 And they shall eat up your harvest and your bread, Which your sons and daughters should eat. They shall eat up your flocks and your herds; They shall eat up your vines and your fig trees; They shall destroy your fortified cities, In which you trust, with the sword.

18 "Nevertheless in those days," says the Lord, "I will not make a complete end of you.
19 And it will be when you say, 'Why does the Lord our God do all these things to us?' then you shall answer them, 'Just as you have forsaken Me and served foreign gods in your land, so you shall serve aliens in a land that is not yours.'

Righteousness of God's Judgment

20 "Declare this in the house of Jacob And proclaim it in Judah, saying,
21 'Hear this now, O foolish people, Without understanding, Who have eyes and see not, And who have ears and hear not:
22 Do you not fear Me?' says the Lord. 'Will you not tremble at My presence, Who have placed the sand as the bound of the sea, By a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass beyond it? And though its waves toss to and fro, Yet they cannot prevail; Though they roar, yet they cannot pass over it.

The people's defiant rebellious heart cause of the trouble

23 But this people has a defiant and rebellious heart; They have revolted and departed.
24 They do not say in their heart, " Let us now fear the Lord our God, Who gives rain, both the former and the latter, in its season. He reserves for us the appointed weeks of the harvest."

25 Your iniquities have turned these things away, And your sins have withheld good from you.
26 'For among My people are found wicked men; They lie in wait as one who sets snares; They set a trap; They catch men.
27 As a cage is full of birds, So their houses are full of deceit. Therefore they have become great and grown rich.
28 They have grown fat, they are sleek; Yes, they surpass the deeds of the wicked; They do not plead the cause, The cause of the fatherless; Yet they prosper, And the right of the needy they do not defend.

29 Shall I not punish them for these things?' says the Lord. 'Shall I not avenge Myself on such a nation as this?'

Prophets and Priests Deceiving the People

30 "An astonishing and horrible thing Has been committed in the land:
31 The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule by their own power; And My people love to have it so. But what will you do in the end?
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Facts Revealed:

Search for a Righteous and Just man

- ✧ "Run to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem; See now and know; And seek in her open places If you can find a man, If there is anyone who executes judgment, Who seeks the truth, And I will pardon her.
Though they say, 'As Yahweh (the Lord) lives,' Surely they swear falsely.'

O Yahweh (Lord), are not Your eyes on the truth? You have stricken them, But they have not grieved; You have consumed them, But they have refused to receive correction. They have made their faces harder than rock; They have refused to return.

Therefore I said, "Surely these are poor. They are foolish; For they do not know the way of the Lord, The judgment of their God.

I will go to the great men and speak to them, For they have known the way of Yahweh (the Lord), The judgment of Eloheym (their God)."

But these have altogether broken the yoke And burst the bonds. [\[Jeremiah 5:1-5\]](#)

✧ Like with Sodom and Gomorrah when Yahweh spoke with Abraham, Yahweh is looking for someone who will justify His leniency with the multitude of the people, one man to stand in the gap by seeking truth and exercising judgment. [\[Genesis 18:16-33\]](#)

✧ Yahweh demonstrated the reasonableness of His judgment against evil.

✧ Though they have been chastened by Yahweh, still they refuse to repent.

✧ Sending the call for repentance to the leaders of the people only met with rebellion.

Judgment Deserved

✧ Therefore a lion from the forest shall slay them, A wolf of the deserts shall destroy them; A leopard will watch over their cities. Everyone who goes out from there shall be torn in pieces, Because their transgressions are many; Their backslidings have increased.

"How shall I pardon you for this? Your children have forsaken Me And sworn by those that are not gods. When I had fed them to the full, Then they committed adultery And assembled themselves by troops in the harlots' houses.

They were like well-fed lusty stallions; Every one neighed after his neighbor's wife.

Shall I not punish them for these things?" says Yahweh (the Lord). "And shall I not avenge Myself on such a nation as this? [\[Jeremiah 5:6-9\]](#)

✧ Danger surrounds them because of their transgressions and backslidings.

✧ How can Yahweh pardon such blatant deliberate wickedness.

✧ They have turned their back on Yahweh and run after idolatry when Yahweh had provided for them abundantly.

✧ They committed adultery and sought the services of harlots pursuing sexual immorality with unbridled passion.

✧ Yahweh asked, "Shall I not punish them for these things?" "Shall I not avenge Myself on such a nation as this?"

✧ He had already said that any nation that commits such practices defiles their land and the land will vomit out its inhabitants. [\[Leviticus 18:1-30\]](#)

✧ Sadly to say but this is the norm for the nations of the world today including our own USA.

✧ How can we avoid the judgment and Wrath of God Most High?

Destroy but Save a Remnant

✧ "Go up on her walls and destroy, But do not make a complete end. Take away her branches, For they are not La-Yahweh (the Lord's).

For the house of Israel and the house of Judah Have dealt very treacherously with Me," says Yahweh (the Lord).

They have lied about ba-Yahweh (the Lord), And said, "It is not He. Neither will evil come upon us, Nor shall we see sword or famine.

And the prophets become wind, For the word is not in them. Thus shall it be done to them."

Therefore thus says Yahweh Elohey (the Lord God) of hosts:

"Because you speak this word, Behold, I will make My words in your mouth fire, And this people wood, And it shall devour them.

Behold, I will bring a nation against you from afar, O house of Israel," says Yahweh (the Lord). "It is a mighty nation, It is an ancient nation, A nation whose language you do not know, Nor can you understand what they say.

Their quiver is like an open tomb; They are all mighty men. [\[Jeremiah 5:10-16\]](#)

- ✧ Yahweh calls for the destruction of His people because they are no longer His people, but commands to preserve a remnant.
- ✧ The reason is because they have dealt very treacherously with their God and have lied about Him by saying they are safe and Yahweh will not bring evil upon them either sword or famine. Their prophets are encouraging this false expectation.
- ✧ Therefore Yahweh is bringing a mighty ancient nation against them to devour them like fire devours wood.

Desolation from the invasion – Remnant Saved

- ✧ And they shall eat up your harvest and your bread, Which your sons and daughters should eat. They shall eat up your flocks and your herds; They shall eat up your vines and your fig trees; They shall destroy your fortified cities, In which you trust, with the sword.

"Nevertheless in those days," says Yahweh (the Lord), "I will not make a complete end of you.

And it will be when you say, 'Why does Yahweh Eloheynu (the Lord our God) do all these things to us?' then you shall answer them, 'Just as you have forsaken Me and served foreign gods in your land, so you shall serve aliens in a land that is not yours.' [\[Jeremiah 5:17-19\]](#)

- ✧ The invaders will plunder your harvest, bread, live stock, vines and fig trees, and destroy your fortified cities with the sword.
- ✧ Yet Yahweh will preserve a remnant of His people.
- ✧ When asked why this destruction, the answer will be, "'Just as you have forsaken Me and served foreign gods in your land, so you shall serve aliens in a land that is not yours."

Righteousness of God's Judgment

- ✧ "Declare this in the house of Jacob And proclaim it in Judah, saying, 'Hear this now, O foolish people, Without understanding, Who have eyes and see not, And who have ears and hear not:

Do you not fear Me?' says Yahweh (the Lord). 'Will you not tremble at My presence, Who have placed the sand as the bound of the sea, By a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass beyond it? And though its waves toss to and fro, Yet they cannot prevail; Though they roar, yet they cannot pass over it. [\[Jeremiah 5:20-22\]](#)

- ✧ The people are foolish without understanding.
- ✧ They have eyes but do not see, and ears but do not hear. [\[Isaiah 6:10, Matthew 13:15, John 12:40, Jeremiah 5:21, Ezekiel 12:2\]](#)
- ✧ It is amazing that people do not fear Yahweh and tremble at His presence, since He is the creator of the earth and controls all its elements setting boundaries for the waters of the sea and sustains all that exists.
- ✧ Mankind cannot stand against such a powerful God, to attempt to do so is total folly.

The people's defiant rebellious heart cause of the trouble

☆ But this people has a defiant and rebellious heart; They have revolted and departed. They do not say in their heart, "Let us now fear Yahweh Eloheynu (the Lord our God), Who gives rain, both the former and the latter, in its season. He reserves for us the appointed weeks of the harvest."

Your iniquities have turned these things away, And your sins have withheld good from you. 'For among My people are found wicked men; They lie in wait as one who sets snares; They set a trap; They catch men.

As a cage is full of birds, So their houses are full of deceit. Therefore they have become great and grown rich.

They have grown fat, they are sleek; Yes, they surpass the deeds of the wicked; They do not plead the cause, The cause of the fatherless; Yet they prosper, And the right of the needy they do not defend.

Shall I not punish them for these things?' says Yahweh (the Lord). 'Shall I not avenge Myself on such a nation as this?' [\[Jeremiah 5:23-29\]](#)

◇ This people have a defiant and rebellious heart, they don't even consider that it is Yahweh Who controls and gives the rain in its season and appoints the weeks to the harvest.

◇ The sins and iniquities of the people have turned these things away and withhold good from the people.

◇ Wicked men among them set snares for catching the unwary people.

◇ They have grown fat and sleek, their houses are filled with deceit, they surpass the wickedness of the wicked. They oppress the poor and fatherless, yet they prosper.

◇ Yahweh said, "Shall I not punish them for these things?" "Shall I not avenge Myself on such a nation as this?"

◇ The Wrath of Yahweh is fully justified.

◇ How can He not judge any nation that practices such things?

Prophets and Priests Deceiving the People

☆ "An astonishing and horrible thing Has been committed in the land:

The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule by their own power; And My people love to have it so. But what will you do in the end? [\[Jeremiah 5:30-31\]](#)

◇ The people love to hear the lies of the false prophets and self-righteous rule of the Priests.

◇ But in the end they will fall under the righteous judgment of Yahweh.

◇ The heart cry of God is still, "O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end!" [\[Deuteronomy 32:29\]](#)

◇ We do well when we consider the final destiny our ways lead us to.

◇ We all need a Savior. Why not acknowledge it now and turn fully to our God before it is eternally too late.