

Jeremiah 8:1-22 **At the Time of the Fall of Jerusalem and Judah**

Death preferred over living at that time

1 "At that time," says the Lord, "they shall bring out the bones of the kings of Judah, and the bones of its princes, and the bones of the priests, and the bones of the prophets, and the bones of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, out of their graves.

2 They shall spread them before the sun and the moon and all the host of heaven, which they have loved and which they have served and after which they have walked, which they have sought and which they have worshiped. They shall not be gathered nor buried; they shall be like refuse on the face of the earth.

3 Then death shall be chosen rather than life by all the residue of those who remain of this evil family, who remain in all the places where I have driven them," says the Lord of hosts.

What kind of Wisdom refuses to repent?

4 "Moreover you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord:

"Will they fall and not rise? Will one turn away and not return?"

5 Why has this people slidden back, Jerusalem, in a perpetual backsliding? They hold fast to deceit, They refuse to return.

6 I listened and heard, But they do not speak aright. No man repented of his wickedness, Saying, 'What have I done?' Everyone turned to his own course, As the horse rushes into the battle.

7 "Even the stork in the heavens Knows her appointed times; And the turtledove, the swift, and the swallow Observe the time of their coming. But My people do not know the judgment of the Lord.

8 "How can you say, 'We are wise, And the law of the Lord is with us'? Look, the false pen of the scribe certainly works falsehood.

9 The wise men are ashamed, They are dismayed and taken. Behold, they have rejected the word of the Lord; So what wisdom do they have?

The Peril of False Teaching

10 Therefore I will give their wives to others, And their fields to those who will inherit them; Because from the least even to the greatest Everyone is given to covetousness; From the prophet even to the priest Everyone deals falsely.

11 For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of My people slightly, Saying, 'Peace, peace!' When there is no peace.

12 Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed, Nor did they know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; In the time of their punishment They shall be cast down," says the Lord.

13 "I will surely consume them," says the Lord. "No grapes shall be on the vine, Nor figs on the fig tree, And the leaf shall fade; And the things I have given them shall pass away from them."""

14 "Why do we sit still? Assemble yourselves, And let us enter the fortified cities, And let us be silent there. For the Lord our God has put us to silence And given us water of gall to drink, Because we have sinned against the Lord.

15 "We looked for peace, but no good came; And for a time of health, and there was trouble!

16 The snorting of His horses was heard from Dan. The whole land trembled at the sound of the

neighing of His strong ones; For they have come and devoured the land and all that is in it, The city and those who dwell in it."

17 "For behold, I will send serpents among you, Vipers which cannot be charmed, And they shall bite you," says the Lord.

Jeremiah laments for the People

18 I would comfort myself in sorrow; My heart is faint in me.

19 Listen! The voice, The cry of the daughter of my people From a far country: "Is not the Lord in Zion? Is not her King in her?"

"Why have they provoked Me to anger With their carved images — With foreign idols?"

20 "The harvest is past, The summer is ended, And we are not saved!"

21 For the hurt of the daughter of my people I am hurt. I am mourning; Astonishment has taken hold of me.

22 Is there no balm in Gilead, Is there no physician there? Why then is there no recovery For the health of the daughter of my people?

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Death preferred over living at that time

✧ "At that time," says Yahweh (the Lord), "they shall bring out the bones of the kings of Judah, and the bones of its princes, and the bones of the priests, and the bones of the prophets, and the bones of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, out of their graves.

They shall spread them before the sun and the moon and all the host of heaven, which they have loved and which they have served and after which they have walked, which they have sought and which they have worshiped. They shall not be gathered nor buried; they shall be like refuse on the face of the earth.

Then death shall be chosen rather than life by all the residue of those who remain of this evil family, who remain in all the places where I have driven them," says Yahweh Tsebavta (the Lord of hosts). [\[Jeremiah 8:1-3\]](#)

✧ Things will be so bad at the time Jerusalem and Judea are destroyed that even the graves will be desecrated and the bones will be cast out and exposed to the hosts of heavens which they have worshiped.

✧ The destruction will be so severe that death will be preferred over living for the survivors who remain and those who are exiled to foreign lands.

What kind of Wisdom refuses to repent?

✧ "Moreover you shall say to them, 'Thus says Yahweh (the Lord):

"Will they fall and not rise? Will one turn away and not return?

Why has this people slidden back, Jerusalem, in a perpetual backsliding? They hold fast to deceit, They refuse to return.

I listened and heard, But they do not speak aright. No man repented of his wickedness, Saying, 'What have I done?' Everyone turned to his own course, As the horse rushes into the battle.

"Even the stork in the heavens Knows her appointed times; And the turtledove, the swift, and the swallow Observe the time of their coming. But My people do not know the judgment of Yahweh (the Lord).

"How can you say, 'We are wise, And the law of the Lord is with us'? Look, the false pen of the scribe certainly works falsehood.

The wise men are ashamed, They are dismayed and taken. Behold, they have rejected the word of Yahweh (the Lord); So what wisdom do they have? [\[Jeremiah 8:4-9\]](#)

- ✧ The righteousness of Yahweh is revealed in His appeal for repentance and His search for some indication of a repentant heart.
- ✧ The people stubbornly cling to the messages of false prophets, and refuse to return to their God when called to do so by true prophets.
- ✧ God listened, but no one even acknowledged he has sinned.
- ✧ Everyone follows what seems right in his own eyes following his own course. [\[Numbers 15:39, Deuteronomy 12:8, Judges 17:6, 21:25, Proverbs 3:7, 12:15, 16:2, 21:2, Isaiah 5:21\]](#)
- ✧ The birds of the heavens know the time of their coming, but God's people do not know the judgment of Yahweh.
- ✧ How can you say that you are wise and have the law of Yahweh, when you cannot discern truth but accept the lying pen of the false scribe?
- ✧ Your wisest men are ashamed, dismayed, and taken, because they have rejected the Word of Yahweh. What kind of wisdom is that?

The Peril of False Teaching

- ✧ Therefore I will give their wives to others, And their fields to those who will inherit them; Because from the least even to the greatest Everyone is given to covetousness; From the prophet even to the priest Everyone deals falsely.

For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of My people slightly, Saying, 'Peace, peace!' When there is no peace. [\[Jeremiah 8:10-11\]](#)

- ✧ The invaders will take possession of wives and fields as an inheritance.
 - ✧ The reason God is bringing invaders against the land is because the people of Judah and Jerusalem are given to covetousness so that everyone deals falsely and deception prevails.
 - ✧ The false prophets who say "Peace will prevail" are lying, because with their sin there is no peace.
 - ✧ Deceptive promise of peace is of little value because it only gives a false sense of security.
- ✧ Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed, Nor did they know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; In the time of their punishment They shall be cast down," says Yahweh (the Lord).

"I will surely consume them," says Yahweh (the Lord). "No grapes shall be on the vine, Nor figs on the fig tree, And the leaf shall fade; And the things I have given them shall pass away from them." [\[Jeremiah 8:12-13\]](#)

- ✧ The people are unable to feel a sense of shame or embarrassment over their abominable practices because their conscience has been seared as with a hot iron. [\[1 Timothy 4:1-2\]](#)
 - ✧ Their false leaders are being deceived by deceiving spirits of demons and deceiving the people in return. [\[1 Timothy 4:1, 2 Timothy 3:13\]](#)
 - ✧ In the time of their punishment, they will be cast down and consumed, while all the good things Yahweh has given them will be taken away.
- ✧ "Why do we sit still? Assemble yourselves, And let us enter the fortified cities, And let us be silent there. For Yahweh Eloheynu (the Lord our God) has put us to silence And given us water of gall to drink, Because we have sinned against Yahweh (the Lord). "We looked for peace, but no good came; And for a time of health, and there was trouble! The snorting of His horses was heard from Dan. The whole land trembled at the sound of the

neighing of His strong ones; For they have come and devoured the land and all that is in it, The city and those who dwell in it."

"For behold, I will send serpents among you, Vipers which cannot be charmed, And they shall bite you," says Yahweh (the Lord). [\[Jeremiah 8:14-17\]](#)

- ✧ In their punishment, the people will acknowledge that the problems were caused by their sins against Yahweh, yet instead of repentance and turning back to Yahweh, they seek to depend on fortified cities where they plan to silently wait out the anger and wrath of God.
- ✧ In exile they admit that the peace and health they looked for did not come.
- ✧ They had found only trouble and overwhelming destruction from the invasion which included the land and the fortified city they had put their trust in.
- ✧ Beside the invaders, Yahweh also sent Vipers against the people of Judah and Jerusalem.

Jeremiah Laments for the People

- ✧ I would comfort myself in sorrow; My heart is faint in me.
Listen! The voice, The cry of the daughter of my people From a far country: "Is not Yahweh (the Lord) in Zion? Is not her King in her?"
"Why have they provoked Me to anger With their carved images — With foreign idols?"
"The harvest is past, The summer is ended, And we are not saved!"

For the hurt of the daughter of my people I am hurt. I am mourning; Astonishment has taken hold of me.

Is there no balm in Gilead, Is there no physician there? Why then is there no recovery For the health of the daughter of my people? [\[Jeremiah 8:18-22\]](#)

- ✧ In his mind, Jeremiah can hear the cry of his people in captivity in a distant land.
- ✧ Being faint of heart, Jeremiah seeks to comfort himself with lamentation as he asks, "Is not Yahweh in Zion? Is not her King in her?"
- ✧ Yahweh asked, "Why have they provoked Me to anger with their carved images and foreign idols?"
- ✧ The people realize that the time they had waited for is past and they are not saved.
- ✧ Jeremiah is hurt, mourning, and astonished at the hurt of his people.
- ✧ Jeremiah then asked, "Is there not physician with balm for healing in Gilead?" This is a reference to Gilead (the land of Israel east of the Jordan River). Then he asked, "Why then is there no recovery for the health of the daughter of my people?"
- ✧ The answer is, because they did not repent and return to their God in the acceptable time. [\[Isaiah 49:8, 2 Corinthians 6:2\]](#)