

Jeremiah

A Prophet Unto the Nations

The Potter and the Broken Pot

Jeremiah 18-20
Lesson 7

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
October 13, 2013

A Prophet unto the Nations

- ▶ The Old Testament is a book about Israel
 - The great nation
 - The fall of Jerusalem
- ▶ The Old Testament is a book about salvation
 - Christ and His work – John 5:39 and Luke 24:25-27
 - Progressive revelation
- ▶ The New Testament reveals Christ clearly
 - Emphasis upon salvation for the nations

A Prophet unto the Nations

- ▶ A message for Judah and Israel
 - Pending disaster for Jerusalem
 - Restoration by a New Covenant
- ▶ A message for the nations
 - Restoration of Israel essential for the nations

Jeremiah's Message (1:11-19)

- ▶ The almond branch – God is watching over His word to perform it
- ▶ The boiling pot – disaster is coming on Judah

Outline of Jeremiah

1. The call to be a prophet to the nations (1)
2. Messages to Judah (2-20)
3. Messages in historical context (21-29)
4. Message on the New Covenant (30-33)
5. Message in historical context (34-45)
6. Message to 9 nations (46-51)
7. The fall of Jerusalem (52)

Messages to Judah (2-20)

- ▶ A blessed nation which has rejected the blessing
- ▶ A nation under wrath
- ▶ A nation that is hostile to the Word of the LORD
- ▶ A nation that refused to learn from history
- ▶ A nation deceived by false prophets

Messages to Judah (2-20)

- ▶ A nation that embraced idols (of the nations)
- ▶ A nation that broke the Covenant with the God of Israel
- ▶ A nation with its sin written on the heart with a iron pen and diamond point
- ▶ The message of hope – a call (3:12-14); a promise (16:14-21)
- ▶ Jeremiah and his message

The Potter and the Broken Pot (18-20)

- ▶ The potter and the clay (18)
- ▶ The broken flask (19)
- ▶ Jeremiah and Pashhur (20)

Observations at the Potter's House

- ▶ Clay
- ▶ Vessel spoiled in the potter's hand
- ▶ Reworked into another vessel
- ▶ Isaiah 29:16 – Do you equate the potter and the clay?
- ▶ Isaiah 45:9 – Clay not challenge the right of the potter
- ▶ God under no obligation to Israel

The Word of the LORD (18:5-11)

- ▶ The Divine Potter speaks to the house of clay
- ▶ Wrath avoided by repentance
- ▶ Wrath restored by rebellion
- ▶ A call: “Return . . . amend your ways and deeds.”

The Response of Judah (18:12)

- ▶ God's Word is vain
- ▶ We will follow our own plans
- ▶ We will act according to the stubbornness of our evil heart

A Warning from the Potter (18:13-17)

- ▶ No warning is due
- ▶ The virgin of Israel
- ▶ A horrible thing (3:12-13; 18:15)
- ▶ Forsake the LORD for false gods
- ▶ Warning: a day of calamity (18:17)

Plots against Jeremiah (18:18-23)

- ▶ John 15:18-21 – Against Christ & against His servants
- ▶ His word was a problem for them
- ▶ Conflicted with their own understanding
- ▶ Priest, wise, prophet – Isaiah 48:1-2
- ▶ Slander and ignore

An Imprecatory Prayer (18:19-23)

- ▶ A good message was opposed
- ▶ Deliver them to wrath
- ▶ Their sin: dug a pit to take me and laid snares
- ▶ Genesis 12:3 and Matthew 25:31-46
- ▶ Deal with them in the time of your anger

The Broken Pot/Flask (19)

- ▶ Valley of the Son of Hinnom – Topheth
- ▶ Sin of Judah
 - Forsaken Me
 - Profaned the land by their offerings to other gods
 - Murder of innocents
 - Built altars to Baal
- ▶ Valley of Slaughter (7:30-34; 19:3-9)

The Broken Pot/Flask (19:10-15)

- ▶ Never mended
- ▶ Topheth will become a mass grave
- ▶ Jerusalem defiled –like Topheth
- ▶ Final word from LORD of hosts, the God of Israel
 - Bringing disaster
 - Stiffened neck – refused to hear *My Words*

A Plot against Jeremiah (20:1-6)

- ▶ Pashhur the priest
- ▶ Beating and stocks
- ▶ A new name – Terror on every side

Jeremiah's Despair (20:7-18)

- ▶ Jeremiah's complaint: 11:18-12:6; 15:10-21; 17:14-18; 18:18-23; 20:7-18
- ▶ LORD deceived me
- ▶ LORD is with me
- ▶ Better not to be born

The Potter and the Broken Pot

- ▶ Jeremiah perplexed by God's ways
- ▶ Nation determined to do their own will
- ▶ God is sovereign
 - Works by His Word
 - Destroys
 - Builds up