

DANGER OF IGNORING THE WARNINGS

Jeremiah 19:14-20:18

PROPHECIES CONCERNING JUDAH 2-45

ACCUSATION AND EXHORTATION 2-20

Eight Messages of Warning—their sin and idolatry. 2:1-19:13

What is the theme of these 8 messages?

Accusation of sin and idolatry

They're worse than the pagan nations around them.

Exhortation to repent—to turn back to God.

What do we learn about GOD in these 8 messages?

His faithfulness to His people His love

His discipline to correct His people when they wander off.

What do we learn about ISRAEL in these 8 messages?

Their unfaithfulness Rebellion

Their desire to conform to the world's mold.

Their lack of desire to submit to God's authority.

Failure to function as light in the midst of darkness.

Israel's Response to the warnings 19:14-20:18

Following messages of warning, Judah's reaction to warnings is described.

What kind of reaction should we expect from them?

What kind of response DO you expect.

God predicted this response when He called Jeremiah (1:17-19)

What did God say they would do? 1:19

What did God promise to do?

What three figures did He use?

What did they mean?

[Now the predicted plan is carried out?]

Condition declared 19:14-15 *"Jeremiah then returned from Topheth, where the LORD had sent him to prophesy, and stood in the court of the LORD's temple and said to all the people,"¹⁵ "This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: 'Listen! I am going to bring on this city and the villages around it every disaster I pronounced against them, because they were stiff-necked and would not listen to my words.'"*

Why will God destroy them? They are "stiff-necked"

What does that mean?

God describes Israel this way more than 20 times.

Farming imagery

Refers to an ox that will not submit to a yoke.

He resists the directions of his master.

Similarly, Israel will not submit to GOD's authority.

She rejects His Word.

Though they should repent, they refuse to listen and obey.

Upon return from Topheth, an area south of Jerusalem

known for Baal worship and child sacrifices,
he declares that due to their stiff-necked condition,
God is going to destroy them.

Judah refuses to submit to God's authority.
She rejects His Word.
Therefore, she'll be destroyed.

*In what way do God's people today sometimes act "stiff-necked"?
What does God do today when we act like that?*

Condition demonstrated 20:1-6

Persecution of the prophet 20:1-2 *"When the priest Pashhur son of Immer, the chief officer in the temple of the LORD, heard Jeremiah prophesying these things, ² he had Jeremiah the prophet beaten and put in the stocks at the Upper Gate of Benjamin at the LORD's temple."*

Condition is illustrated by Pashhur's treatment of Jeremiah.

Pashhur was a priest.

As chief officer in the house of the Lord,

Pashhur is responsible to maintain order in the temple.

When he rejects Jeremiah's message, he represents the people.

This is an official rejection of God's message and messenger.

Pashhur orders that Jeremiah be beaten and placed in stocks.

Even the beating symbolizes rejection of the message.

He probably receives 40 lashes (Deut. 25:1-3)

He's placed in stocks, 2 pieces of wood bind neck, hands and feet.

They'd leave a prisoner's body bent all night, unable to move.

This is intended to be a CRUEL punishment!

Jeremiah, as God's spokesman, delivers God's response to their rejection.

20:3-6 *"The next day, when Pashhur released him from the stocks, Jeremiah said to him, 'The LORD's name for you is not Pashhur, but Magor-Missabib.' ⁴ For this is what the LORD says: 'I will make you a terror to yourself and to all your friends; with your own eyes you will see them fall by the sword of their enemies. I will hand all Judah over to the king of Babylon, who will carry them away to Babylon or put them to the sword. ⁵ I will hand over to their enemies all the wealth of this city—all its products, all its valuables and all the treasures of the kings of Judah. They will take it away as plunder and carry it off to Babylon. ⁶ And you, Pashhur, and all who live in your house will go into exile to Babylon. There you will die and be buried, you and all your friends to whom you have prophesied lies.'"*

Because of the seriousness of the offense,

Pashhur's name is changed to "terror on every side."

His name will serve as a reminder;

he will be a symbol of the coming Babylonian captivity.

Condition lamented 20:7-18

Jeremiah isn't happy about the role God has given to him.

He laments Judah's sad condition.

He wants to leave his ministry, but he can't.

He's compelled to go on.

He'd prefer not to have been born, so he wouldn't suffer.

He submits to God's will, but wishes God had called someone else.

Jeremiah's frustration 7-9

"O LORD, you deceived me, and I was deceived; You overpowered me and prevailed. I am ridiculed all day long; everyone mocks me.⁸ Whenever I speak, I cry out proclaiming violence and destruction. So the word of the LORD has brought me insult and reproach all day long.⁹ But if I say, 'I will not mention him or speak any more in his name,' his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot.

People reject Jeremiah and his message (Cp. 2 Pet. 3:3-10)

When he decides to keep quiet, he can't.

He has a burning desire within to proclaim God's Word.

He's undoubtedly motivated by his love for God's people.

Jeremiah's opposition 10

"I hear many whispering, 'Terror on every side! Report him! Let's report him!' All my friends are waiting for me to slip, saying, 'Perhaps he will be deceived; then we will prevail over him and take our revenge on him.'"

Even his friends have abandoned him.

They're just waiting for him to slip so they can accuse him.

Jeremiah's protection 11-13

"But the LORD is with me like a mighty warrior; so my persecutors will stumble and not prevail. They will fail and be thoroughly disgraced; their dishonor will never be forgotten.¹² O LORD Almighty, you who examine the righteous and probe the heart and mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.¹³ Sing to the LORD! Give praise to the LORD! He rescues the life of the needy from the hands of the wicked.

Jeremiah continues to trust the Lord.

He remembers the promise: *"I will be with you."* (1:17-19)

He's certain of God's protection.

His suffering causes him to seek vengeance.

He praises God because he knows what he will do.

Jeremiah's complaint 20:14-18 *"Cursed be the day I was born! May the day my mother bore me not be blessed!¹⁵ Cursed be the man who brought my father the news, who made him very glad, saying, 'A child is born to you—a son!'"¹⁶ May that man be like the towns the LORD overthrew without pity. May he hear wailing in the morning, a battle cry at noon.¹⁷ For he did not kill me in the womb, with my mother as my grave, her womb enlarged forever.*

¹⁸ *Why did I ever come out of the womb to see trouble and sorrow and to end my days in shame?"*

Jeremiah experiences inner conflict.

He wants to see vengeance and God's plan fulfilled.

Yet he loves the people,

though they persecute him and seek to kill him.

He wants vengeance, but doesn't want to see them suffer.

Therefore, he complains that he was born.

APPLICATION—What lessons do we learn from this section?

What do we learn from Jeremiah's reaction?

Have you ever felt that way?

How do we respond when we feel that way?

How should Jeremiah/we respond when we feel that way?

Lesson from Jeremiah's love for his people,

Even as a messenger of God's judgment—He still loves them.

Importance of hearing God's Word.