

**PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY! NOTES FOR THIS WEEK: 11/23-24/2020  
THIS WEEK'S STUDY: *Jeremiah 2***

**7 PM MONDAY NIGHT & 7 AM TUESDAY MORNING CLASSROOM AND ONLINE BIBLE STUDY MEETINGS: CONTINING IN THE BOOK OF JEREMIAH!**

**Monday 7pm Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)  
THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS112, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

**MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484 - Mon 7 pm!**

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

**Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484**

One tap mobile

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+13462487799,,87858644763# US (Houston)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763>

**Tuesday 7am Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).**

**THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

**MEETING ID# - 85309150746 Passcode: 715340 - Tues 7 am!**

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746?pwd=TK5oVjN0TzdpWjE3UC9Oam05a21uQT09>

**Meeting ID: 853 0915 0746 - Passcode: 715340**

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746>

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**For Audio & notes from previous studies-- [www.ptwente.com](http://www.ptwente.com)**

## OPENING PRAYER – Introduction

### Happy Thanksgiving to God!

#### Give Thanks – Maranatha Music (2:25)

*Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy One*

*Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son (2X)*

*And now let the weak say, "I am strong", Let the poor say, "I am rich"*

*Because of what the Lord has done for us (2X)*

*Give thanks (2X)*

**Introduction to Jeremiah Chapter 2** - Our nation today is very much like the nation of Judah was when Jeremiah appeared to it. It was a nation falling apart at the seams, where everything was going wrong. Enemies were surrounding it, troubles were rife within it, government was corrupt, disasters were looming, degeneracy was everywhere. The nation was suffering from tremendous moral disaster.

Today, we will be looking at what God has to say to someone who **has begun to drift away from Him. Have you ever had that problem? I have. I find there are times in my life when, without even realizing it, I have begun to lose some of the fervor and the joy and the peace which marks the presence of God in my life, flowing through my life as it ought. And possibly, so have you.**

The tragic thing about that condition, as so exemplified in the nation of Judah, is that this can happen and then nobody knows what is wrong. That was happening to Judah. They really blamed God for the whole thing. That is what most of us do, too. They said it was God's fault, that He did not keep His promises, did not deliver them when He ought to, did not keep them from their enemies as He promised. They were charging Him with gross misconduct and with inability to keep His promises.

God has something to say to this nation. What does He say? It gathers around four words that Jeremiah uses: **remember, realize, return, and beware**. These were four words that God had to say to the nation through His prophet Jeremiah. As we look at them, may we take them as a word to your own heart about **how to get back to God when you sense somehow that you have begun to drift, or that you have lost some of the flavor and the fervency and the joy of your Christian experience.**

### **THIS WEEK'S STUDY: *Jeremiah 2 - Israel Forsakes the Lord***

***Jer 2:1 Moreover the word of the LORD (52X) came to me, saying,***

***Jer 2:2 "Go and cry in the hearing of Jerusalem, saying, 'Thus says the LORD (149X -most in the Bible): "I remember you, The kindness of your youth, The love of your betrothal, When you went after Me in the wilderness, In a land not sown. (Rev. 2:4-5) Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left (not lost!) your first love.***

***[5] Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.***

***Jer 2:3 Israel was holiness to the LORD, The firstfruits of His increase. All that devour him will offend; Disaster will come upon them, says the LORD. (Deu 7:6) "For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth. (Zec 14:20-21a) In that day "HOLINESS TO THE LORD" shall be engraved on the bells of the horses. The pots in the LORD's house shall be like the bowls before the altar. [21a] Yes, every pot in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holiness to the LORD of hosts.***

- ***Go and cry in the hearing of Jerusalem, saying*** – Jeremiah will move from Anathoth to Jerusalem where he will exercise his prophetic ministry.

- **God is remembering (we need to consider that!) and calling the people to *remember their history; the beginnings of the nation***, when God had first delivered them out of the horrible conditions that they were experiencing in Egypt, the bondage of Egypt, and how they first experienced God's power and calling and deliverance. Their whole lives were centered around God. They were not perfect in their relationship with God then, but **they had a love and trust for God that was sorely lacking** in Jeremiah's days.
- **The Lord is talking to Israel.** The firstfruits, the first people to be set apart by God, their first thoughts, God was first in their lives. God, because of that, took upon Himself to defend them. Here they are God's people, God was first in their lives and they were in love with God and God was watching over them. There was this beautiful relationship, but something happened.
- **Holiness to the LORD.** It was one of things to just remind people to remember the fact that they existed because of God's work. The firstfruits of His increase told how God was first in their lives. Their first thoughts were of God and the things of God. God was the One that occupied their minds and hearts.
- **Man (body, mind, spirit) is a spirit dwelling in a body possessing a consciousness, which is either absorbed by the body desires or by the spirit.** The spirit in fellowship with God, a man who is living in fellowship with God, his mind is on the things of God and the is thus spiritually minded or has the mind of the spirit. The Bible declares that it is life, it is peace, it is joy. If a man's life is ruled by his body appetites then he has the mind of the flesh and he is always thinking about things of the flesh. What spirit/flesh ratio is in our lives? My life?
- **All that devour him will offend; disaster will come upon them:** In this season of special relationship with God, the LORD took special care of Israel. Anyone who attempted to *devour* Israel, then *disaster* would *come upon them*. This was a great contrast to the judgment at the hand of Israel's enemies that would eventually come upon an unfaithful Jerusalem.

***Jer 2:4 Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob and all the families of the house of Israel.***

***Jer 2:5 Thus says the LORD: "What injustice have your fathers found in Me, That they have gone far from Me, Have followed idols, And have become***

***idolaters? (Isa 5:4) What more could have been done to My vineyard That I have not done in it? Why then, when I expected it to bring forth good grapes, Did it bring forth wild grapes? (Rom 1:21) because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.***

- **What injustice have your fathers found in Me, that they have gone far from Me:** God called the house of Israel to account for their rejection of Him and their pursuit of idols. He asked to know what fault there was in *Him* that caused their idolatry.
- **God is saying, "What did I do, that you should turn away, where did I offend, what iniquity, what did I do wrong that you should turn away from Me and go so far away from Me?"**  
Backsliding is a very imperceptible process. (**Heb 2:1**) *Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.* When you are drifting you are not aware of the fact that you are drifting because the tide is moving with you. You are not aware until suddenly you find yourself far out at sea, you have drifted. That is the kind of an imperceptible process by which people many times get away from God. It is a slow drifting away, almost imperceptible at first because you seem to be doing the same things, but in your heart there is that slow drifting away from the LORD and the things of the LORD.
- **It is amazing how far a person can drift from God.** When that first love begins to wane, that first love that really drove you to go to church, that drew you to the Word, that drew you to prayer and as time went on, you began to drift away from the Lord. You can go a week or two without even cracking the Bible. That drifting away where a month and you have not been to church. You do not feel it yet in your heart, yet you have drifted from that relationship that you once had with Him.

- **Israel had drifted a long way from God to where they were actually beginning to worship other gods.** It is a very pitiful thing for God said, “What did I do wrong, where did I go wrong, what could I have done to have kept that love? *What injustice have your fathers find in Me, Have followed idols, And have become idolaters?*

***(Jer 2:6) Neither did they say, 'Where is the LORD, Who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, Who led us through the wilderness, Through a land of deserts and pits, Through a land of drought and the shadow of death, Through a land that no one crossed And where no one dwelt?' (Deu 32:10) "He found him in a desert land And in the wasteland, a howling wilderness; He encircled him, He instructed him, He kept him as the apple of His eye.***

- **They did not think about the LORD. They did not call to remembrance** that it was God that preserved them through that wilderness experience, brought them through that dessert area, brought them through the dangers, provided for them, cared for them, guided them and directed them.

***Jer 2:7 I brought you into a bountiful country, To eat its fruit and its goodness. But when you entered, you defiled My land And made My heritage an***

***abomination. (Isa 24:5) The earth is also defiled under its inhabitants, Because they have transgressed the laws, Changed the ordinance, Broken the everlasting covenant.***

- ***I brought you into a bountiful country, to eat its fruit and its goodness:*** God reminded Israel of how good and kind He had been to them, giving them the *bountiful country* of Canaan. Israel is a fruitful country; it is a beautiful land. You can go there in the springtime and you see the hillside covered with blossoming trees. You see the fields covered with fruit trees, avocado trees, kiwi trees and orange trees. It is just a very fruitful land.
- ***You defiled My land and made My heritage an abomination:*** God clearly called the land of Israel His *land* and His *heritage*. Israel both *defiled* the *land* and made it an *abomination* through their idolatry.
- ***They forgot their roots and history.*** We are in the process of doing the same thing. Our history books are being re-written to leave God out. I make reference to the book *The Light And The Glory*. How far we have drifted. In the Supreme Court on the wall they inscribed the Ten Commandments, but now the Supreme Court says that it is illegal to have it in the public schools.

***Jer 2:8 The priests did not say, 'Where is the LORD?' And those who handle the law did not know Me; The rulers also transgressed against Me; The prophets prophesied by Baal, And walked after things that do not profit.***

***Jer 2:9 "Therefore I will yet bring charges against you," says the LORD, "And against your children's children I will bring charges.***

***(Eze 20:35-36) And I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will plead My case with you face to face. [36] Just as I pleaded My case with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will plead My case with you," says the Lord GOD.***

- ***That is those who were to deal with the Law of God, they did not even know God*** and yet they were to be the teachers of the Word of God and they did not even know God themselves. Those who were teaching the Law of God didn't know God as there are so many men in the pulpits in America today that don't even know God. What a tragedy!
- ***Therefore I will yet bring charges against you: Because the people have forsaken God;*** they had defiled the good land that God had given; because the priests were not turning the people to the LORD; because the teachers of the Law did not even know God; because the pastors were failing in their duties. God would not allow this great sin on behalf of the leaders and people of Israel to go unaddressed. God brought a legal complaint against Israel for their sin.
- ***Have you, upon trial, found God a hard master?*** Have His commands put any hardship upon you or obliged you to anything unfit, unfair, or unbecoming you? **No; the disappointments you**

have met with were owing to yourselves, not to God. The yoke of His commandments is easy, and in the *keeping of them there is great reward.*

***Jer 2:10 For pass beyond the coasts of Cyprus (west) and see, Send to Kedar (east) and consider diligently, And see if there has been such a thing.***

***Jer 2:11 Has a nation changed its gods, Which are not gods? But My people have changed their Glory For what does not profit. (Isa 37:19) and have cast their gods into the fire; for they were not gods, but the work of men's hands—wood and stone. Therefore they destroyed them. (Rom 1:23) and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.***

- **God asked His rebellious people to look to even distant places**, to the west (*Cyprus*) and to the east (*Kedar*) and to ask: Do they forsake their gods? Strangely, the heathen around Israel were more faithful to their false, dead gods than Israel was to the Living God.
- **But My people have changed their Glory for what does not profit:** The heathen nations were faithful to their gods even though their gods did nothing for them. Yet Israel had the God of all *Glory* who had blessed them in innumerable ways, and they turned from Him. What a paradox. Those that worship false gods, those nations will not change the worshipping of the false gods. But those who worship the true and the living God are so often prone to change their God and to get caught up in idolatry, to get caught up in materialism.

***Jer 2:12 Be astonished, O heavens, at this, And be horribly afraid; Be very desolate," says the LORD.***

***Jer 2:13 "For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, And hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water. . (Joh 4:14) but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."***

- **Be astonished...be horribly afraid...be very desolate:** First this is an astonishment, that men can be so foolish, disloyal, and ungrateful. Then it is something to fear, **because a righteous God must answer such outrageous rebellion.** Finally, it is a desolation, because the result of judgment upon such rebellious people will leave little behind.
- **They have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters:** This was the first of the evils of God's people – to forsake God. This is evil not only for its disloyalty and ingratitude, but also because it is foolish; God is the *fountain of living waters*, the never-ending supply of the good, pure, essential supplies of life. There is in Him an all-sufficiency of grace and strength; all our springs are in Him and our streams from Him; to forsake Him is, in effect, to deny this. His people then worked hard (*hewn themselves*) for a greatly inferior supply (*cisterns*). Despite their hard work, all they ended up with were *broken cisterns that can hold no water.*
- **Why would anyone do it? It is because they lose their sense of the worth of God**, the greatness of His being, the power, which is at His disposal, the ability He has to fill the heart with joy. Men replace that with their own belief system. They changed for the worse and made a bad bargain for themselves.

***Jer 2:14 "Is Israel a servant? Is he a homeborn slave? Why is he plundered?***

***Jer 2:15 The young lions roared at him, and growled; They made his land waste; His cities are burned, without inhabitant. (Jer 50:17) "Israel is like scattered sheep; The lions have driven him away. First the king of Assyria devoured him; Now at last this Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon has broken his bones."***

***Jer 2:16 Also the people of Noph (Memphis) and Tahpanhes Have broken the***

***crown of your head.***

- ***Is Israel a servant? Is he a homeborn slave? Why is he plundered?*** The people needed to ponder this question: **They were designed for dominion, not for servitude.** How is it that a people under God's special care are left at the mercy of an enemy, like a worthless slave?"
- ***Noph and Tahpanhes despicable people,*** not famed for military courage nor strength, were both Egyptian cities. ***Noph*** is another name for Memphis, the ancient capital of lower Egypt, near modern Cairo. God here warned Judah not to trust in Egypt, which have ***broken the crown of your head*** by defeating and killing the good king Josiah in battle.

***Jer 2:17 Have you not brought this on yourself, In that you have forsaken the LORD your God When He led you in the way? (Jer 4:18) "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."***

- ***Aren't you to blame for having brought this on yourself?*** Yes, because ***you have forsaken the LORD your God.*** You have experienced defeat on the fields of battle, but didn't you bring it upon yourself? Aren't you responsible **because you have forsaken the LORD your God** while He was leading you by His way? The reason was plain; Israel was captive, her people slaves, her cities burned because ***they have forsaken the LORD.***

***Jer 2:18 And now why take the road to Egypt, To drink the waters of Sihor? Or why take the road to Assyria, To drink the waters of the River? (Isa 30:3) Therefore the strength of Pharaoh Shall be your shame, And trust in the shadow of Egypt Shall be your humiliation. Why take the road to Egypt?...why take the road to Assyria?*** God cautioned Jerusalem from looking to either Egypt (**the waters of Sihor**, the Nile) or Assyria (**the waters of the River**, the Euphrates) for help. The water of their rivers was **nothing compared to the fountains of living water found in the LORD.** Some of them had been captive and carried off to Egypt, others had been taken off captives to Assyria.

***Jer 2:19 Your own wickedness will correct you, And your backslidings will rebuke you. Know therefore and see that it is an evil and bitter thing That you have forsaken the LORD your God, And the fear of Me is not in you," Says the Lord GOD of hosts. (Isa 3:9) The look on their countenance witnesses against them, And they declare their sin as Sodom; They do not hide it. Woe to their soul! For they have brought evil upon themselves."***

- ***Your own wickedness will correct:*** If Jerusalem did continue on their destructive course, there would be more than enough correction and rebuke found in the consequences of their actions.
- ***The fear of Me is not in you,"*** Jerusalem feared attack from the Babylonians and therefore contemplated alliances with Egypt and Assyria. Yet the real problem was they did not ***fear the LORD***, and ***the Lord GOD of hosts*** – that is, of heavenly armies. God was more than able to protect them if they repented and trusted in Him.
- ***The lack of the fear of the Lord in the hearts of His people is one of the greatest problems*** we have today! ***The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.*** That is the primary source of wisdom! That is where wisdom starts! Where you have no fear of the Lord, you do not have the basics for wisdom. We are also told that (***Pro 8:13) The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate.*** Now we are being pressed to tolerate evil, worse than that, to accept evil, to embrace evil! So, you have done an evil thing, a bitter thing in that they have forsaken the Lord their God and there is no longer a fear of God in them. ***Know therefore and see.*** What a word for us today! We note the downward plunge of our country, as it has forsaken God more and more! Do our actions really reflect our fearing Him?

***Jer 2:20 "For of old I have broken your yoke and burst your bonds; And you said, 'I will not transgress,' When on every high hill and under every green tree You lay down, playing the harlot. (Exo 19:8) Then all the people answered together and said,***

"All that the LORD has spoken we will do." So Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD. Then they cried out to the LORD, and said, 'We have sinned, because we have forsaken the LORD and served the Baals and Ashtoreths; but now deliver us from the hand of our enemies, and we will serve You.'

- **When God first gave the Law** they said to Moses, "Go up and tell us everything that God said, and we will obey the Lord and keep His commandments. You go up and find out what God wants us to do and we will do it."
- **God broke the yoke of bondage that they were under in Egypt. He burst the bonds** that were holding them as slaves and captives. They made a vow unto God at that time. When God set them free they made a vow unto God that they would not transgress the Law
- **On every high hill and under every green tree** you are wondering **playing the harlot**. You have the images and the idols of these various gods and goddesses on every mountain top and under the trees and you've got all of these places for the worship of these idols."
- **Playing the harlot... the degenerate plant of an alien vine... though you wash yourself with lye**: God used three strong images to describe the sin and shame of Israel. They were like a prostitute, like a weed, and like someone so dirty that no **lye** or **soap** could make them clean.

**Jer 2:21 Yet I had planted you a noble vine, a seed of highest quality. How then have you turned before Me Into the degenerate plant of an alien vine?** (Isa 5:2,

4) *He dug it up and cleared out its stones, And planted it with the choicest vine. He built a tower in its midst, And also made a winepress in it; So He expected it to bring forth good grapes, But it brought forth wild grapes. [4] What more could have been done to My vineyard That I have not done in it? Why then, when I expected it to bring forth good grapes, Did it bring forth wild grapes?*

- Yet the Lord said, "I **planted a noble vine**, a holy and right **seed of highest quality**, in the beginning when I planted you it was strong and a noble vine and holy vine, a holy, right seed." God has planted his people a thoroughly reliable stock hoping to gather a rich harvest of choice grapes. **The constitution of their government both in church and state was excellent, their laws were righteous, and all the ordinances instructive and very significant; and a generation of good men there was among them when they first settled in Canaan.** But she became a strange wild vine, a foul-smelling thing. (*Deu 32:32*) *For their vine is of the vine of Sodom And of the fields of Gomorrah; Their grapes are grapes of gall, Their clusters are bitter.*
- **What could I have done more than what I did?** Where did I go wrong, what evil did your fathers find in Me that they should turn from Me?

**Jer 2:22 For though you wash yourself with lye, and use much soap, Yet your iniquity is marked before Me," says the Lord GOD.** . (*Hos 13:12*) *"The iniquity of Ephraim is bound up; His sin is stored up.*

- **Though you wash yourself with lye**: Like someone so dirty that no **lye** or **soap** could make them clean. So deeply ingrained is Judah's foul iniquity that no amount of washing with detergents can remove it. It is only through Christ's work on Calvary is that it removes the dark mark of the stain of iniquity (*1Jn 1:7*) *But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. Yet your iniquity is marked before Me*

**Jer 2:23 "How can you say, 'I am not polluted, I have not gone after the Baals'?**  
**See your way in the valley; Know what you have done: You are a swift dromedary breaking loose in her ways,** (*Pro 30:12*) *There is a generation that is pure in its own eyes, Yet is not washed from its filthiness.*

- **See your way in the valley; know what you have done**: This refers to the **valley** of Hinnom, the deep gorge that lies to the west and south of Jerusalem. This was a place of idolatry and hideous deeds. There all sorts of pagan, heathen rites were practiced, including the worship of **Baal** and the worship of Molech. How could they claim innocence when they were carrying on their vile **worship of Baal in the Valley** of Hinnom with their child sacrifices?

- **The next image is of a camel, a swift dromedary.** Young female camels are altogether unreliable, ungainly, and easily disturbed, so that they dash about in an apparently disorganized fashion.

***Jer 2:24 A wild donkey used to the wilderness, That sniffs at the wind in her desire; In her time of mating, who can turn her away? All those who seek her will not weary themselves; In her month they will find her.***

- **Like a wild donkey in heat,** looking for a mate, looking for some pleasure. Israel was just looking after other gods, being drawn to other gods, like a wild donkey sniffing the wind to catch the scent of a donkey in heat, looking after these things, with no control over her desire, allowing any and all to mount her. The female *wild donkey* in heat is almost violent. She sniffs the path in front of her trying to pick up the urine scent of a male. Then she races down the road in search of the male.

***Jer 2:25 Withhold your foot from being unshod, and your throat from thirst. But you said, 'There is no hope. No! For I have loved aliens, and after them I***

***will go.'* (Jer 3:13) Only acknowledge your iniquity, That you have transgressed against the LORD your God, And have scattered your charms To alien deities under every green tree, And you have not obeyed My voice,' says the LORD.**

- ***Withhold your foot from being unshod, and your throat from thirst:*** The bare foot and constant thirst were marks of the exile and slave. This was the fate of the northern kingdom of Israel and would also be the fate of Judah if they did not turn to the LORD. Yet they answered God's heartfelt appeal with a resignation to their idolatry and fate:
- ***There is no hope...I have loved aliens and after them I will go.*** God is calling them back, but they refuse, they will go after the strange gods.

***Jer 2:26 "As the thief is ashamed when he is found out, So is the house of Israel ashamed; They and their kings and their princes, and their priests and their prophets,***

- The **thief** is only ashamed when he is found out. He regrets getting caught and penalized, not the crime itself. In the same way, Israel under exile was really only sorry they had been caught and had suffered for their sin.

***Jer 2:27 Saying to a tree, 'You are my father,' And to a stone, 'You gave birth to me.' For they have turned their back to Me, and not their face. But in the time of their trouble They will say, 'Arise and save us.'* (Hos 5:15) I will return again to My place Till they acknowledge their offense. Then they will seek My face; In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me."**

***Jer 2:28 But where are your gods that you have made for yourselves? Let them arise, If they can save you in the time of your trouble; For according to the***

***number of your cities Are your gods, O Judah. (Deu 32:37) He will say: 'Where are their gods, The rock in which they sought refuge? (Jdg 10:14) Go and cry out to the gods which you have chosen; let them deliver you in your time of distress.'***

- ***Saying to a tree, "You are my father":*** Jeremiah described their foolish idolatry, worshipping things of wood and **stone**. The **tree** was a wooden idol representing Asherah, the leading female Canaanite deity. The **stone** represented Baal, the leading male Canaanite deity. There is strong satire here, for it is the tree, the female symbol that is called **Father** and the stone, the male symbol that is called **You gave birth to me**. Israel was confused about what she was worshipping.
- ***They would cut down a limb from a tree, chop it up.*** A part of it they put in their oven so that they can bake their bread. A part of it they burn to heat the house and then they take a part of it and they carve a little image out of it and say, "This is my god." He said, "Don't you realize it that you burn part of it in the fire and yet you say, 'This is my god.' "You are my father, or you are my god, the little image that they have carved. And to the stone, that is the stone that they

have carved into the form of the image and say, “You are the one that has created me.” They worshipped the stone and wood images.

- **It is a very sad and tragic day when a person is turned away from God to worship idols.** When the time of real trouble comes and that person begins to cry unto God and say, “Oh God help me.” God says let your little Ferrari help you. Don’t cry unto Me, you have forsaken Me, your love for your little Ferrari has exceeded your love for Me, let it help you! Why will you plead with Me, why are you pleading with Me to help you, why are you praying to Me?
- **According to the number of your cities are your gods, O Judah:** “Among heathen nations every city had its own deity. Judah, far sunk in idolatry, had in vain adopted this custom.

**Jer 2:29 "Why will you plead with Me? You all have transgressed against Me," says the LORD. (Gen 6:3a) And the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, (Psa 103:9) He will not always strive with us, Nor will He keep His anger forever.**

- In the previous lines God spoke of how His people would turn to Him in the time of their trouble, yet not out of true repentance; instead out of a mere desire to escape present consequences. Here God tests the repentance of Israel to see if they will return to Him through difficulty.
- **The day has come when God has closed His ear to your cry and to your prayer because you have turned against Him.** Now God had done many things to wake them up. He had allowed many things to happen. He had allowed plagues, droughts. Many things God did to sort of awaken them to their condition, their sinful condition, to show them that they were drifting from God. They disregarded the warnings. They had a drought, but they disregarded it. Perhaps they had AIDS, but they were seeking a cure.

**Jer 2:30 "In vain I have chastened your children; They received no correction.**

**Your sword has devoured your prophets Like a destroying lion. (Isa 9:13) For the people do not turn to Him who strikes them, Nor do they seek the LORD of hosts. (Neh 9:26) "Nevertheless they were disobedient And rebelled against You, Cast Your law behind their backs And killed Your prophets, who testified against them To turn them to Yourself; And they worked great provocations. (Act 7:52) Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, (1Th 2:15) who killed both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they do not please God and are contrary to all men,**

- I spanked them, I chastised them, but they didn’t receive the correction. **Your own sword has devoured the prophets like a destroying lion.** You’ve destroyed those men that I have sent to warn you. The prophets that preceded Jeremiah were killed by the people, your own sword has destroyed the prophets.
- In Acts 6-7, as Stephen is making that brilliant defense before the Sanhedrin. Brilliant, in as much as he was showing them, they prided them always in their heritage. They were always proudly pointing to their history. He showed them historically how their fathers seemed to fail to recognize the hand of God through the deliverer that God sent. How their fathers had failed, one after another, to recognize those that God had raised as their deliverers. He said, “Actually, you have done worse than your fathers who have killed the prophets because you have killed the one that the prophets have testified should come.” Here we find the Lord declaring to them, “You have devoured your prophets with your swords.”

**Jer 2:31 "O generation, see the word of the LORD! Have I been a wilderness to Israel, Or a land of darkness? Why do My people say, 'We are lords (rulers); We will come no more to You'?" (Deu 32:15) "But Jeshurun grew fat and kicked; You grew fat, you grew thick, You are obese! Then he forsook God who made him, And scornfully esteemed the Rock of his salvation**

**Jer 2:32 Can a virgin forget her ornaments, Or a bride her attire? Yet My people have forgotten Me days without number. (Psa 106:21) They forgot God their Savior, Who had done great things in Egypt, (Isa 17:10) Because you have forgotten the God of your salvation, And**

have not been mindful of the Rock of your stronghold, Therefore you will plant pleasant plants And set out foreign seedlings;

- **See the word of the LORD** - Take notice of it, consider it; or, hear it!
- **Why do My people say, “We are lords; we will come no more to You”?** .We are rich, and we will come no more to God, to receive favors from Him, as if we could live without Him and need not be beholden to Him. God justly takes it ill when those to whom He has been a bountiful benefactor care not either for hearing from Him or speaking to Him. God’s people were guilty of pride, believing they didn’t need to come and humble themselves before the living God.
- **Can a virgin forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? Yet My people have forgotten Me days without number:** .Israel’s rejection of God was unnatural... It is only natural for a young woman to treasure her **ornaments**, or for a **bride** to value her clothing. When God’s people forget their God – who has done so much for them – it is an offence against all that is good and right.. Is not God our ornament? .Is he not **a crown of glory** and a **diadem of beauty** to His people? .Did we look upon Him to be so, and upon our religion as an **ornament of grace on our head and chains about our neck (Pro 1:9)** .We should be as mindful of them as ever any maid was **of her ornaments, or a bride of her attire!** We should be as careful to preserve them and as fond to appear in them. Have you heard of a bride showing up for a wedding and saying, “Oh I forgot my wedding gown!”
- **Forgotten Me days without number!** How many days of our lives have passed without suitable remembrance of God! How about you? How about me?

**Jer 2:33** *“Why do you beautify your way to seek love? Therefore you have also taught The wicked women your ways*

**Jer 2:34** *Also on your skirts is found The blood of the lives of the poor innocents. I have not found it by secret search, But plainly on all these*

*things.* (2Ki 21:16) *Moreover Manasseh shed very much innocent blood, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another, besides his sin by which he made Judah sin, in doing evil in the sight of the LORD.*

**Jer 2:35** *Yet you say, ‘Because I am innocent, Surely His anger shall turn from me.’ Behold, I will plead My case against you, Because you say, ‘I have not*

*sinned.’ (1Jn 1:8, 10) If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. [10] If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.*

- **You have also taught the wicked women your ways:** .God did not accept their attempt to **beautify** their way to seek love. It wasn’t enough for them to call their sinful pursuit of love beautiful; they also had to teach it to others. .There is an allusion here to the practice of lewd women who strive to recommend themselves by their ogling looks and gay dress, as Jezebel, who *painted her face and adorned her head.*
- **Also on your skirts is found the blood of the lives of the poor innocents:**. Their immoral love – which they *called* beautiful – left them stained with the **blood** of the **poor innocents** . .The reference is to the children that were offered in sacrifice to Moloch; (consider our abortion sin today in the USA!) or it may be taken more generally for all the *innocent blood* which Manasseh shed, especially the blood of the prophets and others that witnessed against their impieties. The **poor innocents** suffer – unborn children are killed, homes are wrecked, perversion imposes itself on innocents.
- **I have not found it by secret search, but plainly on all these things:** The sin and perversion popularized in Jeremiah’s day was evident; only willful blindness kept individuals and society from recognizing it.
- **Yet you say, “Because I am innocent, surely His anger shall turn from me”:** Despite the plain nature of their sin, Israel could still claim innocence. They felt entitled to Divine mercy.
- **Behold, I will plead My case against you, because you say, “I have not sinned”:** Their *claim* of innocence did not impress God. He would still bring a **case against** them; their

claim to innocence made them *more* guilty, not less. They were denying their sin and their guilt. They were twisting the Scriptures to justify their actions which were clearly opposed to the Word of God. They were saying because I am innocent God's anger has turned from me.

***Jer 2:36 Why do you gad about so much to change your way? Also you shall be ashamed of Egypt as you were ashamed of Assyria. (Isa 30:3) Therefore the strength of Pharaoh Shall be your shame, And trust in the shadow of Egypt Shall be your humiliation. (2Ch 28:16) At the same time King Ahaz sent to the kings of Assyria to help him.***

- To ***gad about*** is to bounce about on an irregular course. *First here, then there – you flit from one ally to another asking for help.* There was no reason for them to ***gad about*** – they should have gone straight away to trusting the LORD. That is, you will be put to shame by the Egyptians even as they were put to shame by the Assyrians.

***Jer 2:37 Indeed you will go forth from him With your hands on your head; For the LORD has rejected your trusted allies, And you will not prosper by them. (Jer 14:3-4) Their nobles have sent their lads for water; They went to the cisterns and found no water. They returned with their vessels empty; They were ashamed and confounded And covered their heads. [4] Because the ground is parched, For there was no rain in the land, The plowmen were ashamed; They covered their heads.***

- **The word of the LORD to the inhabitants of Jerusalem in the time of Jeremiah.** A people who had turned from their walk and relationship with God after the beggarly elements of the world and yet refusing to acknowledge their guilt or sin and refusing to believe that God's judgment was going to come upon them because of their sin. God is declaring that His judgment is surly going to come against them and it did. Jeremiah is going to be there to watch it. He is going to be there to see the fall. He is going to be there to still be the voice of God right up to the end. God will not quit but will continue to hold out the invitation for them to come up right up to the last moment, until they are carried away as captives to Babylon.
- **God has His faithful witnesses to cry out against the evil and the practices of evil in a nation,** God has His true prophets giving His word and His warning. There were many other prophets at the time of Jeremiah, but they were saying, peace, peace, all is going to be well, no worries, we are going to conquer. Here is Jeremiah, the lone voice of God crying out to the people.

## **Closing Prayer**