

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY! NOTES FOR THIS WEEK: 12/28-29/2020
THIS WEEK'S STUDY: *Jeremiah Chapters 9-10*

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

+16699006833,,87858644763# US (San Jose)

+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

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,85309150746# US (San Jose)

+12532158782,,85309150746# US (Tacoma)

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

Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 For Audio & notes from previous studies - www.ptwente.com

OPENING PRAYER – Introduction

Review:

Jer 8:20 "The harvest is past, The summer is ended, And we are not saved!"

C. H. Spurgeon (19 Jun 1834 – 31 Jan 1892) – Morning and Evening - December 31 Evening Meditation:

"The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." — Jeremiah 8:20

Not saved! Dear reader, is this your mournful plight? Warned of the judgment to come, bidden to escape for your life, and yet at this moment *not saved!* You know the way of salvation, you read it in the Bible, you hear it from the pulpit, it is explained to you by friends, and yet you neglect it, and therefore you are *not saved*. You will be without excuse when the Lord shall judge the quick and dead. The Holy Spirit has given more or less of blessing upon the word which has been preached in your hearing, and times of refreshing have come from the divine presence, and yet you are without Christ. All these hopeful seasons have come and gone—your summer and your harvest have past—and yet you are *not saved*. Years have followed one another into eternity, and your last year will soon be here: youth has gone, manhood is going, and yet you are not saved. Let me ask you—*will you ever be saved?* Is there any likelihood of it? Already the most propitious seasons have left you unsaved; will other occasions alter your condition? Means have failed with you—the best of means, used perseveringly and with the utmost affection—what more can be done for you? Affliction and prosperity have alike failed to impress you; tears and prayers and sermons have been wasted on your barren heart. Are not the probabilities dead against your ever

being saved? Is it not more than likely that you will abide as you are till death for ever bars the door of hope? Do you recoil from the supposition? Yet it is a most reasonable one: he who is not washed in so many waters will in all probability go filthy to his end. The convenient time never has come, why should it ever come? It is logical to fear that it never will arrive, and that Felix like, you will find no convenient season till you are in hell. O bethink you of what that hell is, and of the dread probability that you will soon be cast into it!

Reader suppose you should die unsaved, your doom no words can picture. Write out your dread estate in tears and blood, talk of it with groans and gnashing of teeth: you will be punished with everlasting destruction from the glory of the Lord, and from the glory of His power. A brother's voice would fain startle you into earnestness. O be wise, be wise in time, and ere another year begins, believe in Jesus, who is able to save to the uttermost. Consecrate these last hours to lonely thought, and if deep repentance be bred in you, it will be well; and if it lead to a humble faith in Jesus, it will be best of all. O see to it that this year pass not away, and you an unforgiven spirit. Let not the new year's midnight peals sound upon a joyless spirit! Now, NOW, NOW believe, and live!

"Escape for thy life; Look not behind thee, Neither stay thou In all the plain; Escape to the mountain, Lest thou be consumed."

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: Jeremiah 9-10 – The Perils of False Teaching; The People Mourn in Judgment; Idols and the True God. The Coming Captivity of Judah

- Chapter 9 is a continuation of Jeremiah's message, which began at chapter 7, that was given at the gate of the temple as the Lord told him to go down to the gate and cry out to those people who were coming into the temple to not trust in the lying vanities or lying words saying, "the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD." The Babylonians are on their way and they are going to destroy you unless you thoroughly change and amend your ways and your doings.

Evil in the Land – Judgment being prophesied - But, "Amend your ways"!

Jer 9:1 Oh, that my head were waters, And my eyes a fountain of tears, That I might weep day and night For the slain of the daughter of (14x-Jer; 17x-Lam - tenderness) my people!

- ***That my head were waters, And my eyes a fountain of tears.*** Continuing from chapter 8 where he prophetically saw them conquered and exiled, here he poetically expresses the idea that he didn't have enough tears or time to adequately express his grief. Jeremiah, known as the weeping prophet, saw the consequences of their evil. The nation was being destroyed. He was really distressed over it, weeping over it! How often is that our response, or do we say to the LORD, Go to it Lord, they've got it coming!

Jer 9:2 Oh, that I had in the wilderness—A lodging place for travelers; That I might leave my people, And go from them! For they are all adulterers, An assembly of treacherous men.

- ***Oh, that I had in the wilderness!*** Jeremiah's second response was a desire to escape. That may be easier for us to identify with than the compassion he showed. He was distraught over the complete moral breakdown. They were an assembly of treacherous people. They were all adulterers and that was probably both physically and from a spiritual standpoint. They had turned away from God and were worshipping their idols. They lied, they could not be trusted.
- ***That I might leave my people, And go from them! For they are all adulterers, An assembly of treacherous men.*** Josephus describes the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians, giving a little insight to the culture of that day as Jeremiah describes it the things that were going on in the city even while they were under the siege of the Babylonians. The inhumanity of the Jew to the Jew. The gangs that were ruling within the city. The murders and the stealing of food and all that was happening within the city. The city was practically destroyed by itself before the Babylonians ever came in.

Jer 9:3 "And like their bow they have bent their tongues for lies. They are not valiant for the truth on the earth. For they proceed from evil to evil, And they do not know Me," says the LORD.

- ***And like their bow they have bent their tongues for lies.*** This is an interesting picture of speech where you see the tongue is sort of bent like a bow and then the lies come out like arrows, shooting out. Everything that they said was a lie, you could not trust them. They were just shooting lies like arrows from a bent bow.
- ***They are not valiant for the truth on the earth. For they proceed from evil to evil,*** They were going from bad to worse. They were mired in **evil** and far from real relationship with God. They did not **know** Him in a true, relational, honoring way. We remember that Jesus said that in the last days that men will wax worse and worse upon the earth. So was the case here. They were going **from evil to evil**.

- **And they do not know Me," says the LORD.** They had left God out. They really *did not know* God. Now here were the people going into the temple to worship. Yet the prophet is standing there at the gate saying, "You don't really know God." Thus, saith the LORD, "**You don't know Me.**" Deception is a terrible thing. Especially in religious matters and especially in things that pertain to God. He is warning the people to be careful.

Jer 9:4 "Everyone take heed to his neighbor, And do not trust any brother; For every brother will utterly supplant, And every neighbor will walk with slanderers.

- **Do not trust any brother!** You can't even trust your own brother. You have to watch out for every neighbor **for every brother will utterly supplant.** That was what Jacob was called because he took advantage of his brother Esau. Jacob: one who takes advantage of another by tripping him. He was called Jacob, the heel catcher: one who takes the advantage or overcomes by tripping. Everyone had become as a Jacob as they were taking advantage of their brothers. **Every neighbor will walk with slanders.** Their society that was totally broken down.

Jer 9:5 Everyone will deceive his neighbor, And will not speak the truth; They have taught their tongue to speak lies; They weary themselves to commit iniquity.

- **Jeremiah observed how deep and how wide the sin** of lying and deception was among the leaders and people of Judah. It was a culture given over to deception, far from truth in either daily matters or in broader concepts. Does not Jeremiah's dark description of Judah also describe today's culture? We live in an age when the very idea of absolute or objective truth is commonly rejected. When truth is not valued, societies crumble.

Jer 9:6 Your dwelling place is in the midst of deceit; Through deceit they refuse to know Me," says the LORD.

- **Through deceit they refuse to know Me!** This is the greatest cost of embracing and promoting deception. Since God is a God of truth, those who love the lie are distanced from Him. They think they know God, but they really don't. They think that God is not concerned or that, worse, God is actually condoning their evil, that it really does not matter to God what I do or how I live or that I live the way I live. Then the final heresy is that God actually approves of the thing that I am doing. Don't be deceived!

Jer 9:7 Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: "Behold, I will refine (smelt) them and try them; For how shall I deal with the daughter of My people?"

- **Remembering the picture of the metal refiner (Jer 6:27-30),** God again told Judah that He would **refine them.** The heat and melting to come were certain. Yet the purpose was also certain – not to destroy, but to **refine** and ultimately to purify. The Lord so wants to save His people, that He will use strong means rather than lose any of those He loves, tenderly referring to them as **the daughter of My people.**

Jer 9:8 Their tongue is an arrow shot out; It speaks deceit; One speaks peaceably to his neighbor with his mouth, But in his heart he lies in wait.

- **Here God explained one reason why Judah was being judged.** The widespread deception among the leaders and people of Judah invited His strong correction.

Jer 9:9 Shall I not punish them for these things?" says the LORD. "Shall I not avenge Myself on such a nation (goy – Gentile, heathen people) as this?"

- **Fraud and falsehood are sins which God hates** and which He will reckon for. **Such a nation as this:** "The use of the term *goy* for Israel seems to suggest that the LORD had come to regard Judah, at least in as being no different in their behavior from the *goyim*, the peoples outside the Abrahamic Covenant.

Jer 9:10 I will take up a weeping and wailing for the mountains, And for the dwelling places of the wilderness a lamentation, Because they are burned up, So that no one can pass through; Nor can men hear the voice of the cattle. Both the birds of the heavens and the beasts have fled; They are gone. Jer 9:11 "I will make Jerusalem a heap of ruins, a den of jackals. I will make the cities of Judah desolate, without an inhabitant."

- **He will start weeping and wailing** for the land itself, **the mountains, the wilderness,** they have been overrun by the enemy. The mountains, the trees, are being destroyed. The fields are being ripped up and none can pass through them. **The cattle** have been stolen by the enemy. **Jerusalem and Judah** were completely given over to covetousness. Even the prophets and priests, everyone, was dealing falsely. The whole system was corrupted, Jeremiah is weeping, as Jesus will also later wept because the destruction that must follow and inevitably follow such a collapse within a society. **(Mat 23:37) "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!"**

- ***They are burned up, so that no one can pass through:*** Jeremiah prophetically saw the destroyed and ***burned*** cities and villages of Judah. There was no civilization, only ***a heap of ruins***. There were no more livestock and farm animals, only ***a den of jackals***, used to describe total desolation. All this would be the result of the coming Babylonian invasion.

Jer 9:12 Who is the wise man who may understand this? And who is he to whom the mouth of the LORD has spoken, that he may declare it? Why does the land perish and burn up like a wilderness, so that no one can pass through?

- ***Who is the wise man?*** Can't you see where we are headed, what these actions are going to bring to this society? Today, we see many of these things in our society. We see the breakdown of our judicial system, our educational system. Our children are being taught perversion and godlessness, erasing the Godly heritage of our nation. We see this whole breakdown and the prophet is calling, "isn't there anyone ***wise*** enough to see what is going on, to see what is happening? Isn't there someone who will speak for the LORD, to warn of the consequences of these kinds of things?" How about us?

Jer 9:13 And the LORD said, "Because they have forsaken My law which I set before them, and have not obeyed My voice, nor walked according to it,

- ***Because they have forsaken My law...have not obeyed My voice, nor walked according to it:*** God told Israel in His word what they should believe and how they should live. Yet the leaders and people of Judah rejected His word and disregarded God's ***law***. Desolation and destruction is coming because they had forsaken the ***Law*** of the LORD! They have not obeyed His voice! They have not walked accordingly!

Jer 9:14 but they have walked according to the dictates of their own hearts and after the Baals, which their fathers taught them,"

- ***In rejecting the word and guidance of God,*** Judah did not merely stop believing and serving God, but instead they lifted their ***own hearts*** to the place of God in their life, and they served the pagan gods of the surrounding culture. The worship of ***Baal***, emphasizing sex and lewdness, had become ingrained in the society. The parents were teaching their children, the same as in the days of Noah! Everybody was walking after the imaginations and ***dictates of their own hearts***. They were seeking to fulfill their own fantasies.

Jer 9:15 therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "Behold, I will feed them, this people, with wormwood (bitter food), and give them water of gall (poisonous) to drink. Jer 9:16 I will scatter them also among the Gentiles, whom neither they nor their fathers have known. And I will send a sword after them until I have consumed them."

- ***God would not ignore the disobedience and idolatry of Judah.*** He promised to answer it with bitter judgment and exile. God is declaring the judgment that is going to come upon this people because they have not walked in His law! They won't listen to His voice, but walk after the imagination of their own hearts, after the false gods. Thus, they are going to go into captivity. Even in captivity they will not have peace, ***a sword*** will be sent after them until they have been ***consumed***. We look at history and see that the children of Israel did go into Babylonian captivity. We see how, even to the present day, they were persecuted and mistreated throughout the world.

Jer 9:17 Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Consider and call for the mourning women, That they may come; And send for skillful wailing women, That they may come. Jer 9:18 Let them make haste And take up a wailing for us, That our eyes may run with tears, And our eyelids gush with water.

- ***As he thought about the great calamity*** that was to come upon disobedient and idolatrous Judah, Jeremiah prophetically did something logical. He called for ***the mourning women*** to be ready to do their job, because there would be a lot of ***mourning*** to do. These were the skillful, professional mourners, those women who were particularly adept at wailing.
- ***That our eyes may run with tears, And our eyelids gush with water.*** Even after much crying our eyes run out of tears, LORD, please give us more, that ***our eyelids*** may ***gush with water!***

Jer 9:19 For a voice of wailing is heard from Zion: 'How we are plundered! We are greatly ashamed, Because we have forsaken the land, Because we have been cast out of our dwellings.' Jer 9:20 Yet hear the word of the LORD, O women, And let your ear receive the word of His mouth; Teach your daughters wailing, And everyone her neighbor a lamentation.

- ***A voice of wailing is heard out of Zion,*** an echo returned by those who were moved by their ***wailings***. The voices of joy and praise used to be heard in Zion as the people kept closely to God. But sin has altered the note; it is now ***a lamentation***. The voice of those who fled to ***Zion*** for protection, instead of rejoicing

for its protection, lamented that they were forced to go there for shelter. **“How we are plundered!** How are we stripped of all our possessions! The unhumbled hearts lament their calamity, but not their iniquity, the procuring cause of it. There is more still to come which shall be for **a lamentation**. Things are bad, but they are likely to be worse.

Jer 9:21 For death has come through our windows, Has entered our palaces, To kill off the children—no longer to be outside! And the young men—no longer on the streets! Jer 9:22 Speak, “Thus says the LORD: ‘Even the carcasses of men shall fall as refuse on the open field, Like cuttings after the harvester, And no one shall gather them.’

- **The place is going to be left desolate.** It is going to be like a ghost city. Utter and complete desolation and destruction. Jeremiah thought of those slain by the invading Babylonians, and how their dead bodies lay in the fields of battle and destruction **like cuttings after the harvester**.
- **No one shall gather them:** This was a double disgrace. To the Hebrew mind death was bad; but the desecration of the dead body through failing to care for and bury the corpse was a kind of double death!

Jer 9:23 Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches;

- **Speaking on behalf of the LORD, Jeremiah described the things that men normally glory** (celebrate) in – **wisdom, might, riches**. The **wise** are going to be cut off and desolate. The **wisdom** of the world is foolishness with God. It’s not going to get you anything. No matter how strong you are you are not strong enough to overcome the enemy. Don’t go around boasting in your **might!** Your **riches** are going to be carted off by the Babylonians. So don’t **let the rich, glory** or boast **in his riches**.

Jer 9:24 But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,” says the LORD.

- **Here is the thing to glory in; that you know and you understand God.** That is the only thing that is going to keep you in the days to come. It is going to be tough, it is going to get worse. Things are rapidly going down, the prophet is saying. They are going to destroy and utterly devastate this place and neither your **wisdom, strength** or your **riches** will preserve you! You better put your trust in **the LORD!**
- **In the midst of the desolation, the LORD declares Himself as the God who exercises lovingkindness.** In order for justice to be fulfilled the unjust must be judged. It is His **lovingkindness, attached to His judgment and to His righteousness** towards the innocent, toward His children, that he brings the wicked into **judgment**. **He exercises these things in the earth. toward his children. (Rom 11:33) Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!**
- **How tender He is with His children!** How patient, how kind, that a person who takes a stand against God can delight in the display of His nature, His character; and when it is known and understood by humanity. It makes Him happy when people know Him as He really is.

Jer 9:25 “Behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD, “that I will punish all who are circumcised with the uncircumcised—

- **A day of judgment that is coming upon all.** Circumcision was a mark of the covenant that God made with Abraham that his seed would be a blessing to the whole earth and whoever would curse Abraham would be cursed of God, whoever would bless him would be blessed. The sign of the covenant was circumcision, indicating they were to be a people who lived and walked after the Spirit rather than after the flesh. The covenant people who were circumcised, the seed of Abraham, the judgment was going to come upon them as well as those who were uncircumcised. A Day of Judgment is coming upon the earth, the whole world is going to be judged by God.
- **God has made a new covenant with us.** Jesus said (Mat 26:28) *For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.* The sign of the New Covenant is communion. Communion service becomes the sign of God’s covenant with His church. We are His church. He is our **LORD**.

Jer 9:26 Egypt, Judah, Edom, the people of Ammon, Moab, and all who are in the farthest corners, who dwell in the wilderness. For all these nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised in the heart.”

- **Judah is going to be destroyed in that the seeds of destruction** have been planted and are now ready to bear fruit. Jeremiah sadly watches, weeps as he sees the things that are going on that will provoke the collapse of that society.

- **Although the society was down and almost out, our merciful God did not stop talking to them.** He still had His prophets warning them. The patience of God! He just won't let you go easily. It is tough, really tough to go to hell. You have to really work at it. You have to fight God every step of the way. He will put every kind of roadblock in your path. But if you are tough and stubborn and stupid you can make it. But then when you are there you can't say that God sent you there, He did everything to keep you from going there. Right up to the end God is faithful. Oh, the faithfulness of God! The lovingkindness of God! The goodness of God to us!
- ***I will punish all ... nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised in the heart.*** In the day of God's judgment, the religious ritual of circumcision will not matter. God will judge on the basis of those who truly understand and know Him, as reflected in their heart, in their life. The covenant people of God may have performed the ritual of circumcision, but they remained **uncircumcised in the heart!** Spiritually speaking they were just as the **uncircumcised** nations, such as **Egypt, Edom, Ammon and Moab.**

Idols and the Living God - We now come to the close of the message as Jeremiah lays his finger on the root of the problem in the nation. You are God's people. As God's people you are to be different from the world, from the heathen that are in the world.

Jer 10:1 Hear the word which the LORD speaks to you, O house of Israel. Jer 10:2 Thus says the LORD: "Do not learn the way of the Gentiles; Do not be dismayed at the signs of heaven, For the Gentiles are dismayed (much superstition) at them.

- **You are not to follow the corrupt, superstitious, practices of the Gentiles.** God said, (*1Jn 2:15*) *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.* Don't follow the heathen practices for they are dismayed at the signs of heaven. Probably this is a reference to the following of the zodiac and the horoscopes, or referring to unusual phenomenon like eclipses, comets, and meteors, which were supposed to portend extraordinary events." The LORD is saying to them, "Don't pay any attention like the heathen are *dismayed at the signs of heaven.*"

Jer 10:3 For the customs of the peoples are futile; For one cuts a tree from the forest, The work of the hands of the workman, with the ax. Jer 10:4 They decorate it with silver and gold; They fasten it with nails and hammers So that it will not topple. Jer 10:5 They are upright, like a palm tree, And they cannot speak; They must be carried, Because they cannot go by themselves. Do not be afraid of them, For they cannot do evil, Nor can they do any good."

- **You are not to follow the customs of the heathen who cut a tree out of the forest,** who carve it into the shape that represents that which is the master passion of their lives. The little goddess Ashteroth was a little idols that they made with exaggerated female idols and these were the little goddesses that they worshipped. It was an acknowledgment that I live for sex. They decked these little wooden idols with silver and gold. They covered them with **silver and gold** and then they have to fasten it with nails so it won't topple over. So, quite a god, if you don't fasten it down it might fall over on you! Then he speaks about that they have to be carried because they cannot go on their own. Also the little god that he makes, though he has eyes he cannot see, though he has ears he cannot hear, and though he has feet he cannot walk. He has to be carried!
- ***Upright like a palm tree, which can also be translated, "like a scarecrow in a cucumber field"***. They are just sticks, just designed to scare away the birds from the melon or cucumber patch. The thought is that they are just sticks, not really gods. There is no power in them to help you nor is there power in them to do evil. The idol is worthless; "It is like an immobile and speechless scarecrow in a patch of cucumbers.

Jer 10:6 Inasmuch as there is none like You, O LORD (You are great, and Your name is great in might), (Isa 44:6) "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God.

- **In contrast to false gods,** just scarecrows or sticks that are covered with gold, that had no power, totally unlike the true and the living God! Unlike Jehovah! ***There is none like You, O LORD (You are great, and Your name is great in might)!***

Jer 10:7 Who would not fear You, O King of the nations? For this is Your rightful due. For among all the wise men of the nations, And in all their kingdoms, There is none like You.

- **Now there is nothing to fear** in these little false gods but there is plenty to fear before the awesome God, the Creator. (*Psa 111:10*) *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have*

all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever. (**Pro 9:10**) "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

- **The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom**, the beginning of knowledge. God is alone! He stands alone! There is nothing that can be compared to God on the finite level. God is infinite and man is finite; thus, God is incomprehensible by man! The finite cannot grasp the infinite! Neither can there any comparisons be made with things that are finite with the infinite God! Our finite minds are not capable of grasping the infinite God because there isn't really anything that you can really compare from the finite realm with the infinite eternal God. Do we really fear the LORD?

Jer 10:8 But they are altogether dull-hearted (senseless) and foolish (stupid); A wooden idol is a worthless doctrine. (**Hab 2:18**) "What profit is the image, that its maker should carve it, The molded image, a teacher of lies, That the maker of its mold should trust in it, To make mute idols?"

- **These little sticks that have become idols are empty and worthless!** For certain, there is no knowledge and wisdom in them. What they teach is worthless doctrine. To worship the trunk of a tree, or any idol of metal, or of wood, is a most vain and *foolish* thing, proving them to be *dull-hearted* and stupid, without understanding.

Jer 10:9 Silver is beaten into plates; It is brought from Tarshish, And gold from Uphaz, The work of the craftsman And of the hands of the metalsmith; Blue (heaven) and purple (kings) are their clothing; They are all the work of skillful men.

- **They would take and melt the silver and they would melt the gold** and then they would pour it into molds for these little gods. And you could buy a *silver* god or a *gold* god. The same idea is that these little images that represented to the people those things which they worshipped or those things which mastered their lives. They are made by the hands of the founder. The inescapable contrast between the LORD and the idols of the nations is that they are the work of men's hands. He is the Creator of those very hands!

Jer 10:10 But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth will tremble, And the nations will not be able to endure His indignation. (**Joh 17:3**) And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only **true God**, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

(**1Jn 5:20**) And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the **true God** and eternal life.

(**Act 14:15b**) and saying, "that you should turn from these useless things to **the living God**, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them,

(**Heb 3:12**) Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from **the living God**;

(**Zep 3:8**) "Therefore wait for Me," says the LORD, "Until the day I rise up for plunder; My determination is to gather the nations To My assembly of kingdoms, To pour on them My **indignation**, All My fierce anger; All the earth shall be devoured With the fire of My jealousy.

Jer 10:11 Thus you shall say to them: "The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under these heavens."

- **Thus shall you shall say to them.** The godly Jews to the idolatrous Chaldeans; and therefore this verse alone is written in the Chaldee language. These gods that you are worshipping, they are going to perish. These things in which you are putting so much stock and so much value, they are going to perish. Jesus said, (**Mat 6:19**) "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; The eternal value of things and that is what we need to be looking at. But our minds are so caught up with the temporary values and we neglect so often the eternal.

Jer 10:12 He has made the earth by His power, He has established the world by His wisdom, And has stretched out the heavens at His discretion.

- **He has made the earth by His power** created the universe by His *power*. The heavens declare the glory of God. But then **He established the world** and fit the earth as a dwelling place for man **by His wisdom**. And so, the *wisdom* of God is manifested in the life forms that we see on the planet earth. And such wisdom! As we look at all of the various life forms we are amazed at the *wisdom* of God in the forming of the earth for man's habitation.
- **And has stretched out the heavens at His discretion.** Looking into the heavens we see the laws of physics in operation in the orderly orbit of the stars and the planets and the comets. Think of all of these gigantic bodies racing through space at thousands of miles per hour. Huge bodies moving at these fantastic speeds (the earth is moving at 67,000 mph!) but they are all governed by the laws of physics, so you don't have gigantic super colossal collisions going on in the universe. There are those that say, "Yes, all of that law

and all of that order came out of a mass bang.” That is like saying that this Bible resulted from an explosion in a print factory. All of the letters just happened to fall!

Jer 10:13 When He utters His voice, There is a multitude of waters in the heavens: "And He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth (1.5 trillion tons of rain fall each day!) He makes lightning for the rain, He brings the wind out of His treasuries."

- **This is a beautiful description of the rain cycle.** He gathers the waters into the heavens, the multitudes of waters and He causes the vapors to descend from the ends of the earth. How that the sun on ocean draws up the moisture into the atmosphere then He sends His winds to move the clouds to bring the rain over the land. What beautiful laws of God and wisdom of God! In His wisdom He formed it.
- **We can easily look at one example after another and see the wisdom of God** in nature all around us. That is why the Scripture says, (*Psa 14:1a*) *The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."* That is why Jeremiah says the same thing. They are stupid and foolish who deny God!

Jer 10:14 Everyone is dull-hearted, without knowledge; Every metalsmith is put to shame by an image; For his molded image is falsehood, And there is no breath in them.

- **Those who make them are put to shame by them.** For his molten image, this little god which he has made; the god that you worship and serve is a falsehood. *There is no breath in them.* Can't you see there is no life in them?

Jer 10:15 They are futile, a work of errors; In the time of their punishment they shall

perish. Jer 10:16 The Portion of Jacob is not like them, For He is the Maker of all things, And Israel is the tribe of His inheritance; The LORD of hosts is His name. (Psa 73:26) My flesh and my heart fail; But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. (Psa 119:57) You are my portion, O LORD; I have said that I would keep Your words.

- **The Portion of Jacob** (whom God has chosen and redeemed) *is not like them:* The idea is that in some sense, *The LORD belonged* to the people of Israel. "A man's 'portion' referred to some possession that belonged to him. *The LORD of hosts* is different than the idols worshipped among the Gentiles. God has made all things. You cannot make God, but *He the Maker of all things.* He has chosen Israel as **the tribe of His inheritance**, and He is the God of heavenly armies, *The LORD of hosts is His name!*

Jer 10:17 Gather up your wares from the land, O inhabitant of the fortress!

- **Repeating his main theme, Jeremiah prophetically saw the invading army** of the Babylonians, coming as an instrument of God's judgment. Their trust in these idols, their trust in their religious ordinances is not going to save them from the destruction that is coming by the judgment of God upon this nation who is lacking ethics and morals and a true understanding of God.

Jer 10:18 For thus says the LORD: "Behold, I will throw out at this time The inhabitants of the land, And will distress them, That they may find it so."

- You are there in the fortress. You think that within that walled city you will find safety, but the LORD says, like a slingshot, I will throw out the inhabitants. And it happened! Following Nebuchadnezzar's second invasion in 587 B.C. destruction was widespread. Many towns were destroyed at the beginning of the sixth century B.C. and never again occupied. There is no known case of a town in Judah proper which was continuously occupied through the exilic period.

Jer 10:19 Woe is me for my hurt! My wound is severe. But I say, "Truly this is an infirmity, And I must bear it."

- **It was indeed grievous to Jeremiah to see the nation moving towards this time of judgment.** Jeremiah prayed in the voice of someone enduring the Babylonian invasion to come. The prayer is filled with pain and distress. What compassion! When we speak of the judgment of God we should never speak of it with a smacking of the lips and say, you so deserve it and you're going to get it! It is only declaring the truth, but it is a grievous truth. God will judge in righteousness.

Jer 10:20 My tent is plundered, And all my cords are broken; My children have gone from me, And they are no more. There is no one to pitch my tent anymore, Or set up my curtains. Jer 10:21 For the shepherds have become dull-hearted, And have not sought the LORD; Therefore they shall not prosper, And all their flocks shall be scattered.

- **My tent is plundered...cords are broken...children have gone from me!** Jeremiah captures the despair, shock, and loneliness of those who would endure the severe season of judgment. The tent is spoiled. The chords that hold the tent up are all broken. I am desolate.

- ***For the shepherds have become dull-hearted and have not sought the LORD:*** In thinking of the despair of Judah under the Babylonian invasion, Jeremiah also considered a significant part of the cause. The leaders of Judah – both spiritual and political – did not seek ***the LORD***.
- ***Therefore, they shall not prosper, and their flocks shall be scattered:*** The unfaithfulness of the shepherd meant trouble for them, and for their flocks they were supposed to faithfully lead. No one would benefit from their ***dull-hearted***, detached from the LORD leadership.

Jer 10:22 Behold, the noise of the report has come, And a great commotion out of the north country, To make the cities of Judah desolate, a den of jackals.

- ***Jackals*** – Jeremiah uses this term six times; Isaiah uses it five times, to describe the utter desolation from God's judgment, using Assyria and Babylon, as His instruments in bringing destruction and desolation to Israel and to Judah!

Jer 10:23 O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps. (Pro 20:24) A man's steps are of the LORD; How then can a man understand his own way? (Psa 119: 133) Direct my steps by Your word, And let no iniquity have dominion over me.

- ***God, I know that You are sovereign*** and over all of us! We think many times that we are directing our own way and independent. But in reality, God rules and God reigns, it is not really in man to direct his path. Do we fully understand and practice this?

Jer 10:24 O LORD, correct me, but with justice; Not in Your anger, lest You bring me to nothing.

- ***Jeremiah, knowing that the great judgment to come was directed by God***, appealed to Him for mercy. He knew that Judah must be corrected but asked for God to show mercy and to not destroy His people. This is a good prayer for all of us to echo. LORD, please correct me. I want to walk in a way that is pleasing to You. O LORD when You correct me, don't do it in judgment or according to what I deserve! Mercy, LORD, mercy! Please correct me but not in Your ***judgment*** and ***not in Your anger!*** If God would correct me in His ***anger*** I would be reduced to nothing.

Jer 10:25 Pour out Your fury on the Gentiles, who do not know You, And on the families who do not call on Your name; For they have eaten up Jacob, Devoured him and consumed him, And made his dwelling place desolate. (Luk 23:34a) Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." (Mat 23:29) "Woe to you (9x), scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, (Mat 23:33) Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell?

- ***He is asking for God's judgment to come against the Babylonians*** because of the destruction that they are going to bring to God's people. But Lord, for Your people, in love and mercy, correct us!
- ***We are thankful, Father that You have written all of these things as examples that we might learn from them. (1Co 10:11) Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.***
-

Closing Prayer