

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY! NOTES FOR THIS WEEK: 1/18-19/2020
THIS WEEK'S STUDY: *Jeremiah Chapters 13-14*

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

OPENING PRAYER – Introduction

Humbly and gratefully thanking the LORD for all He has done for us!

“O praise the name of the Lord our God O praise His name forevermore

For endless days we will sing Your praise Oh Lord, oh Lord our God”!

O Praise The Name (*Anástasis - Resurrection*) Hillsong

I cast my mind to Calvary Where Jesus bled and died for me

I see His wounds, His hands, His feet My Saviour on that cursed tree

His body bound and drenched in tears They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb

The entrance sealed by heavy stone Messiah still and all alone

(Refrain) O praise the name of the Lord our God O praise His name forevermore

For endless days we will sing Your praise Oh Lord, oh Lord our God

*And then on the third at break of dawn The Son of heaven rose again
O trampled death where is your sting? The angels roar for Christ the King (Refrain)*

*He shall return in robes of white The blazing sun shall pierce the night
And I will rise among the saints My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face (Refrain)*

Oh Lord, oh Lord our God, Oh Lord, oh Lord our God!

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: Jeremiah 13-14 – Symbol of the Linen Sash (Great Object study!); Symbol of the Wine Bottles; Pride Precedes Captivity – Chap 14 – Sword Famine and Pestilence; The People Plead for Mercy – “Therefore we will wait for You”

Jer 13:1 Thus the LORD said to me: "Go and get yourself a linen sash (belt, loincloth), and put it around your waist, but do not put it in water." Jer 13:2 So I got a sash according to the word of the LORD, and put it around my waist.

- ***The linen sash!*** Jesus often used parables in teaching to illustrate a point with a story, which is an excellent way of teaching. Telling a story that gets the point across. In the Old Testament the prophets used parables, but they also used actual experiences to illustrate truth to get people's attention. They caused the people to wonder what he is doing, what is going on? Then they make their point. In chapter 13 is one of these cases where the LORD is directing Jeremiah to rather odd kind of behavior. Through it all God is going to speak His message to the nation. When the point comes across it will be very powerful.
- ***Thus, the LORD said to me.*** Observe how many times Jeremiah says, “Thus the LORD said to me.” (148 times in Jeremiah, more than in any other book)! How do you suppose the LORD spoke to Jeremiah? Did God speak audibly to him? It seems that is was very clear, thus the LORD said to me. In a few chapters and we will get some insight from Jeremiah himself just how the LORD spoke to him.
- ***Put it around your waist, but do not put it in water."*** The linen was a priestly garment, and he was not to wash it. He got this sash according to the word of the LORD and put it on his loins. Now the idea was to wear it in Jerusalem until the people came accustom to seeing it. It probably was very colorful and usually they were because they used them to accent the colors in the sash to accent everything. Like women wear scarves to accent colors they wore these sashes to accent. This was to draw attention to the sash that he was wearing until everybody noticed it. But they noticed that it was getting dirtier all the time. He was not washing it. So, this sash was becoming progressively dirty.

Jer 13:3 And the word of the LORD came to me the second time, saying, Jer 13:4 "Take the sash that you acquired, which is around your waist, and arise, go to the Euphrates, and hide it there in a hole in the rock."

- ***Arise, go to the Euphrates, and hide it there in a hole in the rock:*** God commanded Jeremiah to make long journey, all the way north (and somewhat east) to the *Euphrates* River. This was in the direction from which the future conquerors of Judah would come. Once there, he was to bury the sash, presumably by the river.

Jer 13:5 So I went and hid it by the Euphrates, as the LORD commanded me. Jer 13:6 Now it came to pass after many days that the LORD said to me, "Arise, go to the Euphrates, and take from there the sash which I commanded you to hide there." Jer 13:7 Then I went to the Euphrates and dug, and I took the sash from the place where I had hidden it; and there was the sash, ruined. It was profitable for nothing.

- ***As you can imagine, if you take a linen sash and put it under a rock*** and go back later and get the thing, the bugs have eaten holes in it and the thing is just good for nothing as he said. Now God says, "Put it on and wear it back to the streets again and preach to the people." Now they saw him when he first had this beautiful linen sash. "Oh wow, look at that." One to draw attention. But now as he wears the thing again, "Yuck, what's he wearing the holey, filthy thing for?" But this was an illustrated sermon.

Jer 13:8 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, Jer 13:9 "Thus says the LORD: In this manner I will ruin the pride of Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem.

- ***In this manner I will ruin the pride of Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem:*** The noble sash was taken to the Euphrates and ruined. So also, would Judah and Jerusalem be taken to the Euphrates (and beyond) in their coming captivity, and thus God would *ruin the pride* of His people.
- **He came back to Jerusalem with this old, rotted sash, marred, ugly.** And he began to wear it again. As he wore it throughout the streets and said, "Yuck, where did he get that thing, that rotted old sash?" And so, he was to preach to the people. It came a very **powerful illustrated message demonstrating how the LORD looked on the pride of Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem and how the LORD would likewise ruin the pride of the people!**

Jer 13:10 This evil people, who refuse to hear My words, who follow the dictates of their hearts, and walk after other gods to serve them and worship them, shall be just like this sash which is profitable for nothing.

- ***Shall be just like this sash which is profitable for nothing:*** At one time God had great use for His people Israel in the world, but **they had so rejected God that at that point, they were profitable for nothing.** This was through their three main sins. - ***Who refuse to hear My words:*** The people of God had become hard and cold towards the word of God to them? ***Who follow the dictates of their hearts:*** The people of God instead trusted in their own *hearts*, and looked to self instead of the LORD? ***And walk after other gods to serve them:*** When they stopped listening to God and started following their own hearts, it led them to the corruption of idolatry.

Jer 13:11 For as the sash clings to the waist of a man, so I have caused the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah to cling to Me,' says the LORD, 'that they may become My people, for renown, for praise, and for glory; but they would not hear.'

- **Once the whole nation had been bound up in God.** They were cleaving to the LORD. There was that beautiful relationship between these people and God. Just like a sash is bound tight around you, it is close to you, it is cleaving to you, so this nation once was close to God, bound up in the things of God.
- **As a child of God, God desires to just glory in you.** Just like we glory in our children and in our grandchildren. God wants to just glory in you and to receive glory and praise from you. The glory that comes from your praise. And Israel was once that. They were God's people. They were named, ***Israel:*** governed by God. They were associated in the minds of the nations as the people of Jehovah or Yahweh. They were a praise unto God and a glory unto God. But they would not listen, the whole problem, they would not listen.
- ***As the sash clings to the waist of a man, so I have caused the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah to cling to Me:*** Just as a fine sash expressed beauty and nobility, so God wanted His people to be ornaments of His greatness to all the world. If they would ***cling to*** Him, they would be ***My people, for renown, for praise, and for glory.***
- ***But they would not hear:*** Because of their stubborn and persistent sins against the LORD, Judah did not fulfill the noble and beautiful destiny God planned for them. They became useless and ruined like the buried sash. What was true for ancient **Judah is true among God's people today. God's plan is to make His people a noble ornament, a decoration of His own presence and work. If we reject this noble calling, we become useless for His highest and best purpose – and our own.**

The Jars Filled with Wine

Jer 13:12 "Therefore you shall speak to them this word: 'Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Every bottle shall be filled with wine.' ' "And they will say to you, 'Do we not certainly know that every bottle will be filled with wine?' Jer 13:13 "Then you shall say to them, 'Thus says the LORD: "Behold, I will fill all the inhabitants of this land—even the kings who sit on David's throne, the priests, the prophets, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem—with drunkenness!

- **He said that every bottle is going to be filled with wine.** They said, "***Don't we certainly know that every jar is going to be filled with wine?***" Every child knows this; what else are bottles made for? is this the errand thou art sent on by the Lord? and is this all the knowledge and information that we are to have by thy prophesying? or what dost thou mean by telling us that which we and everybody know?
- **But he then said that it is the wine of the wrath of God's judgment against the people. He was talking about a different type of wine.** The wine of the fierceness of the wrath of God that is going to come upon the nation. And the father standing by their sons in battle will fall together as well as the kings

that are sitting upon David's throne, the priests, the prophets, all of the inhabitants of Jerusalem with drunkenness as they are dashed one against the other even as the father and the sons together. There will be no pity, nor sparing, nor mercy but they are to be destroyed. They will not hear God. God said that He will not hear them when they call.

Jer 13:14 And I will dash them one against another, even the fathers and the sons together," says the LORD. "I will not pity nor spare nor have mercy, but will destroy them." ' ' "

Pride Precedes Captivity - Jer 13:15 Hear and give ear: Do not be proud, For the LORD has spoken.

- **God's abiding and unchanging word.** He has spoken. Get your pride out of the way! Pride is always the cause of sin! **Listen to this! And then the command.**
- ***Do not be proud, for the LORD has spoken:*** Every time God speaks to us, we have the choice to respond in pride or humility. We have the choice to reject or resist the word of the LORD, or to humble ourselves before His authority. God warned Judah to take the humble path.

Jer 13:16 Give glory to the LORD your God Before He causes darkness, And before your feet stumble On the dark mountains, And while you are looking (hope) for light , He turns it into the shadow of death And makes it dense darkness.

- ***Give glory to the LORD your God before He causes darkness:*** The promised judgment was not far away. There was urgency for Judah to turn to the LORD *before* the *darkness* came, *before your feet stumble*. In rejecting God they would become like mountain travelers trying to make their way through dangerous paths *in dense darkness*.
- ***Even though they had gone so far there was still God holding out His hand.*** There are five verses in Isaiah that say *His arm is stretched out still*. And God continued to hold out His hand, **calling on them to hear, calling on them to turn, calling on them to repent**. Get right with God. Become what God wants you to be. God wanted you to be for His glory. Give glory to God before this darkness just envelopes the whole land. Before you are engulfed in this darkness, before it is too late and this darkness just overcomes and overwhelms.

Jer 13:17 But if you will not hear it, My soul will weep in secret for your pride; My eyes will weep bitterly And run down with tears, Because the LORD's flock has been taken captive.

Jer 13:18 Say to the king and to the queen mother, "Humble yourselves; Sit down, For your rule shall collapse, the crown of your glory."

- ***The prophet is saying, hear and give ear and don't be proud*** for God has spoken to you.
- Here is another reference to Jeremiah as the weeping prophet. The reason why is that he is constantly referring to his tears. And If you will not hear God than **my soul is going to weep for you in the secret places because of your pride and my eye will weep sore and run down with tears because the LORD'S flock is carried away captive. Jeremiah, weeping over the people.** Weeping over their blindness, weeping over their spiritual dullness, weeping over really the tragedy that is going to befall them because they will not hear.
- **I wonder if Jesus is not weeping today as He looks at this world with its blindness, with its deafness.** And knowing the Great Tribulation that is going to come, this holocaust of such magnitude and is described in *Rev 6-18*. **I wonder if the Lord is not weeping now as He sees the calamities that is going to befall mankind because they are blind to the things of God. They will not listen to the voice of God today.**
- **Humble yourself before God because this whole things is going to go to pieces.**

Jer 13:19 The cities of the South shall be shut up, And no one shall open them; Judah shall be carried away captive, all of it; It shall be wholly carried away captive. Jer 13:20 Lift up your eyes and see Those who come from the north. Where is the flock that was given to you, Your beautiful sheep? Jer 13:21 What will you say when He punishes you? For you have taught them To be chieftains, to be head over you. Will not pangs seize you, Like a woman in labor? Jer 13:22 And if you say in your heart, "Why have these things come upon me?" For the greatness of your iniquity Your skirts have been uncovered, Your heels made bare. Jer 13:23 Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil.

- ***They would be carried away captive.*** We say carried away and you think they are putting them in chariots. But they would be led away captive, that would be more accurate. And here they would be barefooted. Now the prophet got after the young girls in Jerusalem because they minced around with little bells on their

feet and it was one of the fad things of those days. There was just a lot of haughtiness and proudness. The LORD says, "You are going to be walking away from here barefooted."

- **No, a man cannot change his nature. Only God can change a man's nature by the Holy Spirit.** A leopard can't change his spots. You are what you are by nature. And if you have not received Jesus Christ, you're a sinner by nature. You can't be righteous even though you try. It's impossible. You need a new nature. You need a change of nature. You can't do it apart from the power and the work of the Holy Spirit in giving you a new nature. But God! that's what He does. He gives me a whole new nature. A nature that is after Him. So God speaks about the fact that a man is what he is by nature. He cannot change except by God's power.
- **So here they are in their pride and arrogance going on in their rebellion against God** and the LORD is calling for them to humble themselves because this whole system that they were relying in was going to crumble. This beautiful flock, the flock of God was going to be carried away captive. They are coming from the north.
- **That person that is accustomed to doing evil cannot change anymore than an Ethiopian can change** the color of his skin or the leopard can change his spots. What you are, you are. There are a lot of people that are trying to change their lives. There is only one thing that can change you. That is the changing power of Jesus Christ. It takes being born again. You have to come to that place where you reckon that old life to be dead. That evil life of the flesh is dead, buried. A new life now in Christ Jesus.

Jer 13:24 "Therefore I will scatter them like stubble That passes away by the wind of the wilderness.

- ***I will scatter them like stubble:*** Judah would not be conquered and exiled, but scattered across the Babylonian Empire and succeeding empires. This was their **lot**, the **portion of your measures** from the LORD.
- **Because you have forgotten Me and trusted in falsehood:** Even in this severe warning, God gave His people a roadmap back to His favor and blessing. Where they had **forgotten** God they must remember Him again, and where they had **trusted in the falsehood** of self and idols, they must turn away from them.

Jer 13:25 This is your lot, The portion of your measures from Me," says the LORD, "Because you have forgotten Me And trusted in falsehood.

- **Forgetting God and putting your trust in lies.**

Jer 13:26 Therefore I will uncover your skirts over your face, That your shame may appear.

- **The enemy armies would strip the people** of their clothing and make them walk naked just for their shame. It was a horrible. It was a dehumanizing thing. It was designed to be a very denigrating kind of a thing.

Jer 13:27 I have seen your adulteries And your lustful neighing's, The lewdness of your harlotry, Your abominations on the hills in the fields. Woe to you, O Jerusalem! Will you still not be made clean?"

- **They had made these altars unto these gods and goddesses and they worshipped them** in these extremely lewd and lascivious sexual rituals. Here again, God is saying, "Won't you be clean as you once were. The sash is rotten, but won't you be clean? And really that is the question that God is asking still today for those who are in sin, those whose life have been marred by sin. Like the sash, ruined, good for nothing. God said, "Don't you want to be clean." Even now the Lord will cleanse and wash
- **What a glorious offer that God has made unto man!** The washing away and the cleansing of all of the filth of the past life. Making you clean again, making you pure again. ***Will you still not be made clean?"*** The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses the man from all sin. ***Will you still not be made clean?"*** Tragically they would not hear. Tragically they were carried or taken away in shame, led away to Babylon. Because they would not listen.

Famine, Sword, and Pestilence

Jer 14:1 The word of the LORD that came to Jeremiah concerning the droughts.

- **Here, the nation is in its final plunge towards death and at this present time they are experiencing an extremely severe droughts** where the ground has become as hard as brass or iron. The rain is not moisture, but it is dust. It rains down upon them now as the wind carries dust but no moisture. There is no crops, the trees are perishing because of the lack of water. The wells and the cisterns have gone dry. For droughts filled the land.

Jer 14:2 "Judah mourns, And her gates languish; They mourn for the land, And the cry of Jerusalem has gone up.

- The message that God gave to Jeremiah concerning the drought. And then he prays:

Jer 14:3 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. Jer 14:4 Because the ground is parched, For there was no rain in the land, The plowmen were ashamed; They covered their heads.

- **Speaking of this drought, book of Habakkuk was written** just about the same time of Jeremiah. And Habakkuk makes mention of the conditions that were existing at that time. It was a time of tremendous kind of national disaster, this prolonged drought.

Jer 14:5 Yes, the deer also gave birth in the field, But left because there was no grass.

- It was proverbial among them, the way that the mother deer took care of the little fawn. And how the fawn would follow the mother and the care that she had for them. But even the drought is so bad that the hind would forsake the little fawn that was born.

Jer 14:6 And the wild donkeys stood in the desolate heights; They sniffed at the wind like jackals; Their eyes failed because there was no grass."

- **Their nostrils becoming enlarged like dragons** as they were sniffing the wind trying to smell and catch a smell of water somewhere.
- **It was effecting not only all the people, but the wild animals as well.** It is so severe that Jeremiah prays to the LORD. In his prayer he acknowledges their iniquities.

Jer 14:7 O LORD, though our iniquities testify against us, Do it for Your name's sake; For our backslidings are many, We have sinned against You

- Do it for Your name's sake is sort of, "send rain LORD." Not for our sakes, our iniquities testify against us, but LORD for Your name's sake, send some rain. In the prayer of Jeremiah the opening acknowledgment of our sin and our guilt and thus we do deserve this but LORD, for Your name sake. Some relieve?

Jer 14:8 O the Hope of Israel, his Savior in time of trouble, Why should You be like a stranger in the land, And like a traveler who turns aside to tarry for a night?

- Jeremiah continues to intercede though God told him not to.

Jer 14:9 Why should You be like a man astonished, Like a mighty one who cannot save? Yet You, O LORD, are in our midst, And we are called by Your name; Do not leave us!

- Jeremiah is interceding, not on the basis of their deserving, not on the basis of their righteousness but he is actually pleading for the mercy of God at this point for the people. And the LORD responded to the prayer of Jeremiah.

Jer 14:10 Thus says the LORD to this people: "Thus they have loved to wander; They have not restrained their feet. Therefore the LORD does not accept them; He will remember their iniquity now, And punish their sins."

- **Here is Jeremiah seeing the suffering and the hardships that are caused by this prolonged drought,** his heart is moved for the people, he prays that God might intervene, and that God might send the rains and break the drought and bring grass to the fields again and he is asking God for this relieve, but God answers him and says that He just does not accept these people anymore, He has turned His back and He is going to visit them for their sins, just Jeremiah, don't pray for this people for their good.

Jer 14:11 Then the LORD said to me, "Do not pray for this people, for their good.

Jer 14:12 When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and grain offering, I will not accept them. But I will consume them by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence."

- **There comes a time when the grace of God and mercy of God has been spurned** to such a degree that God no longer will deal with an individual or with a nation. They had gone beyond the limit. Throughout their history God had been so merciful. Throughout their history God had responded to their cries. Their history was one of constant turning away from God until calamity came and then turning back to God. And they God would deliver them from their calamity, and they would become prosperous as they would serve the LORD again and then they would in their prosperity turn away from God. As they turned away from God, God would turn away from them. They would cry out unto the LORD and the LORD would forgive them and begin to bless them again as they sought the LORD. **It was continual through their history.**
- **Now it is too much. They have done it too often.** They have gone too deep into the sin. They are beyond the point of God's grace or mercy. It is a terrible place to be. In the time of Noah God said, "My

Spirit will not always strive with man.” There can come a time in a person’s life, in a nation’s life where God no longer strives, He says, “Okay, that is it.” And God gives them over to their sin and to their reprobate minds.

- **Such was the case now of Israel. They had gone too far!** So God said, “When they fast and cry, I am not going to listen. When they offer their burnt offerings, I will not accept them. But I am going to consume them by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence.” They were presently being consumed by the famine and the pestilence that was in the land. Jeremiah is in a dialogue with God here.

Lying Prophets

Jer 14:13 Then I said, 'Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, the prophets say to them, 'You shall not see the sword, nor shall you have famine, but I will give you assured peace in this place.'

- **Jeremiah is trying to argue the fact that these people are being deceived by these false prophets who are promising peace and prosperity.**

Jer 14:14 And the LORD said to me, "The prophets prophesy lies in My name. I have not sent them, commanded them, nor spoken to them; they prophesy to you a false vision, divination, a worthless thing, and the deceit of their heart.

- **Prophesying in the name of the LORD but deceit out of their own hearts.**

Jer 14:15 Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the prophets who prophesy in My name, whom I did not send, and who say, 'Sword and famine shall not be in this land'—'By sword and famine those prophets shall be consumed!

- **They all will be slain together.** Their bodies will be there and no one to bury them.

Jer 14:16 And the people to whom they prophesy shall be cast out in the streets of Jerusalem because of the famine and the sword; they will have no one to bury them—they nor their wives, their sons nor their daughters—for I will pour their wickedness on them.

- **People are dying and there's really no one.** They just put the body out in the street, and they sweep them up like dust in the morning. Tragic. Person dies; you don't have enough strength. You just put the body out in the street and let someone else carry it off. We're all responsible for our part!

Jer 14:17 "Therefore you shall say this word to them: 'Let my eyes flow with tears night and day, And let them not cease; For the virgin daughter of my people Has been broken with a mighty stroke, with a very severe blow. Jer 14:18 If I go out to the field, Then behold, those slain with the sword! And if I enter the city, Then behold, those sick from famine! Yes, both prophet and priest go about in a land they do not know.' "

- **Many times God is misrepresented, and we get a false idea of God and sometimes the servants of God.** And when you read the words that Jeremiah had to say, they were tough words, **but remember, He is weeping.** He is not relishing this, he is weeping. All the way through the prophecies Jeremiah is speaking about his **weeping continually over the condition of the people, over the judgments of God that were coming upon them and those judgments that were yet to come. And it just broke Jeremiah up.** And thus, they are not thunderous proclamations but they are proclamations that are made through sobs and tears.
- **Consider Jesus as He was looking over the city of Jerusalem** and realized the destruction that was going to come because they failed to receive their Messiah and He was weeping as He said, (*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!*
- **Those who were outside of the city were to be killed by the invading army.** Those that had sought refuge within the city are dying of famine and starvation. It is just a miserable plight.

Jer 14:19 Have You utterly rejected Judah? Has Your soul loathed Zion? Why have You stricken us so that there is no healing for us? We looked for peace, but there was no good; And for the time of healing, and there was trouble. Jer 14:20 We acknowledge, O LORD, our wickedness And the iniquity of our fathers, For we have sinned against You.

- **Jeremiah is getting back to his prayer.** He is still dealing with God over these issues, intercession for them. They are not trying to justify themselves but **just casting themselves upon the mercies of God.** And his prayer:
- **Have you utterly rejected Judah? does your soul loathe Zion?** why have you smitten us, and there is no healing for us? we looked for peace, and there is no good; and for the time of healing and behold there is

trouble! We acknowledge, O LORD, our wickedness, and the iniquity of our fathers: for we have sinned against thee. Do not abhor us, for thy name's sake, do not disgrace the throne of thy glory: remember, break not thy covenant with us. Are there any among the vanities of the Gentiles that can cause rain? (Jer 14:19-22)

- **Here's this great drought. People are dropping like flies.** They're dying all over the place because of the famine and all. Are there any of these vanities of the Gentiles or the gods that the Gentiles worship, the pagan gods, that can cause rain?

Jer 14:21 Do not abhor us, for Your name's sake; Do not disgrace the throne of Your glory. Remember, do not break Your covenant with us.

- **Again, appealing to the name of God.** God in times past had said, "I am not doing this because you deserve this but for My name's sake! God had said that several times in history. When God was doing something good for them He said, "Not because you really deserve it, I am doing this for My name's sake. It is because of My mercy and for My name's sake." But now he is appealing to God on the basis of that, but they had gone too far! He is again, though, appealing for Thy name's sake.
- **Do not abhor us, for Your name's sake; do not disgrace the throne of Your glory:** Seeing nothing good in *them* upon which to appeal to God, Jeremiah prayed with a different approach. He asked on the basis of God's name, on the basis of God's rule and authority (**the throne of Your glory**), and on the basis of His **covenant** with them.

Jer 14:22 Are there any among the idols of the nations that can cause rain? Or can the heavens give showers? Are You not He, O LORD our God? Therefore we will wait for You, Since You have made all these.

- **Are there any among the idols that can cause rain?** The chapter began with concern over the droughts. Now Jeremiah hopefully speaks for a repentant people who recognize that Baal or any of the other **idols** are powerless to **cause rain**. Not even nature separated from God can do it (**can the heavens give showers?**). The judgment of God, severe as it was, separated them from the idolatry and reliance upon the gods of the nations or nature to **cause rain**.
- **LORD, only You can bring rain.** None of the rain dances of the false gods can produce rain. None of the gods of the heathen can control weather. LORD, that is in Your hands. Again, just appealing to God for the need of the people.
- **Therefore, we will wait for You:** The humbled, surrendered, and submitted heart simply looks to God in patient reliance. The severe work of God's strong correction upon His people has performed a merciful work. (**Hab 2:3-4**) *For the vision is yet for an appointed time; But at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; Because it will surely come, It will not tarry. [4] "Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his faith.*
- **The Great Message for us of Habakkuk Rejoicing in the Lord - (Hab 3:17-19) Though the fig tree may not blossom, Nor fruit be on the vines; Though the labor of the olive may fail, And the fields yield no food; Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, And there be no herd in the stalls— [18] Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation! (I will jump up and spin around!) [19] The LORD God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer's feet, And He will make me walk on my high hills.**

Closing Prayer