

**PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!**  
**NOTES FOR THIS WEEK: 2/8-9/2021**  
**THIS WEEK'S STUDY: *Jeremiah Chapters 19-20***

**MONDAY 7 PM 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**

Join Zoom Meeting -

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

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**TUESDAY 7 AM 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**

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## **OPENING PRAYER – Introduction Jeremiah Chapters 19 & 20**

*The Sign of the Open Flask (vs. 1-15); The Word of God to Pashhur (vs. 1-6); Jeremiah's Ministry (vs. 7-18)*

In these two chapters, we have a significant shift in Jeremiah: Babylon is introduced for the first time in this Book; Jeremiah is physically attacked (beaten and imprisoned) for the first time. We see again his commiseration of his difficult condition, probably more heightened than ever before. We have tremendous insight just what Jeremiah is going through in being faithful in his ministry!

We have a great example of tremendous mood changes, which may be most encouraging to most of us. Going from resolution of a problem with the LORD to a great high; then followed by the lowest low!

*Luk 6:22 Blessed are you when men hate you, And when they exclude you, And revile you, and cast out your name as evil, For the Son of Man's sake*

*Luk 21:17 And you will be hated by all for My name's sake.*

*Joh 17:14 I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.*

*LIKE A RIVER GLORIOUS! Frances Havergal (1836-79) - (2:05)*

*Like a river glorious is God's perfect peace. Over all victorious in its bright increase Perfect, yet it floweth fuller every day. Perfect, yet it groweth deeper all the way*

*Refrain: Stayed upon Jehovah, hearts are fully blest. Finding as He promised, Perfect peace and rest (2x)*

## **THIS WEEK'S STUDY:**

*The Sin of Judah - The Broken Flask*

*Jer 19:1 Thus says the LORD: "Go and get a potter's earthen flask, and take some of the elders of the people and some of the elders of the priests.*

*Jer 19:2 And go out to the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, which is by the entry of the Potsherd Gate; and proclaim there the words that I will tell you,*

- **Jeremiah is to go to the potter's house**, get a *flask* and gather together some of the rulers of the people and to take them down to the valley of Hinnom, on the southern side of Jerusalem. It is also known as Gehenna, the place where in their worship of Baal and Molech, they built the fires and offered their babies as sacrifices, throwing them into the fire or into the arms of little Baal and they would burn them as they would sacrifice to this god. Jeremiah was to give them the message that God would tell him.

*Jer 19:3 and say, 'Hear the word of the LORD, O kings of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem. Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: "Behold, I will bring such a catastrophe on this place, that whoever hears of it, his ears will tingle.*

- **I am going to bring such evil on this place that you are not going to believe it.** As before, God promised great destruction and *catastrophe* to come upon this place associated with idolatry and child sacrifice.

***Jer 19:4 "Because they have forsaken Me and made this an alien place, because they have burned incense in it to other gods whom neither they, their fathers, nor the kings of Judah have known, and have filled this place with the blood of the innocents***

- ***Because they have forsaken Me and made this an alien place:*** The idea of human sacrifice – rare or common – was so offensive to God, He called the place where it was practiced ***an alien place!*** Judah's rebellion led them far, far from the LORD
- ***They have filled this place with the blood of innocents:*** The little children, the innocent little babies had been destroyed in that valley of Hinnom.

***Jer 19:5 (they have also built the high places of Baal, to burn their sons with fire for burnt offerings to Baal, which I did not command or speak, nor did it come into My mind),***

- ***To burn their sons with fire for burnt offerings to Baal!*** It was unthinkable! The things that they were doing were unthinkable. Taking innocent babies and destroying them. There is not much difference in destroying them once they have come out of the womb and destroying them in the womb. The same idea. The innocent being destroyed. Presently, look how people get out and parade and scream, "Free choice!" Really they are saying, "We want the right to choose to murder. It is our right to choose to murder an innocent baby." Child sacrifice was associated with a Canaanite deity known as Molech (*Lev 20:2-5, Jer 32:35*). On some occasions, such ***offerings*** were also made to ***Baal***.
- ***Which I did not command or speak, nor did it come into My mind:*** Unlike many of the Canaanite deities, God never commanded human sacrifice! God could say that it never did ***come into His mind*** to ask such a thing; it totally went against His nature.

***Jer 19:6 therefore behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "that this place shall no more be called Tophet or the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter.***

***Jer 19:7 And I will make void the counsel of Judah and Jerusalem in this place, and I will cause them to fall by the sword before their enemies and by the hands of those who seek their lives; their corpses I will give as meat for the birds of the heaven and for the beasts of the earth.***

- It was ***called Tophet*** because of the fact that they burned their babies there in these fires. The LORD says, I am going to change the name to ***the Valley of Slaughter***. God repeated a promise first recorded in (*Jer 7:32*) "***Therefore behold, the days are coming,***" says the LORD, "***when it will no more be called Tophet, or the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter; for they will bury in Tophet until there is no room.*** God would answer the idolatry of Judah and the outrageous practice of human sacrifice with devastating judgment. There would be a grotesque ***slaughter*** in that valley. The dead corpses in that place would also be disgraced by having no proper burial, and by being food for scavenger ***birds*** and the ***beasts of the earth***.

***Jer 19:8 I will make this city desolate and a hissing; everyone who passes by it will be astonished and hiss because of all its plagues***

***Jer 19:9 And I will cause them to eat the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their daughters, and everyone shall eat the flesh of his friend in the siege and in the desperation with which their enemies and those who seek their lives shall drive them to despair." "***

- ***This pronouncement now of God's judgment that is going to come upon them because they have forsaken the LORD.*** Much earlier in (*Deu 28:53*) ***You shall eat the fruit of your own body, the flesh of your sons and your daughters whom the LORD your God has given you, in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you.*** Here is almost word for word very early in their history God saying pretty much the very same thing. It is almost as if Jeremiah were quoting from this earlier passage where God had announced the judgment that was going to come. ***It will be astonished and hiss because of all its plagues:*** The ***catastrophe*** would be seen both in terms of the death of the people and the destruction of the city.
- ***I will cause them to eat the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their daughters:*** The city would be reduced to cannibalism, even as Samaria, under siege from the Assyrians, a little more than 100 years earlier. Now, Jeremiah is saying the time of the fulfillment of this prophecy is going to come very soon. It is true that this is exactly what happened when the Babylonians laid siege to Jerusalem and the siege became so severe that they boiled their own babies and ate them

according to history. All this would drive the people of Jerusalem *to despair*. This verse nine was fulfilled literally, tragically, but literally.

**Jer 19:10** *"Then you shall break the flask in the sight of the men who go with you,*

- This bottle that you took out of the potter's house and you are to announce this message, not an easy one.

**Jer 19:11** *and say to them, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Even so I will break this people and this city, as one breaks a potter's vessel, which cannot be made whole again; and they shall bury them in Tophet till there is no place to bury.*

**Jer 19:12** *Thus I will do to this place," says the LORD, "and to its inhabitants, and make this city like Tophet (place of burning).*

- **Jeremiah is to break this clay pot.** Let it shatter, beyond repair. Then he says, *which cannot be made whole again;* so, the nation is to be shattered."
- **They shall bury them in Tophet till there is no place to bury:** God wanted the demonstration done in the *Valley of Hinnom (Tophet)* because this is where the corpses of the slaughtered would be thrown into mass pits.

**Jer 19:13** *And the houses of Jerusalem and the houses of the kings of Judah shall be defiled like the place of Tophet, because of all the houses on whose roofs they have burned incense to all the host of heaven, and poured out drink offerings to other gods.' ' '*

- **Make the city like Tophet.** Jeremiah here is predicting, this place will be called the place of burning, *Tophet*. Today, in the layers of the strata, dating back to this period of history, you can see the literal fulfillment of this prophecy., evidence of the truth of God's word and God's warnings. He will make this city as a place of burning and the houses of Jerusalem and the kings will be defiled, and they will be burned because they have burned incense on them. **Because of all the houses on whose roofs they have burned incense to all the host of heaven:** Because the idolatry was spread throughout the city, God would bring this destruction throughout the city.

**Jer 19:14** *Then Jeremiah came from Tophet, where the LORD had sent him to prophesy; and he stood in the court of the Lord's house and said to all the people,*

- **He stood in the court of the LORD's house:** He gathered now back in the temple and he stood there and announced to all of the people: Jeremiah called the kings and rulers to hear him and see him enact the prophecy of the broken flask. Probably few of them took the trouble. For those who did not come to hear and see him, he brought the message to them, to the *court of LORD's house*.

**Jer 19:15** *"Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: 'Behold, I will bring on this city and on all her towns all the doom that I have pronounced against it, because they have stiffened their necks that they might not hear My words.' ' "*

- **Because they have stiffened their necks that they might not hear My words. The clay was marred in the hands of the potter.** It was stiff. It would not yield. You can go so far in your rebellion and in your resistance to God but there comes that place where God says, "Okay." He holds out His hand, He gives you warning, He pleads. If you just continue stubbornly in your way then there remains nothing else for Him. In righteousness He must judge. In righteousness judgment must come. That to me is the very fearful thing about our nation today. We are just about in the same place that Judah was when Jeremiah was preaching to it. As we see them parading in their unrighteousness, stubborn in it. They do not want to hear. They refuse to turn. And they decide to strike out against those who would dare to tell them to turn. The greatest sin of Judah and Jerusalem was not their particular sins themselves, it was their rebellion and refusal to hear God and receive His word and correction. Hell0 world, Hello United States today in 2021!
- **God is faithful. He will warn. He will plead.** He will give opportunities. But when a person is set in their sin and in their unrighteousness when they refuse to turn, then God is righteous and He will bring His judgment to pass. We need to pray for our nation. We need to pray for a revival in our nation. We need to start really being concerned about the nation.

**Jeremiah Persecuted by Pashhur**

*Jer 20:1 Now Pashhur the son of Immer, the priest who was also chief governor in the house of the LORD, heard that Jeremiah prophesied these things.*

*Jer 20:2 Then Pashhur struck Jeremiah the prophet, and put him in the stocks that were in the high gate of Benjamin, which was by the house of the LORD.*

- **Jeremiah was prophesying the victory of Babylon over Jerusalem**, how that Jerusalem was to be broken at the hands of Babylon. He was standing there in the court of the LORD'S house making these prophecies. In the previous verses, (*Jer 19:15*) "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: 'Behold, I will bring on this city and on all her towns all the doom that I have pronounced against it, because they have stiffened their necks that they might not hear My words.'
- **They had closed their ears to God, and they would not listen!** So *Pashhur* now, a leading priest and false prophet, who was the son of the chief governor of the house of the LORD heard that Jeremiah was prophesying these things and *Pashhur* had Jeremiah beaten. Then he put him in stocks. The word stocks in Hebrews is literally 'twists.' But it was a device by which the body was twisted to a contorted position and held in that position so that it was torturous. He had put him in these stocks, a form of scaffold in which prisoners were detained in a crooked or confined position which produced cramped muscles
- **The high gate of Benjamin.** There was a gate of Benjamin but there was also there entering into the temple area by the house of the LORD another gate, called the high gate of Benjamin and this was the gate where Jeremiah was placed in the stocks.

*Jer 20:3 And it happened on the next day that Pashhur brought Jeremiah out of the stocks. Then Jeremiah said to him, "The LORD has not called your name Pashhur, but Magor-Missabib.*

- **Jeremiah does not back down at all!** He has spent the night as a result of this mistreatment of these stocks in this torturous position but when he is released he says, "Your name is not *Pashhur* (ease or tranquility), it is *Magor-Missabib* which means terror or fear on every side. Then he begins to prophecy what God is going to do to this fellow *Pashhur*.

*Jer 20:4 For thus says the LORD: 'Behold, I will make you a terror to yourself and to all your friends; and they shall fall by the sword of their enemies, and your eyes shall see it. I will give all Judah into the hand of the king of Babylon (first mention in Book of Jeremiah), and he shall carry them captive to Babylon and slay them with the sword.*

*Jer 20:5 Moreover I will deliver all the wealth of this city, all its produce, and all its precious things; all the treasures of the kings of Judah I will give into the hand of their enemies, who will plunder them, seize them, and carry them to Babylon.*

*Jer 20:6 And you, Pashhur, and all who dwell in your house, shall go into captivity. You shall go to Babylon, and there you shall die, and be buried there, you and all your friends, to whom you have prophesied lies.' "*

- **Evidently Pashhur was one of those false prophets**, who were about the greatest enemies of Jeremiah. It seems always to be so. The false prophets are enemies of the true prophets of God. Jeremiah was speaking the truth. The false prophets were speaking comfort. They were giving the people all kinds of false hope. Now, who would you rather listen to? Someone that tells you, "Oh you're fine, everything is going to be great. Don't worry about anything." Or someone that comes along and says, "Hey, you are in big trouble man. The LORD is really going to wipe this place out and you are going to be carried away captive."
- **Naturally people will give ear to the false prophet even though they prophesy lies.** Thus, was so in Jeremiah's day. They loved to hear the false prophets. *Pashhur* was one of them. But you see, the true prophet of God, Jeremiah, was an irritant to the false prophets because he is saying different things. Thus, he is a real irritant! *Pashhur* had Jeremiah beaten and then put in this torture treatment in the stocks. But when he released him Jeremiah turned to him and prophesied the word of the LORD to *Pashhur* the things that would happen to him, his friends, *Pashhur* himself, his family would be taken as captives to Babylon and there he was going to die and there he was going to be buried.

- **Up to this point Jeremiah had many threats.** They had threatened his life. They had told him not to speak anymore in the name of the LORD or they would kill him. Even his family threatened him. Now, this is the first time that the threats began to turn to actual physical abuse. Up until now it was only words. But this is the first time physically that he was attacked. He was beaten and put in the stocks in this torture device.
- **When God called Jeremiah to this prophetic ministry, the LORD said in (Jer 1:18-19)** *For behold, I have made you this day A fortified city and an iron pillar, And bronze walls against the whole land—Against the kings of Judah, Against its princes, Against its priests, And against the people of the land. [19] They will fight against you, But they shall not prevail against you. For I am with you," says the LORD, "to deliver you."* In this, the LORD sort of called Jeremiah into being the prophet, to accept the call with the promise that He would be with him to deliver him. They will fight against you, but they will not prevail for I am with you to deliver you." Jeremiah may have interpreted that as meaning that they could not hurt him. That they could not touch him. That is not really what God said. That is what Jeremiah interpreted God to say. So that when he actually experienced physical abuse, when he was beaten and tortured, he was questioning the promise of God and the call that God put upon his heart.
- **I will make you a terror to yourself and to all your friends:** Jeremiah showed that he did not intend to moderate his message. He boldly and plainly told the priest and chief governor that destruction *was* sure to come, and he would in some sense be in the center of it.
- **I will give all Judah into the hand of the king of Babylon:** Jeremiah's message was unchanged. Neither the LORD, Egypt nor anyone else would deliver Judah. The Babylonians would completely conquer them.
- **And you, Pashhur... You shall go to Babylon, and there you shall die:** His position as priest and chief governor would not help him. He was one of those who *prophesied lies*, and he and his friends who heard him would all die in Babylon.

**Jer 20:7 O LORD, You induced (enticed or persuaded) me, and I was persuaded; You are stronger than I, and have prevailed. I am in derision daily; Everyone mocks me. O LORD, You induced me, and I was persuaded; (Jer 1:5-10)** *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations." [6] Then said I: "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I cannot speak, for I am a youth." [7] But the LORD said to me: "Do not say, 'I am a youth,' For you shall go to all to whom I send you, And whatever I command you, you shall speak. [8] Do not be afraid of their faces, For I am with you to deliver you," says the LORD. [9] Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me: "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. [10] See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, To root out and to pull down, To destroy and to throw down, To build and to plant."*

- **Lord, you induced, (enticed or persuaded) me and I was persuaded.** Most of the Hebrew scholars say that the Hebrew word does not have a connotation of deception. In other words, I was reluctant to become a prophet. I did not really want to but, LORD, you persuaded me, and You persuaded me by promising to be with me and to deliver me.
- **You are stronger than I, and have prevailed.** You prevailed in that sense that You persuaded me to become a prophet. I was objecting, I was trying to get out of it. But You are stronger than I am, and You prevailed, so I went out and I began to prophesy in Your name. But as a result, daily people are making fun of me. Derisive remarks all of the time. Everywhere I go people are shunning me. People are mocking me, they are ridiculing me. And everyone is mocking.
- **It was a difficult, difficult place to be.** I thank God that He did not call me to Jeremiah's ministry. That would be one tough place to be. Where you go forth to speak God's word and everybody is mocking and making fun of you and speaking in a derisive way against you.
- **I am in derision daily; everyone mocks me:** Perhaps Jeremiah spoke in light of his recent experience of being beaten and set in the public stocks. Stuck in the stocks, he was the object of mockery and derision, even as Jesus would later endure similar humiliation.

**Jer 20:8 For when I spoke, I cried out; I shouted, "Violence and plunder!" Because the word of the LORD was made to me A reproach and a derision daily.**

- **The word of the LORD was made to me a reproach and a derision daily:** As a faithful messenger of the Lord, it was difficult for Jeremiah to endure the **reproach** and **derision** that came to the one who prophesied of the **coming judgment and catastrophe for Judah**. Because Jeremiah's words remained unfulfilled for so long, people just ridiculed him whenever he spoke about the future.

**Jer 20:9 Then I said, "I will not make mention of Him, Nor speak anymore in His name." But His word was in my heart like a burning fire Shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, And I could not.**

- **Then I said, "I will not make mention of Him, Nor speak anymore in His name LORD, I quit.** You did not keep your side of the deal, so I quit. I am not going to speak anymore in Your name. It has only brought me trouble. It has brought me mockery, it has brought me grief and now it has brought me a beating up. I have been beaten up and I have been tortured and so I am through. You did not hold up Your side of the bargain. I am through.
- **But His word was in my heart like a burning fire Shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, And I could not.** But he found something interesting and that is that you just cannot quit. He wanted to quit. He did not want to say anymore but he just found that he just had to speak out. He could not keep silent.

**Jer 20:10 For I heard many mocking: "Fear on every side!" "Report," they say, "and we will report it!" All my acquaintances watched for my stumbling, saying, "Perhaps he can be induced; Then we will prevail against him, And we will take our revenge on him."**

- **For I heard many mocking !** They were so angry at what he was saying. And they said, "If you say another thing then we are going to report it." And they were setting traps. They were lying in wait for him. But in the midst of this he speaks confidently and here from verse 11-13 he gets his eyes off of these threats and off of these people and on to the LORD and it changes the whole atmosphere!
- **What a secret of turning your despair into confidence!** It is to get your eyes off of yourself, off of the people that are giving you a rough time and get your eyes on the LORD. And how it changes your whole view, how you view things. It changes the perspective completely when you get your eyes off of the problem and on to God!

**Jer 20:11 But the LORD is with me as a mighty, awesome One. Therefore my persecutors will stumble, and will not prevail. They will be greatly ashamed, for they will not prosper. Their everlasting confusion will never be forgotten.**

- **But the LORD is with me as a mighty, awesome One. They will be greatly ashamed, for they will not prosper.** These people are against me. They are waiting for me to say something so they can report it and they are hoping that I will trip up, that I will say something that they can just grab on to, but the LORD of hosts, He is with me as **a mighty awesome One**.
- **Therefore my persecutors will stumble, and will not prevail.** Paul said in Romans 8. If God be for me, who can be against me? Look at this at your place of work. It may be that they resent you being a Christian. They have been making fun of you. They resent the fact that you will not be dishonest, that you will not shave a bit here and there. They are just looking to find some fault, waiting to catch you. As you look at them and you see their evil intentions you begin to get fearful. You begin to think, "Oh my, this is terrible. I am never going to be able to survive." But then you realize that God is for me, who can be against me? Jeremiah began to realize that the LORD is for me. The LORD is on my side. And that is what David said, (Psa 118:6) The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me? Even Satan cannot prevail against because God is for me.
- **Their everlasting confusion will never be forgotten.** They are the ones that are going to be led to confusion.

**Jer 20:12 But, O LORD of hosts, You who test the righteous, And see the mind and heart, Let me see Your vengeance on them; For I have pleaded my cause before You. (Psa 31:22) For I said in my haste, "I am cut off from before Your eyes"; Nevertheless, You heard the voice of my supplications When I cried out to You**

- **Lord, wipe them out, I want to see it.** Take care of them. I want You to see that. Then he lapses into song. God is with me and God is going to take care of the enemies that have risen up against me. God is my defense. Jeremiah was content to leave the matter to God and His wisdom and strength. The Judge of all the earth would do right!

***Jer 20:13 Sing to the LORD! Praise the LORD! For He has delivered the life of the poor From the hand of evildoers.***

- **His turning to the LORD ends in praises!** The song of victory for God is going to take care of the evildoers. Oh, bless the LORD and by getting his eyes on the LORD, he ends with a song of praise. Sing to the Lord, praise the Lord. Here appears a great change with him since he began this discourse; the clouds are blown over, his complaints all silenced and turned into thanksgivings. He has now an entire confidence in that God whom he was distrusting; he stirs up himself to praise that name which he was resolving no more to make mention of. It was the lively exercise of faith that made this happy change, that turned his sighs into songs and his tremblings into triumphs. It is indeed proper to express our hope in God by our praising Him, and our praising God by our singing to Him.
- **He has delivered the life of the poor from the hand of the evildoers:** It's wasn't as if Jeremiah's pain or problems were over. There was still much to come. Yet still, he was confident in the victory and deliverance of the LORD.

***Jer 20:14 Cursed be the day in which I was born! Let the day not be blessed in which my mother bore me!***

***Jer 20:15 Let the man be cursed Who brought news to my father, saying, "A male child has been born to you!" Making him very glad. (Job 3:3) May the day perish on which I was born, And the night in which it was said, A male child is conceived. (Job 3:7) Oh, may that night be barren! May no joyful shout come into it!***

- **Cursed be the day in which I was born: With startling suddenness, Jeremiah slipped back into grief and depression,** wishing that he had never been born. It is interesting how we can have such mood swings. We can have glorious victory in one moment and then something else will come up and "ooh, what are we going to do," and we are right back in that place of despondency and despair. We don't know what caused the mood swing here. It may be that there is a period of time. He may have not sat down and wrote this out all at once. But we have just how quickly the opposite of this praising of the LORD for victory, assurance of victory and now we find him in the depths of despondency and despair! You can't get much lower than he is right now!
- **Rarely has the question 'Why was I ever born?' been asked so tellingly.** To his cry of distress and moving question the LORD gave no answer. But what answer could he give? "These verses do belong together. They may not belong together by logic, but the life of the soul is not always logical! Jeremiah's curses follow his praises because that is the way it was during his dark night of the soul. Have we not experienced the same thing, to some degree?
- **The doctor that came and said that you have a son. Cursed be that man** that brought the news to my dad.

***Jer 20:16 And let that man be like the cities Which the LORD—overthrew, and did not relent; Let him hear the cry in the morning And the shouting at noon,***

- **Let that man be like the cities which the LORD overthrew:** "The cities are Sodom, Gomorrah, and the other cities of the plain (Gen 19:24-28). That is not a very nice thing to say about a guy that delivered you. He is just crying out of the depths of despondency.

***Jer 20:17 Because he did not kill me from the womb, That my mother might have been my grave, And her womb always enlarged with me.***

- **Why did the LORD let me come into life,** that He did not just kill me when I was born! That I would have just died in the womb. In other words, that I never would have been born, that I just stayed in the womb!
- **Jeremiah thought his problems would be over if he was never born.** But God called him before he was born or even conceived: *(Jer 1:5) Before I formed you in the womb I knew*



*you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations.* Jeremiah traced his troubles back to the womb. But he did not go back far enough! God could trace his promises back before the womb.

***Jer 20:18 Why did I come forth from the womb to see labor and sorrow, That my days should be consumed with shame?***

- **It was a lonely job. A difficult, very unpopular job!** Jeremiah going through these mood swings as he was trying to fulfill his ministry but yet the objections that came through it. He was going through a really bad time. It was somewhat like Job, who also cursed the day of his birth, wondering why he was ever born. If we ever get that down and that depressed and say, "Why was I ever born?" We have company! Job and Jeremiah, they went through the same thing.
- **Why did I come forth from the womb to see labor and sorrow:** There was a purpose of God in setting this section of grief immediately after the section of faith and triumph – to show that trusting God did not make it all easy or triumphant for Jeremiah. The battle remained and reliance upon God had to be constant.
- **Consumed with shame:** The shame he refers to is that of his inability to avert the *catastrophe* threatening his people.
- **A great lesson for us!** This section depicts a man **loudly complaining about his lot in life, yet showing that he is still in submission, loyal and obedient to God's will!** **If ever our morale as a servant of God touches rock-bottom, we may reflect that Jeremiah has been there before, and has survived!**
- **What use we may make of this.** It is not recorded for us imitate or do. Yet, **we may learn good lessons from it.**
- **What a great example we have here of the vanity of human life and the vexation of spirit that attends it.** If we did not have the Living Hope of another life after this, we should be often be tempted to wish that we had never been born and never known these days full of trouble.
- **We see here the unreasonableness, folly and the absurdity of sinful passion!** How unreasonably it talks when it is allowed to ramble. What nonsense is it to curse a day - to curse a messenger for the sake of his message! What a ridiculous thing for a child to wish his own mother had never delivered him! It's easy to see the folly of it in others! We should take warning to suppress these kind of heats and passions in ourselves, not allowing these evil spirits to speak. When our heart is hot, may our tongue be bridled, *(Psa 39:1-2) I said, "I will guard my ways, Lest I sin with my tongue; I will restrain my mouth with a muzzle, While the wicked are before me." [2] I was mute with silence, I held my peace even from good; And my sorrow was stirred up.*
- **In Jeremiah's behavior we see the weakness even of good men,** but they are men at the best. How much those who think they stand are concerned to take heed, lest they fall and to pray daily for themselves and others – lead us not into temptation! Great lessons for us here!
- **THE KEY IN TIMES OF TRIALS:** What do we do as we go along processing our relationship with God for what has been happening, when BOOM, a huge new trial hits us? Now in this new situation we must process it in the light of the greatness of God's wisdom, His power and His love and go deeper into the relationship with Him! THE KEY in times like this is to go deeper with our relationship with God. That's the solution, not the explanation! Jesus said this in *(Joh 16:33) These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.* The solution is a deeper relationship with the LORD! Jesus said, *(Mat 11:28-30) Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. [29] Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. [30] For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.* The key is always when some bombshell occurs, is immediately not to waste time, demanding an explanation, because that is a waste of time. The great need is to go deeper with my relationship with Jesus Christ than I ever have had before and to begin that process.
- **HOW DO WE GO INTO A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD? FIRST, THE WORD OF GOD:** Jesus spoke to the religious leaders, *(Joh 5:39) You search the Scriptures, for*

*in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.* As we turn to the Scriptures and as we begin to learn about Jesus' wisdom, His power and His love, it gives us the ability to realize that I can't entrust the situation to be in any better hands than His hands! I can't know any greater peace in my life than to commit them to this Jesus, who is described in the Bible and who lives inside of my heart. To do that is superior to ask for an explanation.

- **SECOND – PRAYER!** The second great thing is the importance of prayer! So, when the bombshells hit in life and they can hit, it's a waste of time to demand an explanation of God. Take every available moment to go deeper in your relationship with God, learning His Word in a greater measure in light of who He is and what He says He is, in light of what we are facing, of that relationship. Then to grow in the intimacy through prayer, just talking things over with Him. The peace is found in the relationship! It is not found in an explanation! And God knows it and those of you who have been through deep, deep trials, deep, deep difficulties in your life, you know it to be true as well!
- **(Pro 3:5-6)** *Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; [6] In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.*
- **(Jer 29:11-13)** *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. [12] Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. [13] And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.*
- **(Isa 41:10)** *Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'*

### ***Closing Prayer***