

Kings and Prophets 16-06-09

We have assembled ourselves here on the ninth day of June 2016 for another episode in our continuing series on kings and prophets looking recently now at the closing days of the southern kingdom beginning with the reign of Josiah and extending through a couple of his sons and into eventually Zedekiah and the Decline and fall of the Judean Empire if you will and the ministry in particular of the prophet Jeremiah we'll Continue that study having sort of interwoven it with our look at textual issues That we've been looking at on Sundays And we've pretty well, I think Battened down that particular hatch and so with our With our gopher wood arc dobbed on the inside and outside with pitch why we can float on through here Let's take a moment to go to the Lord in prayer and we'll begin Father what a blessing it is to be encouraged and lifted up and receive the ministry of your Holy Spirit through Faithful believers who appreciate you who love your word and the truth that it conveys to us for consistency and patience and endurance We thank you for the Lord Jesus Christ and the tremendous privileges resources and opportunities that we Possess through him We are so privileged to be called by his name to belong uniquely to him and through him to you and we pray that as we Continue our study in this wonderful Book of prophecy that your Holy Spirit will minister it to each heart in a meaningful and Beneficial way that we will find ourselves strengthened for our assigned tasks motivated to Pursue our high Calling in the Lord Jesus and that our lives will reflect your glory and will bring credit to our Savior in whose name We pray amen. I have purposely Waited until now to talk about the name of our Prophet we're talking about Jeremiah But if you think back I never did say and we usually do we get to a king and we say here's what his name Means here's what his daddy's name means. Here's sometimes what his mother's name means and we typically find that there is a significance and a benefit In terms of illumination of what's going on in these names the names are no more accidental than anything else in Scripture so Jeremiah That does any part of that? look familiar So often in in the Old Testament scriptures in particular we find that there is a Divine name Either as a prefix or a suffix.

Do you see that anywhere in there? We usually have either L or yeah, and we have Jeremiah, yeah So this could also be Yerim yahoo often the divine element at the end can be yahoo shortened to yah y-a-h-u as as a form of Yahweh it's not yahoo like your search engine or your Online deal, it's not a cowboy whoop. It's It is, you know pretty much at the opposite end of the spectrum from that. It is the Lord's personal name to Israel It is his familiar name his covenant name with his people where L is the more formal name It would be sort of the difference between Yeshua or The Father For us as opposed to just the name God or Theos So that's the last part.

What is the first part? Well, this has been sort of an interesting Discussion in terms of What Jeremiah's name actually means It of course, there's there's not a J in Hebrew. It's it's a Y so you have the consonants Y R and M and We we want to discover, you know, what what is this? so If there it is a something of a vexed question actually The Nearest that it It comes to I don't like that you'll find a lot of strongs and various ones saying the Lord throws down or the Lord

establishes things like that having the idea of something that is thrown they talk about a bow shot and about arrows being loosed or let fly and something about something being released or being Dropped to the ground or it can end up meaning something along the lines of despair in the minds of these people and Well, I don't think that's it man with my vast Knowledge and experience in Hebrew. I'm going to tell you what I think it is And of course, I'm not out in the unbroken snow by myself There are respected scholars who who are out there in the unbroken snow with me.

So Here's the thing It's also helpful to look at who a guy's father is When that information is provided and we have at the beginning of the book the very first verse tells us that these are the words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah and Many times you'll find that this guy the son of that guy Not only are the names significant but the relationship of the names to each other is significant so Again think about context think historical context now what's going on? I See a bad moon horizon I see trouble on the way I See hurricanes and lightning right This it's dark days coming and If you look around in our present day, you could say the same thing when is the last time you saw a national election where There's not even I Mean, it's one thing if you're a Christian and people are asking you to vote for somebody that you consider to be part of a cult that's happened in the recent past It's something else when You Do a 360 around the entire landscape and you don't see anything or anybody And and the question doesn't become who do I vote for the question becomes do I vote? Can I take responsibility? for having given a push behind any of these people, but that's the that's just sort of a little sample of the Darkness into which we are quickly descending. There's a great I say great there is a famous Eugene O'Neill play called long days journey into night and That title comes to my mind Often as which is why I Eschew and avoid generally the national news. I have a vague notion that something happened in Venezuela But that's about the extent of my current events knowledge at the moment because it's just too Depressing I can't do anything about it.

Anyway, except get ready That's what Jeremiah is doing with his prophecy he is commissioned by God to get the faithful ready and to Provide the final occasion for repentance to everyone in the nation At the point that you are confronted with information. There is a decision point You can not know a thing and and Your burden of responsibility is significantly less now, maybe you should know and you didn't bother to to be informed But things about which you're truly unaware and unapprised there's some Extenuating circumstance there in terms of your responsibility, right? We you know the one who knew what he should do and didn't do it will be beaten with many stripes Jesus said the one who didn't really know what he was supposed to do, but he should have and didn't do it He'll be beaten with few stripes. That's the Lord talking so Jeremiah's Jeremiad, you know, that's actually become a noun a Jeremiad kind of like a a There's another there's a Greek description of a of a Delivered message that has that guy's name on it.

It'll come to me momentarily But this message has Three purposes we saw the two big purposes in The two visions of chapter 1 and the book divides naturally into those two big themes. You remember that Said it two weeks ago reviewed it last week Jeremiah is called to

Prophecy to two different audiences. I'll let you off easy and not make you actually answer.

He's he is Prophesying to Judah and to the nations, right? It's his twofold calling and you have that in those two visions more about that in just a moment but we're talking about his name and His name and his father's name Relate and bear on this mission and what is his mission in these dark days for Judah? Where God knows and Jeremiah knows that they are about to go out under judgment from God because of their consistent and persistent Rejection of their covenant responsibilities before God they have a relationship with God here is a point of Application those who have a relationship with God have a responsibility before God Those who have a relationship with God have a responsibility before God Israel Judah at this point. Do they have a relationship with God? What is that relationship? What what established it? When and where was that relationship established? Mount Sinai all that the Lord has said we will do it's a covenant Part of that goes back even further to Abraham the Abrahamic covenant Circumcision the mark of the people of God in that day and at that time Abraham Isaac and Jacob You so you have the Abrahamic covenant You have the establishment of a people in Jacob or Israel You have the establishment of the nation at Sinai and that national covenant so these people living in this land in Jerusalem and Judea Have a relationship with God Therefore they have a responsibility before God now again Application wise do we have a relationship with God? Please nod your head in the affirmative. Yes, you do Yes, we do if you don't talk to me after class and we'll we'll get that fixed Yes, you do.

We have a relationship with God. So we have a responsibility before God. Do we know what that responsibility is? Paul understood it.

He said I pressed for the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus Forgetting those things which are behind I press forward You are not your own you are bought with a price Therefore what? You're not your own for you're bought with a price therefore what? Glorify God in your body We're gonna have to we're gonna have to make a memory verse card out of that Debbie I didn't get any Voices, I'm so disappointed. You're not your own you're bought with it. Well, there's one in the back I hear I see that hand.

I hear that. Amen You're not your own you're bought with a price therefore glorify God in your body. That's that's our calling That's one of many statements of our calling So that's our responsibility it's not enough to get through the day you woke up this morning You pulled on some clothes poured down some coffee got in some kind of transportation went somewhere and did something probably Right, or you stayed home and did something but you had responsibilities But that's not your real responsibility Not in and of itself.

It's the way you do those things It is the motivation that ultimately drives the quality of your performance of those things We are in the world But we are not of the world and the things we do in the world have a higher purpose and a deeper significance We do what we do as unto the Lord and not unto men heartily, so Right, it's our responsibility. Why do we have that responsibility? does Pick your famous atheist have a responsibility for those things No pick your

Sam Harris or your late Christopher Hitchens or your soon-to-be late Richard Dawkins or any other famous atheist you want to name do they have a responsibility to redeem the time to glorify the Lord to Be Christlike to lay hold of righteousness by faith to lay up treasure for themselves in heaven. No Why why don't they no relationship We are related to God therefore we have the responsibility Judah was related to God by covenant therefore Jeremiah says What are you doing? What's the matter with you as the prophets did before him? So back to his name Jeremiah it starts with a Y and if you have and I'm not going to give a big long and Soon to produce a cross-eyed audience description in Hebrew here, but sometimes you put a Y in front of a verb and that makes it an imperfect imperfect is Kinda in Hebrew a future where the perfect you get, you know, perfect imperfect perfect would be it's all done Imperfect.

It's not all done yet. So the imperfect is generally used for the future The perfect is used for the past kinda in Hebrew. It's a working You know take Hebrew and you can get all the details but for purposes of instruction as we used to say Your imperfect is a future a guy will do a thing.

Okay, so there's a Y in front of this verb So what is the verb if I take the Y off? RM or it's a contracted form of our UM room Room is the root here in my view and in the view of smart people who agree with me room Room means to Multiply to make big to swell to exalt It is the root of a lot of words that have to do with there being a lot of something It means something is getting big Primarily and especially with reference to the Lord. It means to exalt So if I say your room Yahoo your room Yahweh, what would that mean? The Lord will be exalted The Lord will be exalted now think again. I just gave a big rehearsal of the circumstances the historical context here Dark and getting darker long day's journey into the pit, right? There's not a bright outcome here It's bad and getting worse and yet the Prophet who comes to challenge the people and give them their last chance to repent and turn and Be renewed and restored.

What's his name? whether you turn ye at my reproof for why will ye die O house of Israel or whether you reject it and the heavy Wrath of God in judgment descends guess what's going to happen in either case? the Lord will be exalted it's Analogous in a way to the Lord Jesus as the rock Remember what Jesus said about himself as the rock? Those who fall on this rock will be delivered those upon whom the rock falls will not He's the rock either way is he a rock of deliverance or is he a rock under which you are ground to powder? Yes But he is the rock in either case. He is glorified in either case People have difficulty I think sometimes especially in our Rather softer culture to put it Abstractly With God being a god of judgment That somehow it diminishes God to send people to the lake of fire to punish people for sin To slaughter the Canaanites to judge his own people with death in the wilderness They people try to skirt and avoid and not not talk about that as though it somehow diminishes God my answer to that is Jeremiah The Lord is exalted The Lord is high and lifted up in everything that he does by everything that he does everything He does is glorious when he judges and punishes. That's his glory When he saves and preserves Regenerates and renews and and takes us unto himself God is the God of love God is the God of justice and in his love and in his justice He is high and lifted up and he is exalted Nothing God does sullies his glory nothing God does diminishes his Shekinah Okay Jeremiah is a sword just like the Lord Jesus will be a sword that divides

households remember that Jesus said I haven't come to bring peace.

I bring a sword and that sword will divide households because Within a household some will accept and some will reject He's still the sword The mighty unbreakable sword the sword that goes forth from his mouth when the Lord Jesus speaks the Word of God comes out And that is a divider The Word of God is like a sword that divides Separates You got your sheep. You got your goats. You've got your just and you've got your unjust you've got your Greatest in the kingdom and you've got your least in the kingdom but the fact that God divides that God discerns that God judges and Separates in no way diminishes his glory.

That's a part of his glory Jeremiah now He is the son of Hilkiah Does this name ring a bell at all have we seen a Hilkiah Recently the hint is King Josiah cleaning up the temple Who found the book of the law Hilkiah? What is his function? What is his office? Who is Hilkiah? He's the high priest Anathoth is a city of priests it is not provable but because Hilkiah's Antecedent is not given nor is the Hilkiah in the Josiah story Distinguished by an antecedent. I think this is the same man if there was a need to distinguish them as two different guys it would be easy to distinguish them, but I believe Could be wrong. There's no Definitive proof, but I believe Because Jeremiah began his ministry in the time of Josiah and Hilkiah is the high priest in the time of Josiah and if Jeremiah says I'm the son of Hilkiah well Who's the most prominent Hilkiah anybody's heard of Hilkiah the high priest? So you can see the standing that Jeremiah has he's not an Amos coming in He's he's not an unknown or someone that says look, I'm a businessman and the Lord has entrusted me with his information he's as near as I can tell the son of the Current and active high priest and you can see why they live in Anathoth.

They've separated themselves from that priestly Disintegration and Corruption that characterizes the ones who are in and around Jerusalem and so they're about three miles away from Jerusalem in Anathoth Hilkiah is a good guy. He finds the scroll He gives it to Shaphan to read and and he encourages the king. Let you know, let's get this stuff done Jeremiah is his son.

What does Hilkiah? Mean Well, do you see a divine element in there somewhere so what's what's the other part if ya at the end then you have HL and in this case Q HL Q if it was HL K that's halak That is to walk. It's one of those commonly used verbs in the Old Testament halak to walk But this is HL Q and this halak means something a little bit different and To cut to the chase It means to divide to apportion as in inheritance, I will Apportion inheritance to the strong. I will apportion the spoils to the mighty halak, so The Lord Elevated the Lord high and lifted up the Lord exalted is the son of the Lord The one who has apportioned the one who has distinguished if you divide if you Set aside Resources or a fate you see the connection here Jeremiah the Lord high and lifted up.

He is the son of the Lord apportioning the Lord dividing the Lord judging and Ascertaining who gets what? so there is a great deal of significance here and think about it because both of these are double-edged swords If I'm a faithful believer I'm excited about the Lord dividing and apportioning and inheritance and I am Extremely happy that the Lord is exalted and I want to

be one of those that that exalts him and praises his name right If I'm a no good Nick if I'm a bad guy if I'm a one of those who falls away who has abdicated his responsibility and forsaken his calling and lost sight of his Relationship and therefore his responsibility what's going to happen at the time when the Lord? apporions and when the Lord is exalted on his judgment seat those same principles and those same qualities now become a fearful thing It's a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the Living God, right? So the same God Functioning in the same role to one is life and peace Happiness prosperity blessing reward opportunity and in those very same roles he is a judge and a scourge and someone to be feared and someone who's apportionment and assignment of fate in his glorious role as God is A very fearful thing This in a nutshell hear me carefully now This is the book of Jeremiah this is the message of Jeremiah, and this is the meaning of Jeremiah to you and me as We look at the dark decline all around us spiritual decline moral decline Cultural decline you name it decline fill in the blank here decline. I Don't see anything inclining at all. I only see a declining.

I see it reclining. I see it Not only in repose, but it is supine it is Down and not getting back up however All I have to do is think about Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah because for me That doesn't mean darkness that doesn't mean fear doesn't mean despair. What does it mean to me? it means my Lord my Savior and my God and Father are high and lifted up and As long as I remember who I am and why I'm here my apportionment is going to be great Have need of endurance got to persevere got to walk through the valley of the shadow of death But what? When I walk through the valley of shadow of death what I? Fear no does it say I don't fear most evil Or I don't fear the biggest baddest ugliest evil How much evil do we fear even though we're in the valley of the shadow No evil I fear no evil why What's the rest of that verse Thou art with me what else thy rod and thy staff.

What are the rod and the staff? implements of division implements of Judgment, I will hook you I will whack you I will separate you I will move you where you need to go. I will also protect you and defend you Thy rod and thy staff he doesn't say thy rod and thy staff they thump me Does he? Now are there people that the rod and the staff are going to thump? It's the same rod and the same staff What is it to us? Well, it depends on what you choose He's the same shepherd with the very same tools But for one he is a benefit and for another he is a judge a scourge and a sheep thumper so Again by way of I'm going to wake up tomorrow and have another day What does this study mean to us even before we look at the details of what Jeremiah's message is his name and his father's name Tell us what this is about His message to Judah and his message to the nation That's what this is about our God our father our Lord Jesus Christ high and lifted up discerning separating judging and we as faithful believers as responsive believers as those who get the message and turn Have nothing to fear. It's an opportunity for us One person sees a problem another person sees an opportunity What is it going to be for us? You choose We choose So That's the name What's in a name? Let's Do a little bit of summary now, I've mentioned a couple of different broad thematic organizational characteristics of Jeremiah's prophecy as it has come to us in this 52 chapter form first half largely focusing on Judah Second half largely focusing on the nation's a great deal of intermingling there.

There's messages to the king king Why are you dealing with these people? but you think about the Historical context here and again just very quickly The Assyrians are on the decline. They're on the way out. God told his people the Assyrians were gonna disappear Josiah Didn't listen and when he sees Egypt going up to help a Syria against Babylon and God already told him a Syria is not your Problem Babylon is your problem We've seen that in some of our previous prophets.

Remember that don't worry about a Syria The Syria is the rod of my anger the staff of my indignation and when I'm done with them I'm gonna I'm gonna burn that staff. I'm done with them Josiah says I can't afford to let these Egyptians go up and help the Assyrians because We've just now enjoyed expansion and freedom and opportunity with the decline of the Assyrians Here's the Egyptians going up to ally with them and help them. I You've heard this thing the enemy of my enemy is my friend Well, he tried to flip that coin over and say the friend of my enemy is my enemy The Assyrians are my enemy Egypt's going up to help him.

So Egypt is my enemy I've got to go stop them or my enemy is gonna rear his ugly head again, and we'll be in trouble Didn't consult with Hulda didn't didn't talk to Jeremiah didn't he just Romps off and and says well, this is great foreign policy This is a problem throughout the book of Jeremiah and with Josiah's sons and everybody that comes to the throne after that These guys don't Listen to God's take on history point of application Listen to God's take on history Don't make the Josiah mistake It seems so obvious if Egypt is helping a Syria. I've got to attack Egypt If these groups and these people in our culture are doing this that and the other I've got to go attack them We need to be careful about targeting things Because they are the friend of our enemy Be careful. Don't make the Josiah mistake What does scripture say what is my calling am I a culture warrior am I a Reverse the moral decline Person is that why I'm here.

God says go thou forth and reverse the moral decline of your nation the best way to reverse moral decline is an Inner battle not an external battle you cannot In case you cannot enforce you cannot Work from the outside in and get people to change their morals if people want to get abortions They're going to get them if they want to dress as the opposite gender and use the wrong bathrooms. They're going to do it If they want to do all of the heinous things you see going on your opinion is going to do nothing Probably but incite them to do it more flagrantly and in your face because they hate you Why do they hate you what the Lord Jesus say? Because they hate me Jesus said they hate me They're gonna hate you those who have rejected the Lord Jesus Christ are gonna reject you everything you stand for and everything you say You're wasting your time With Extroverted attempts to try to stave off cultural decline God has already pronounced judgment on this nation. It's done It doesn't appear in prophecy and there's a reason That's my view Not to say that in you know bright in the corner where you are this little light of mine.

I'm gonna let it shine You can speak up you can point out fallacy. You can point out error. You can point out confusion You can point out the unbiblical Or parabolic nature of things all of that is fine.

I'm just saying if you launch a crusade thinking that you are going to save the country as large blocks of our Brothers and sisters in Christ are trying to do it is doomed to failure It is Josiah marching on the Egyptians. All you're going to do is get killed God has not called us to that. God has not spoken and told us to do that We shine as lights in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation you notice That shining as a light is a passive activity if the generation is crooked and perverse why doesn't it say you go forth and straighten out the crooked and You unpervert the perverse Go thou forth and and hammer them straight there.

They're crooked hammer them flat Shining as a light in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation is a passive activity You focus on the power that comes from the oil in the lamp The oil in the lamp is the Holy Spirit. You bear the fruit of the Spirit. You have love joy.

Peace patience endurance gentleness intrinsic good faith humility self-control right That's shining as a light Those who are interested will be drawn to our light and the energy the actual Power that produces that light is God himself we as the body of Christ we as the light of God are a Destination for people who are tired of the darkness who don't want to live in darkness Who don't love the darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil. They will come to the light We can share the good news of Jesus Christ Then they can become a light and as more and more people become lights. There's less and less darkness That's the way to dispel darkness If you go out and curse the darkness Rail against the darkness campaign against the darkness, but you are not a light wasting your time Josiah marching on the Egyptians Well very quickly here the first part of this book Jeremiah's actual message.

We've seen the theme of it. We've seen the aim of it. We've seen the Nature of the response to it and whichever response people give God is glorified God is lifted up But after we said that we've got an introduction and a conclusion right chapter 1 is the introduction Chapter 52 is the conclusion.

So the message proper begins in chapter 2 Just look at the first couple of verses in chapter 2 the word of the Lord came to me saying Go and cry in the hearing of Jerusalem. Thus says the Lord What section of the book are we in? Section 1 chapters 2 through 24 that's Message to Judah so cry to Jerusalem kind of fits doesn't it? What he's going to go on to say in this chapter if you if you skim this is to rehearse their history, I Remember you the kindness of your youth the love of your betrothal when you went after me in the wilderness in a land not sown Israel was holiness to the Lord. Remember they stamped all the vessels for the tabernacle holiness to the Lord The firstfruits of his increase all the devouring will offend disaster will come upon them says the Lord.

What is this doing? Harking back to the origins of the nation. What did we say earlier? Relationship with God Means Responsibility before God. So what is Jeremiah doing first shot out of the gun here? Do you remember your relationship to me God says? Jeremiah go remind this people The kindness of your youth the love of your betrothal.

When did we get engaged here? When did we establish relationship? Do you remember the

purpose of it? Do you remember the nature of it? point of application if you find your enthusiasm flagging if you find your joy in the Lord being greatly tempered and somewhat simmering on the back burner instead of the hammer and the fire the Jeremiah we'll talk about later You remember that our verse comes out of this book, right? Is not my word like as what a fire and Like a hammer that breaks rocks in pieces If the presence and power of God With his word and his spirit within us is no longer a fire and a hammer if it's more like a warm spot and a wooden stick It's just the handle If you ever used a hammer busted the head off and all you gets the handle Try try driving a wedge through a log with the handle of your sledgehammer. I've tried it doesn't work So he this is the call the opening salvo here from God is Do you remember your relationship? If you can remember your relationship the nature of it the calling associated with it We can then move on to your responsibility, right? That's what he's talking about here. The Lord separated Israel unto himself of all of the nations.

I chose you Not because you are mighty not because you were many that's part of What you'll be getting on Sunday is my Summary of the whole how many people left Egypt in the Exodus thing? You'll have all of that. I'm Slaving over a hot copy of Microsoft Word You'll have charts. You'll have facts.

You'll have scriptures. You'll have everything. I know about it in a nice little condensed form At any rate he said I didn't choose you because you were many and mighty You were the least among the nations But I'm making my point just like he did later on in in Judges with Gideon I'll whip Everybody with 300 who are faithful It's not the numbers.

It's the faith not many mighty are called God has chosen the foolish things of this world to confound the wise you're looking at one of those examples The foolish things God's presence and God's power and relationship with God makes numbers irrelevant So God chose Israel and separated them unto himself But what happened in verse 4 through 8 here? Here the word of the Lord Oh house of Jacob and the families of the house of Israel notice He's back to that familial relationship sort of pre nation What injustice have your father's found in me that they've gone far from me have followed idols and have become idolaters They haven't said where is the Lord who brought us up out of the land of Egypt who led us through the wilderness through land Of deserts and pits through land of drought the shadow of death through a land that no one crossed and where no one dwelt I brought you into a bountiful country to eat its fruit and its goodness when you entered you defiled the land made my heritage an Abomination the priests did not say where is the Lord now? This is a guy who can say this his own Daddy is the high priest and he is a priest He lives in Anathoth a city of priests The priest did not say where is the Lord those who handle the law did not know me the rulers also Transgressed against me the prophets prophesied by Baal and walked after things that do not profit every different category of authority here the civil authority the king the priestly authority the What will become the scribes and Pharisees in Jesus day those who are experts in the law those who are Supposed to understand what God's law says and means those who judge the elders in Israel Judging by the law of Moses and the prophets those who have been commissioned to guide and to instruct and to call people back to God They've all abdicated

their responsibility Now I ask you today look around at our authorities is our civil authority functioning in a way that glorifies God Is our Christian? leadership at large Prominent Christians those who publish those who preach those who are on television those who have got all the books and so on The ones who warn us about what is important what we should be doing by way of spiritual issues We're in a very similar situation every place you look for leadership you find Corruption you find distraction you find Confusion you find misunderstanding and you find outright evil Big swaths of modern American Christianity are all caught up in Eastern mysticism meditation Cultivating emotional experience and a vacant mind into which can be poured impression and Sensation instead of Propositional truth that can be the object of faith. We are this now So what does he say in the next section here? God says do you remember your relationship and your covenant you remember how we started out our betrothal? Do you see what is happening now and because of the this there is a charge? There is a case that God brings against his people Verses 9 through 13. I will bring charges against you says the Lord and against your children's children.

I will bring charges Pass beyond the coasts of Cyprus and seas send to Kadar and consider diligently See if there has ever been such a thing as a nation changed its gods, which are not gods You know bail worshipers stick with bail Dagon worshipers stick with Dagon the gods of Egypt have been the gods of Egypt for centuries But Israel has changed out its God He says you're not even as loyal as the pagans at least they stick with the same idols generation after generation Well, we've been bail worshipers. My great-great-great-great-granddaddy was a bail worshiper My great-great-great-great grandparents were Molech aficionados He says you're not even as loyal as all of the nations that have been dispossessed all these surrounding heathens at least have the merit of consistency But you've thrown me over and picked other things Be astonished Oh heavens at this be horribly afraid be very desolate says the Lord verse 13 My people have committed two evils They have forsaken me the fountain of living waters and hewn themselves Cisterns broken cisterns that can hold no water You had a perfectly good fountain of living waters you walked away from it and now you've made a bunch of cracked holes in the ground that won't even hold water and you prefer that to What you had? So starting in verse 14 here and going all the way through chapter 3 verse 5 Israel is pictured and of course, this is Judah now, but what's left of Israel is compared to an unfaithful wife One who has broken her vows and committed adultery and she will be judged Says do you not remember recent history the northern kingdom? Where is Israel? and that's basically verses 14 through 19 Why take the road to Egypt to drink the waters of Sihur in verse 18? Why take the road to Assyria to drink the waters of that river your own wickedness will correct you and your backslidings will rebuke you Know therefore and see that it is an evil and bitter thing that you have forsaken the Lord your God and the fear of me Is not in you says the Lord God of hosts they have Stained themselves they have sort of tattooed themselves with idolatry So that it can't be erased. It can't be washed away verses 20 through 25.

I Broke your yoke and burst your bonds and you said I will not transgress I'm so grateful that you busted me out of slavery and brought me to a land flowing with milk and honey We will

always be obedient will always be faithful you're you're like a wife that I married out of slavery and elevated you and glorified you by association with myself But you laid down playing the harlot. I planted you as a noble vine a seed of highest quality How then have you turned before me into the degenerate plant of an alien vine? Though you wash yourself with lye and use much soap your iniquity is marked before me says your God This is like tattoos under the skin. You're not just soiled where you can wash and be clean No amount of washing will get this clean This is the reason national judgment is inevitable.

This is a national parallel to the sin unto death John says, you know, there is a sin unto death and you're wasting your time praying for that Remember in chapter 1 God says don't pray for these people. It's too late their stain has become permanent their blemish is something that can only be cured by a change of generation they're gonna have to go into captivity and a different set of people are going to have to in the same way that when God launched The nation and that entire generation had to drop in the wilderness so that a new people could go into the land as they leave The land that generation is going to have to die in captivity and a different generation is going to have to return Their generation will be 70 years because the stain is permanent They have it has set, you know They say, you know, you spill something on your clothes if you if you get at it right away and wash it quickly You can reverse it off. But but if you if you wait too long if you leave it too long It sets This is essentially God's argument you have persisted in this so long the stain has set there's no washing it out you have to go Tragic so When judgment comes at verses 26 through 28 skip down to 26 as The thief is ashamed when he is found out So is the house of Israel ashamed they and their kings and their princes and their priests and their prophets notice again the rehearsal of leadership at every level in every category Now Nation in the Old Testament believer in the New Testament We've mentioned that many times right as goes the nation for purposes of interpretation and application for us We look at the nation say this is me.

What is the equivalent of? These areas of leadership in us the Kings This is Policy decisions about what we do and how we interact with others, right? They're princes this is Support, you know a king will gather gather the princes gather. This is this can be like his cabinet and You you get support you associate with others who think the same thing and who have you know decision-making affirmation confirmation ability And so you group together and you all think this thing This is believers who gather in whole churches that think the same way and you know Believers of like mind can be a good thing. It can also be a bad thing if your like-mindedness is in a bad way kings and princes their priests and their prophets What kind of? Word of God Interpretation do you get is it shallow? Is it superficial? Is it? Ear tickling is it sugar-coated is it Twinkies or is it a Fire and a hammer.

Do you find your toes getting stepped on do you find it tough? Do you find it not always? pleasant sometimes harsh Correction often has to be harsh to get our attention and to turn us Did you ever notice that when Balaam it was riding his donkey heading off to curse the Israelites God didn't send a pink angel to whisper in his ear and say Balaam Old Balaam, you're going the wrong way What did he do? he sent an angel with a sword to stand in his path and

slay him if he proceeded and The only reason he wasn't slain is the donkey was smarter than Balaam and kept turning off the road If the donkey had not turned Balaam would have died remember when Moses was coming back into Egypt after 40 years in Midian And God met him at the border and was about to kill him Oh Moses You remember that little thing? I said about you know, the covenant of Abraham and circumcision Have you noticed that your little son is not circumcised because your wife is a Midianite and doesn't believe in it It was no gentleness to that Moses is Thinking he's on a mission from God given at Sinai and he's on his way back to Egypt to deliver the people You could just imagine Charlton Heston, you know stumping along with his big stick there and all of a sudden God is in the way And here comes the sword swinging in his direction. He says whoa Correction can be harsh if you come away Occasionally, I don't think every Bible class ought to be a you know humbling and grinding experience But we ought to come away sometimes having looked at the Word of God chastened rebuked if you think back to when you're a child if you had, you know, dutiful parents there are times when there's kind of a an atmosphere in the house because I did something bad I got in trouble and We're not laughing and playing Monopoly There's a little bit of a an after shock effect. There's something of an echo I have been rebuked.

I've been instructed and I'm Treading very quietly. I'm closing my door very softly. I'm making sure my room is picked up I'm looking around for things that I can do so that I don't get in any further trouble and there's a soberness and there is just a bit of a chill in the air after Rebuke and correction and instruction in righteousness, right? We should feel that from time to time in Bible class if you don't feel that way in this church You need to go to a church where you get that Because I will tell you and anybody that knows the Word of God will tell you the Word of God is a sword Whom the Lord loves he chastens and he Scourges every son that he receives when we study the Word of God We ought to come away from time to time feeling like we just got a good tanning got a hiding you know the Rod for the back of fools am I never a fool seriously doubt it So I ought to be getting the rod from time to time, right? That's what Jeremiah is doing here.

That's what God is saying to his people through Jeremiah Why aren't you waking up? Why aren't you turning at my reproof? Well, that is chapter 2 Judah is going to be ashamed when judgment comes because judgment will come and the rest of that chapter Starting at verse 29. Why do you plead with me? You've transgressed in vain. I chastened your children They received no correction Your sword has devoured your prophets like a destroying lion the good prophets the genuine prophets.

Look at that These guys have been taken out. Oh Generation see the Word of the Lord if I've been a wilderness to Israel or a land of darkness Why do my people say we are lords? We will come no more to you can a virgin forget her ornaments or a bride her attire yet My people have forgotten me days without number. Why do you beautify your ways to seek love? Therefore you have also taught the wicked women your ways on your skirts has found the blood of the lives of poor innocents I have not found it by secret search, but it's plainly on all these things.

You're doing this stuff openly This is not secret sin. This is open Rebellion yet you say because I'm innocent his anger will turn from me. I declare myself innocent I I like my judgment better than God's.

I don't believe Jeremiah. I believe myself. I vindicate myself.

I justify myself I'm a good person. I'm doing things, right? I don't get this Negativity coming in the direction of Jeremiah Behold I will plead my case against you because you say I have not sinned That's the end of verse 35 verse 36 Why do you gad about so much to change your way you shall be ashamed of Egypt as you were ashamed of Assyria Ashamed ashamed of Egypt remember Josiah Indeed you will go forth from here with your hands on your head. That's the posture of a captive For the Lord has rejected your trusted allies and you will not prosper by them Well this sets the tone we're not going to do every chapter in detail, but that one is a good representation of what you're going to find in chapters 2 through 24 God will be lifted up.

God will be glorified. God will apportion God will divide our Personal question is Which side of that division are we on as? God is lifted up are we lifted up with him Humble yourself under the mighty hand of God that what? He may exalt you room lift you up in due time Well, it's a wonderful message because We are convinced of better things of you brethren things that accompany salvation We are going to look at the book of Jeremiah as a book of hope as a book of deliverance as a book of preservation That God knows them that are his the marking angel goes and puts that Seal on those who sigh and cry you find that in the old testament and the new even in the book of the revelation You remember the hundred forty four thousand Twelve thousand from each tribe. What happens they are sealed God says no judgment until Those faithful are sealed Seal them first then we'll proceed with all of this thunder and lightning God knows them that are his my sheep hear my voice They respond we are those who respond right? Oh, we've got to figure out is in my personal circumstance in my personal set of Challenges and opportunities What is my proper response? Figure it out spent a little time in reflection Where is God calling me? Where is God challenging me? Where is God? Rebuking me.

What do I need to cut out and stop doing? What do I need to? Fill a gap and start doing Everybody has things they should stop doing everybody has things they should start doing right? Does that include you and me? Yes Well, let's Jeremiah ourselves so that God can be Glorified in us and we can be lifted up in due time with the Lord Jesus Let's close here in a word of prayer father. Thank you for the truth of your word Thank you for the powerful clear and straightforward guidance you give us we don't have an abstraction for a God we don't have a An amorphous calling or a fuzzy faith What you have said and what you have done is clear. It is Unadulterated it is righteousness.

It is truth. It is light. We pray that as your Holy Spirit Ministers these things to each of our hearts that we will See clearly the path that you illuminate for us that we will walk boldly Not only into your presence But into the world and into the fulfillment of our daily tasks in a way that pleases you and glorifies the Lord Jesus We pray these things in his name.

Amen