**Jeremiah 3 (Lesson 3a)**

**I. Text Of Chapter 3 – Repent & Live (3 minutes to read)**

A. God’s Call To Repentance (3:1-5) – carryover from 1st speech

 1. This section is very similar to the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Lk. 15:11ff).

 2. This section also very heavily reflects on Deut. 24:1-4. Cf. also Gen. 38:14.

B. Two Profligate Sisters (3:6-11) – new speech w/ introduction

 1. vv. 6f – Israel spent 200 years in rebellion & although God desired their repentance (2Pet. 3:9), they refused & suffered (cf. Hos. 11:7).

 2. vv. 8f – Judah should’ve seen what happened & been deterred (Rom. 2:4f).

 3. v. 10 – Reforms under Josiah (cf. 2Kgs. 22-23) were superficial in effect.

 4. v. 11 – Israel is better than Judah (cf. Ezek. 16:51f). Judah had advantages.

C. Invitation For Northern Israel To Repent (3:12-13)

 1. Call is made to the N, where Israel was taken captive from (2Kgs. 17:6; 18:11) and how Judah will be taken into captivity (Jer. 25:9f).

 2. Perhaps trying to provoke Judah to jealousy? (cf. Rom. 11:11-14)

D. Mercy And Blessings Promised To The Remnant Penitent (3:14-18)

 1. Blessing #1: God will draw a remnant to Zion (cf. Ps. 122; Heb. 12:22, 28)

 2. Blessing #2: God will provide shepherds (cf. 23:3-6; Ezek. 34; 1Pet. 5:1-4)

 3. Blessing #3: God will give a new covenant (cf. 31:31-34; Heb. 9:11-15, 24)

 4. Blessing #4: Jerusalem will become God’s throne (cf. Heb. 12:22-28; Gal. 4:24-31; Eph. 1:20-23; Rev. 21-22)

 5. Blessing #5: God will draw Gentiles in (cf. Is. 2:2f; Matt. 28:19f; Mk. 16:15f)

 6. Blessing #6: God will change their attitudes (cf. Heb. 10:16f)

 7. Blessing #7: Reunification of two kingdoms (cf. Is. 11:12; Ezek. 37:16-28; Hos. 2:2; Heb. 8:6-13; all 12 tribes in return, Ezra 6:17; 8:35; 9:8, 15)

E. Idols Bring Shame; YHWH Brings Salvation (3:19-25) – weeping at idol altars

**II. Thought Questions For Chapter 3**

 A. What does it mean to have a “harlot’s forehead”? (3:3; cf. Is. 58)

 B. Explain the future exaltation of Jerusalem as the “throne of the LORD”? (3:17)

 C. Is confidence in religious relics a good substitute for God? (cf. 1Sam. 4:3-8, 21f)

 D. Which Minor Prophet provides the backdrop for much of this chapter?

**III. Applications For Chapter 3**

 A. No disparity between lip and life should ever exist (3:5; cf. Is. 29:13; Ezek. 33:31; Matt. 15:8; Mk. 7:6; Eph. 4:22; Phil. 1:27; Titus 1:16).

 B. Immorality is akin to stupidity (3:8-10; Prov. 5:1-13; 6:32; 9:16).

C. Genuine repentance cannot be feigned (3:10; cf. Joel 2:12f). Rote form and service are meaningless (cf. Mal. 1). Service to God needs to start in the heart (Rom. 6:17f; Ps. 51:16f; Matt. 7:21-23; Luke 6:46; John 4:23f). See Harrison, 66f.

 D. Punishment for sins in the lives of others needs to teach us avoidance. God intends these punishments to be a deterrent!

 E. In 3:17, God speaks of all drawing to Jerusalem, including the nations. This clearly is a Messianic prophecy speaking of the reconciliation of Jews and Gentiles in the gospel (cf. Is. 2; Amos 4; Jn. 18:36; Acts 1:6).

**Jeremiah 4 (Lesson 3b)**

**I. Text Of Chapter 4 – Repent Or Die (3.5 minutes to read)**

A. Call For Genuine Repentance (4:1-4)

 1. They need to remove all abominations and make a sincere vow of allegiance to the one true God. If they do this, they will find such blessing that others will be led to devotion to God.

 2. They needed to get to the core of the matter & fix their hearts (cf. Matt. 13).

B. The Desolation To Come (4:5-18)

 1. vv. 5f – Sound the alarm! Guide the fleeing! (cf. 6:1; Ezek. 3; 33; Amos 3:6)

 2. vv. 7f – Nebuchadnezzar is coming to knock your socks off!

 3. vv. 9f – “I told you so!” False prophets exposed. The Lachish Letters record chaos among leadership. “Peace! Peace!” is now “Disaster! Disaster!”

 4. vv. 11-13 – Nebuchadnezzar comes as a sirocco of devastation (cf. Hos. 8:7; Ezek. 38:16; Is. 5:28; 66:15) with swift horses (Hab. 1:8; Deut. 28:49)

 5. vv. 14-18 – There will be no escape! Invaders have passed Dan & Ephraim.

C. Jeremiah’s Personal Grief Over The Coming Desolation (4:19-31; cf. 10:19ff)

 1. vv. 19-21 – His heart is ripped apart over what comes to his kinsmen; “*The MT* my heart moans *(hmh) inside me points to a profoundly disturbed physical condition due to shock...One calamity now follows on the heels of another. There is no escape, for everything is devastated in a moment, as though by fire. The prophet wonders anxiously how much longer he can stand the emotional strain of contemplating his countrymen streaming to the fortified towns for refuge and quivering with terror as the warning trumpet blasts, for he knows that the latter will be of no uncertain import.”* (Harrison, 72) (cf. 16:1-4; Eze. 21:1-7; La. 5:10-14)

 2. v. 22 – The devastation is justified (cf. Is. 5:20f)

 3. vv. 23-26 – Primeval chaos; secure things disturbed; formerly fruitful

 4. vv. 27-31 – God will not totally annihilate (cf. 5:10, 18; 16:14f; 30:11; 46:28; Amos 9:8-10), even though Judah still appeals to others

**II. Thought Questions For Chapter 4**

 A. Jeremiah 4:4 uses circumcision figuratively. What other passages speak of the figurative circumcision of God’s people and what do they indicate?

 B. What should be our reaction to advantages/grace? (4:3f; Rom. 2:25-29; 6:1)

 C. Jeremiah 4:14 uses washing figuratively. What New Testament passages uses similar references to spiritual washing and what do they imply?

 D. Despite 11th hour beautification, how would her former paramours react?

**III. Applications For Chapter 4**

 A. Perhaps a “renewal of vows” can redirect our waning zeal (4:2).

B. *“Inner cleansing is the only alternative to destruction by fire, a theme prominent also in New Testament thought (cf. Mt. 13:42, 50; 25:41; 1 Cor. 3:13, etc.).”* (Harrison, “Jeremiah & Lamentations,” *TOTC*, 69)

C. All the knowledge in the world, w/o God, is meaningless (4:22; cf. Prov. 1:7).

D. Mastery in sin plagued Judah and it plagues us today (see J. Humphries, 29, 45f).