

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE PROPHET JEREMIAH

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PART 7: IDOLATRY IS ADDICTIVE

RECOUNTING THE PAST

As we study the Book of Jeremiah, we must examine every word to find what God said in the past, how it correlates during our time on earth, and what God wants us to learn from it.

The people of Judah were severely judged even though they were God's chosen people which He selected to be His servants. We need to read Jeremiah's words with fear and trembling in order to make sure we know what God's will is for our lives. I want to stress that every book of the Bible is important, and if we read them all, we can be victorious with our lives on earth.

Remember, God is not sentimental and will judge His people to the point of physical death. Therefore, let us take heed of Paul's warning. **Hebrews 10:26-31**

We keep the laws of God because we are saved, not to be saved! **John 14:15**

After Joshua passed away, the people of Israel repeatedly worshiped idols. The pattern was the same each time; the people would sin and God sent judgment upon the nation in form of invading nations. The people cried out in pain from the severe judgments and God would deliver them, but then they went right back to the idolatry again. **Jeremiah 2:20**

The third generation had not been instructed in the ways of the Lord and they adopted the pagan worship around them. **Judges 2:7-13**

Despite their ignorance, God judged them severely. **verses 14-15**

God raised up judges that delivered the Israelites from their enemies. **verses 16-18**

As was often the case, when the judge died, the people corrupted themselves even more. **verse 19**

As a punishment, God did not drive out the heathens from the land. **verses 20-23**

When God brought the Israelites into the Promised Land, He cleansed them from their sins and planted them as a pristine vine, but they turned out to be a degenerate vine. **Jeremiah 2:21**

YOU MUST REPENT

You are failing in God's eyes if you refuse to repent of your sins and change your ways. You can try to wash yourself with a strong chemical like nitre (sodium carbonate) but it will be in vain as the sin cannot be removed in such a manner. **verse 22**

When you say that that you are not polluted, you are like the Arabian camel that can travel 100 miles without drinking water and living off the fat of his 80 pound hump. **verse 23**



You are like a wild female donkey in heat whose scent attracts males. No one can stop a female donkey in heat. **verse 24**

The people were convinced they had sinned too greatly, and instead of repenting, they pursued sin even more. **verses 25-26**

DO NOT TURN TO IDOLS

The people of Israel turned to their divining rods and their stone gods. These inert and lifeless idols could not save them. **verses 27-28**

God declared, "I have struck you in judgment. I tried and failed to correct your children and you have killed My prophets with the sword." **verses 29-30**

God asked the people if He blessed them or treated them like a wilderness. **verse 31**

A woman will never forget her ornaments, neither does a bride lose her wedding attire, but the people of God has forgotten him. **verse 32**

Why do you trimmest (premeditate) your ways to seek love? In doing so, you have taught the evil people your ways. **verse 33**

I have found the blood of the innocent people on your clothing and yet you still claim to be not guilty. **verse 34-35**

Why do you constantly change your ways? I have rejected you and you will not prosper. **verses 36-37**

WORSHIPING A STONE

What makes a man to pick up a stone, declare it is his god, and bow before it? Why does a man carve out a figure from wood and call it a god? Were the men really that stupid at the time of Jeremiah to believe such nonsense? Behind the stone and carved wood were evil spirits that spiritually blinded the people to believe these lies. **Deuteronomy 32:16-17; 1 Corinthians 10:19-22**

These same evil spirits are still blinding people today. In the Orthodox churches of Russia and Greece, these idols are called icons and represent figures of dead people. The Roman Catholics calls them saints, with Mary the mother of Jesus as the supreme dead person to worship.

IDOLATRY IS ADDICTIVE

Idolatry can be extremely addictive as shown by the following examples:

- ❖ Gamblers lose money but they keep going back to the gambling tables.
- ❖ The alcoholic will sacrifice his kidneys, liver and family in order to get another drink.
- ❖ The drug addict will steal and kill in order to get a fix.
- ❖ The family man, pastors and other Christian leaders are willing to trade their integrity, jobs and family to satisfy their craving for pornography.
- ❖ The rapist/child molester does not care if he is caught as long as he can get one more act of his addiction.

- ❖ People will spend hours doing Yoga as their god.
- ❖ This list is not exhaustive and can go on and on. **Romans 6:12-16**

WHO DO YOU WORSHIP?

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?