

Jeremiah Ch 16 • “My Refuge in the Day of Affliction”

- Background God has been expressing (clearly) Judah is in for a rough ride.
Judah has ignored God; gone after idols — judgment coming!
Won't destroy Judah utterly but also won't stop far short of that.
- v1-4 God wants Jeremiah to present Judah w/ picture of coming hard times.
No marriage (which would be scandal or shameful in culture).
Coming into a season where land / name / inheritance won't matter.
- v5-7 People will be dying in such great number will be no time to mourn.
God wants Jeremiah to picture that as well.
God removing peace / kindness / mercy – J's lifestyle should reflect.
Note irony in v6 – cutting forbidden (Lev 19:28, 21:5); still practiced.
- v8-9 More lifestyle constraints for Jeremiah: no partying (feasting, etc.).
Foreshadowing a time where there will be no celebration in the land.
- v10-13 God knows people will notice Jeremiah's behavior (outside norm).
When they ask Jeremiah should explain why God is judging.
Note God's patience in explaining – even though they should know.
God not judging for sins of ancestors but for SAME sins AS ancestors.
God will “hurl” them out of land so they can worship their false gods.
- v14-15 Exile won't be end of the story; God remembers mercy (Hab 3:2).
God promising to do work of restoration that exceeds the Exodus.
Note: glimpse of long-term fulfillment – “all the lands” (Matt 24:31).
Both short-term & long-term – sunshine will follow storms.
- v16-18 But before the sunshine WILL BE storms. Not permanent but grim!
Fishermen and hunters – gathering, stalking (no hiding).
Possible long-term fulfillment?
Perhaps fishermen = antichrist's army; hunters = other nations?
Long-term hypothesis gets stronger when consider Isaiah 40:2.
Israel (Judah & Israel) = God's firstborn. Double blessing / judgment.
But Israel puts away idols in captivity – does it really fit long-term?
What about Zechariah 13:1-6? Clearly long-term; clearly idolatry!
- v19-21 Short-term: dialogue between Jeremiah and God about Judah.
Long-term: God anticipating return of Jesus & Kingdom.
Useful to read side-by-side with Isaiah Ch 42.
- Application God hates idols! And we know that (“I am the Lord your God...”)
But do we remember it? How seriously do we take it?