

Jeremiah Ch 13 • “Profitable for Nothing”

- Background God speaks in metaphor (not always but not never)!
- We left off last week with God speaking to Judah about Covenant.
 Ch 13 covers much of same material but symbolically.
 This message or may not have been given at the same time as Ch 11-12.
- v1-7 “Sash” = girdle or undergarment. Linen suggests priestly garment.
 Reminds us of Israel’s call to be a priestly people (Ex 19:6).
 Jeremiah told to wear (intimacy) and not wash (not sure why).
 Bury under rock at Euphrates (350 miles away – Babylonian area)
 Distance + time = did this happen late in reign of Jehoiakim?
 Is this why Nebuchadnezzar is gracious to Jeremiah (Ch 39)?
- v8-11 When Jeremiah returns (months later) the garment is ruined.
 What’s the point? The garment is Judah.
 Garment ruined by waters of Babylon; Judah will be ruined by Babylon
 Reason: pride (see Ps 18:39 – “girded for battle”)
 Judah decided she didn’t need the Lord to gird her up anymore.
- v12-14 Another symbolic message: starts with possibly well-known saying.
 Jeremiah not really talking about wine; talking about God’s wrath.
 Cup of God’s wrath: Ps 60, Is 51, Ez 23, Rev 14 — but here is basis!
 Judah arrogantly presumes God will continue filling up with wine;
 God responds by filling with wrath.
 “Dash them v. one another” might refer to cannibalism (Lam 4, Ex 5)
 “Drunkenness” – won’t be able to defend themselves.
- v15-17 Reason for judgment is pride. God offers a way of escape (repent)
 but doesn’t expect Judah to take advantage.
- v18-19 Probably reference to Jehoiachin and Nehushta (mom) cf 2 Kings 24.
- v20-21 Invasion coming: flock = cities of Judah; Jerusalem = shepherd.
 Jerusalem failed as shepherd; now cities will be “shepherded” violently
- v22-24 Judah making same mistake as Israel (turning to nations for help).
 Same mistake will lead to same outcome (cf Hosea 2:10).
 Theoretically still time to repent but Judah’s pride will prevent it.
- v25-27 God reiterates that judgment is Judah’s doing (choice).
- APP When God chastens us it’s OUR doing (Hebrews 12:6).
 Our need for correction always starts with neglecting our call (v11).