

Jeremiah Ch 17 • “On the Tablet of their Heart”

- Background Big idea is (still) God’s declaration of coming judgment to Judah.
Ch 17 revolves around that idea but from several different directions.
- v1-4 Judah’s sin is not superficial; heart issue (requiring heart surgery).
Idolatry entrenched; will lose “heritage” (land) for extended period.
“Forever” ≠ always mean infinite – can mean until something complete.
In this case, until 70 years is complete (cf 2 Chron 36:21).
- v5-8 “Cursed is the man” – kings (maybe) or people in general (probably).
Danger of trusting people vs trusting God (cf Psalm 1).
Note tree by stream is not passive – “spread out” = send, stretch, push.
Finding peace, bearing fruit etc. is f(x) of actively *pursuing* God.
- v9-10 Might be continuation of above or new message connected by theme.
Human heart is *deceived* (cf 2 Kings 10, Josh 8, Gen 25, Gen 3:15).
Translated elsewhere “desperately sick” (incurable apart from God).
- v11 Illustration of v9-10 (sounds proverbial).
Make fortune thru wicked means: people might be confused; not God!
- v12-13 Voice shifts; now Jeremiah praying (confessing): God is our only hope!
Jeremiah repenting of Jer 15:18 (accused God of deception).
Combine w/ v11: we deceived ourselves; God is our source of help!
Note recurring ref to God as “fountain of living water” (cf John 4).
- v14-18 After confession comes supplication. Jeremiah asks for 3 things ☐
(1) God deliver me from scorn and ridicule of my enemies.
(2) God save me from the things I’m prophesying.
(3) God punish my enemies for sin against You AND sin against me!

Which is vengeance but apart from God (v12) vengeance is all there is!
- v19-23 Closing message is about Sabbath-keeping. Not sure when was given.
Initially sounds a little legalistic (esp cf Jesus’ teaching 600 yrs later).
But in context what is God saying? Sabbath-keeping is a heart check!
If God is who He says He is there’s no reason to NOT keep the Sabbath.
Not keeping the Sabbath = outward sign of hearts inward condition.

(Pharisees tried to conceal heart condition WITH Sabbath – same issue!)
- v24-27 Sabbath is barometer: what do God’s people think about His promises?
Talking about more than Sabbath: Sabbath starts in heart.
Provocative: when is v26 fulfilled? After 2nd Coming!
When is v27 fulfilled? 586BC? 70AD? Rev 19? Jesus is our Sabbath?
- Application New Year’s Resolutions? Behavior change or heart change?