

Jeremiah Ch 19-20 • “Terror All Around ”

- Background Time for another object lesson (cf underwear in Ch 13; stick in Ch 15)
- v1-2 Ch 18 visited potter; Ch 19 brings leaders and buys a jar.
“Potsherd Gate” probably Dung Gate – leads to Valley of Hinnom.
God previously reference Valley of Hinnom (Gehenna) in Ch 7v30-32.
Associated w/ child sacrifice.
- v3-5 See also 7v30-32 – God declares reason for impending judgment.
Import of false worship / foreign gods / child sacrifice.
- v6-9 Judgment: place where you killed your children will be place of death.
God warned Israel centuries earlier (Deut 28:53-57; Lev 26:29).
Lamentations 4:10 confirms prophecy fulfilled in 586BC.
- v10-13 “Make void the counsel” = same root as “jar” (explains object lesson).
God is going to smash all Judah’s plans beyond repair.
When He’s done, they’ll be nothing left to do but bury the dead.

Possible deeper meaning here per Alfred Edersheim – the 586BC invasion doesn’t seem to adequately fulfill the prophecy. Later fulfillment? See Matt 27:7-10. Quotes Zech 11:12-13 but cites Jeremiah? Could “field of blood” be the curse of Jeremiah 19v7 and fulfilled in 70AD?
- v14-15 Written in 3rd person – J’s scribe Baruch? Same msg now for everyone...
- 20v1-2 “Pashhur” is common name. “Chief officer” = sgt at arms of the temple.
Decides Jeremiah is disturbing the peace. Beaten, confined, tortured (?)
- v3-6 “Terror on every side” used by Jeremiah before in re Babylonian army.
Saying to Pashhur: your fate will mirror Judah’s fate.
First time “Babylon” explicitly referenced. Fulfilled in 597BC (2nd deport)
By 586BC Zephaniah in his job (Jer 29).
- v7-10 Another lamentation: God you tricked me! There’s no win here!
If I don’t preach your Word burns within me. If I do, people hate me!
People call ME “Terror All Around” (name he gave Pashhur).
- v11-12 But then pivots to remembering God / good (cf David / Psalms).
Still seeking after vengeance (bad) but confident God will prevail (good).
- v14-18 But then swings back to the dark side (cf Job 3v3-11; Ecc 4).
- APP After this lament becomes fortified city, iron pillar, bronze wall (1v18).
Decides to walk in the good works God has prepared (Eph 2v10).
What do we do with the gap between our plans and God’s plans?

