

Message #10**Jeremiah 6:1-30**

One of the arguments that people use against the doctrine of Eternal Security is an argument that goes something like this: If you believe once a person is saved they are always saved, then you believe a person can live in sin and still be saved. So it really doesn't matter what he does. He can live life any way and still go to heaven. It makes no difference how he behaves. Well from a theological standpoint the potential is there for a believer to be saved and live life any foolish and carnal way he chooses.

But what is not true is the statement "it makes no difference." Truth is it makes a big difference how a believer chooses to live in regard to God and His word. If a believer persists in living life in a rebellious way, God will not sit idly by and put up with it. He will put a stop to it and that is the point of the book of Jeremiah.

There has been a commercial that has been running on TV that says everything Jesus does, He does out of love. That sounds so nice, doesn't it? The fact is, it is not true. When Jesus Christ went into the Temple of Jerusalem and started throwing over tables and chasing people out of the Temple, He did that because of His anger, not His love. He was fed up with what He saw in the religious world and He had enough.

As we have said, most people in this world invent their own idea of what God is like. The problem is, most ideas don't square with what the whole counsel of the Word of God actually says. God has a breaking point. God gets fed up with His own people. He gives them time to repent, but if they don't, He warns them that He will send His severe judgment.

That point is clearly seen in Jeremiah 6.

BECAUSE OF THE UNASHAMED SIN AND STUBBORNNESS AND REBELLION OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD, GOD WARNS THAT UNLESS THEY REPENT RIGHT NOW, HE WILL BRING AN UNSTOPPABLE, GUARANTEED JUDGMENT AGAINST JERUSALEM AND HIS OWN PEOPLE.

In this chapter God targets Jerusalem. He makes a prediction that she is going down.

There are five main warnings given in this chapter:

WARNING #1 – God warns His people that He will alienate Himself from them and let them be destroyed. **6:1-8**

In **verse 1**, God challenges the "sons of Benjamin" to flee for safety, which means flee to some safe refuge place if you want to survive. Jeremiah's hometown of Anathoth was in Benjamin's territory (1:1), so Jeremiah needed to start proclaiming this to his own relatives. Do you see this? **God's own people better understand this about God, He will send judgment if His people reject Him and His word.**

God says “blow the trumpet” and “raise a signal.” A public signal was given to the people by blowing a trumpet, or building a fire or announcing from a watchtower. God wanted the truth of this publicly proclaimed.

God mentions three specific places and people:

- 1) Jerusalem, the place where the Temple was located (1:1a).
- 2) Tekoa, the home of Amos the prophet (Amos 1:1) - (1:1b) about 12 miles south of Jerusalem.
- 3) Beth-haccerem means house of the vineyard (1:1c) - about 3 miles south of Jerusalem.

So three types of places needed to be warned:

- 1) Place of worship - Jerusalem
- 2) Place of the prophet - Tekoah
- 3) Place of pleasure and prosperity - Beth-haccerem

In **verses 2-3**, God says His people were one time like a beautiful daughter or child and He will cause them to be cut off. He will bring foreign shepherds to come and surround them and there will be no escape. God says I will destroy them all because of their rejection of Me and My word.

According to **verses 4-5**, God was preparing a northern power for battle to attack His own people. This battle would be all day, from noon until dark. Most battles took place during the day, but God’s judgment would be so ferocious it would be day and night.

It would be a complete destruction. According to **verse 6**, nothing would be able to stop it. They would cut down any tree or roadblock and storm Jerusalem, and she would be punished. They would make ramps and scale the city. **God is the one commanding this against His own people.**

In **verse 7**, God says that just as a well keeps producing fresh water, so His own people keep producing fresh evil and wickedness. It flows from His people. They never stop. They invent new forms of evil.

God would send a judgment of violence, sickness as a punishment to bring His people and the land to nothing. God says I have an arsenal of violence and destruction and sickness and wounds and I will use this arsenal against My own people.

In **verse 8**, God says to His people “be warned.” Again, God invites His people to return to Him before He unleashes this. God gives His people time to turn to Him from their sin. God gives His people time to repent. But if they do not repent, He will chastise them with the full arsenal of His judgment.

WARNING #2 – God warns His people that He will Personally orchestrate the punishment against His own people. **6:9-15**

Many take the position that **verses 9-15** are a dialogue between God and Jeremiah.

In **verse 9**, God says He will completely glean and sift through Israel with His gleaning judgment. It would appear from this that when God does this, He will examine “each grape” and spare those who are true to Him. **It pays to be faithful even when others around you are not.**

In **verse 10**, God says there is no point me giving out My word because the people will not listen. In fact, the word of God is a reproach to God’s own people. **Do you see this? God’s own people not only don’t want the word of God, they are repulsed by it.**

They don’t want to hear the truth that they need to turn back to God, even if it warns them of pending judgment. They do not want to hear that they have pushed God to the point where God is “full of wrath” (**v. 11**).

We are at the same place as Israel was. **We are right now at a critical point in history in this country and no one wants to listen to the word of God. We are on the verge of collapse and judgment and no one wants to hear it.**

In **verses 11-14**, God lists the people who will suffer His severe judgment because they do not want His word:

- 1) The children. **11a**
- 2) The young men. **11b**
- 3) The husbands and wives. **11c**
- 4) The aged and very old men. **11d**
- 5) The wives. **12a** - their homes and land would be taken
- 6) All inhabitants. **12b** - all of them, from the greatest to the least.
- 7) All the greedy. **13a** - all they thought about was greedy gain.
- 8) All false prophets. **13b**
- 9) All false priests. **13c**

Politicians think it means nothing to take the one true God of the Bible out of everything. Politicians don’t care if false religion is taught in school as long as you don’t teach the truth. What they don’t realize is they are leading the nation to the destruction of God, including all ages and genders of people.

Look at the end of **verse 13**: “everyone” was living a lie. None of God’s own people were focused on His truth.

The prophets and priests told the people that life was good and they were at peace with God, and there was never any peace with God. They were giving the people “false assurances” that God loved them and was favorable to them, when there was no assurance.

In verse 15, God says not one of them was ashamed of their abominable sin. They did not blush over their sin, they flaunted it. God says this is the reason they are going down.

They had lost any sense of shame over their own sin. **It is very possible for a child of God to become so calloused to conviction that he is not even ashamed or blushes over his own sin.**

Whenever I hear of some dreadful disaster killing men, women and children, I do not question God. I guarantee you this; behind the scenes God has His reasons. It may be that His reasons are based on what He has seen years ago; but God always has His reasons. Wise people see this and conclude I do not want to do whatever brought that on them.

F. B. Huey, in his commentary on Jeremiah, writes this: “Any nation is doomed to destruction when its people no longer feel any shame for their sins and when even its religious leaders refuse to identify sin for what it is but prefer to satisfy the people’s ears with words of false hope and assurance” (*Jeremiah*, p. 99).

WARNING #3 – God warns His people that because they will not respond to Him or His word, He will cause His people to perish. **6:16-21**

This is just an amazing text. Even though God was angry to a wrath level, in spite of the evil and sin of His own people, **He was willing to prevent the chastising judgment if His people would respond to His word.**

In **verse 16**, He invites His people to go back to a fork in the road and make a decision to walk in “ancient paths.” In other words, they needed to get back to the basics of seeing God’s word and obeying it. If they would be willing to do that, “*they* would find rest for *their* souls.” This is an amazing invitation of grace, that God gives His people even when His anger is at a wrath level.

But look at the **end of verse 16**: they said, “We will not walk in it.” God’s own people were not interested in walking in the ways of God.

God says in **verse 17**, I set watchmen over you who communicated to you the truth. These prophets warned that if they did not return to the Lord, His judgment would come. But they would not listen. God says because you refuse to listen to My word, your fate is sealed.

In verses **18-19**, God says the nations and the congregation need to hear this. God calls the nations to see what He will do to His own people. God says I will bring disaster on my people because they did not listen to My word. They rejected my law. **Nations need to see this and understand this because if God would do this to His own nation Israel, He will do it with the nations of the world.**

In **verse 20**, God says your religious sacrifices and offerings mean nothing to Me. I don't accept them and they do not please Me. These people imported fine incense from Sheba in SW Arabia and they imported "sweet cane" from India that they used in the anointing oil at their religious services. God said those sacrifices are not "pleasing to Me."

In **verse 21**, God says I am going to bring multiple obstacles up against My own people. God will bring one catastrophe after another against His own people. God says I will cause fathers, sons, neighbors and friends to perish. God says I am doing this.

WARNING #4 – God warns His people that if they do not humble themselves, He will bring a northern destroyer against them. **6:22-26**

This text should have caused fear and panic in the people of God. One commentator said this warning should cause fear on every side. God says I will bring a ferocious power from the north to destroy My people. They will be cruel and will show no mercy.

My people will be limp and seized with anguish. They will not be able to go anywhere without being killed. Terror will surround My people.

Why would God do this? **Verse 26** says because they will not humble themselves. They should humble themselves before God, but they will not humble themselves before God. If they would mourn over their sin and mourn over what God would do, they could live. But they won't.

WARNING #5 – God informs Jeremiah that He has rejected His own people and will bring the consuming fire of judgment upon them. **6:27-30**

God told Jeremiah that he was to measure the people to see if this judgment was justified. God says to Jeremiah, you assess this and see if this is accurate.

See if they all have stubbornly rebelled and stayed in their sin. See if it is true that no matter what God did, they would not repent. See if you can find anyone who is genuine and pure.

Jeremiah could not find any genuine metal. They were cheap and useless and God said I have had enough. As Dr. Warren Wiersbe said, When God would turn on this furnace, it would not be to purify, but to punish. They were not being refined, they were being rejected (*Be Decisive*, p. 45). Thomas Jefferson wrote: "Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that his justice cannot sleep forever" (Cited from *Ibid.* p. 46).

This country is filled with ministers telling people everything is okay with God and with them. It is not. This nation is becoming unashamedly wicked and evil. No one even blushes anymore at abominable sins. When people have no shame and no longer blush over sin, it reveals how far from God they really are. In Jeremiah 5:1, God told Jeremiah that if he could find just one person who was after His truth, He would spare Jerusalem. He could not find one.

The world is heading to the judgment of God. God is gracious and He gives people opportunities to turn from their sin and turn to Him and His word. But the majority will not do it and they will experience the chastisement of an angry God.

Verse 30 is scary because it says God “has rejected” His own people. If God’s people do not turn back to Him and His word, He will chastise them and refuse to bless them.