

## Journey through Jeremiah Part 8 – Believing a Lie and Worshiping the Queen of Heaven

A sermon series by Pastor Byron Chesney, Th.D. – Wednesday, February 08, 2017

### † Jeremiah 7:1-18

- (1) The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,
- (2) Stand in the gate of the LORD'S house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the LORD, all ye of Judah, that enter in at these gates to worship the LORD.

This begins a new prophecy the LORD has given to Jeremiah. He has been instructed to stand in the Temple to deliver this message. Fortunately for us the Bible tells us more about this event over in Chapter 26. Go ahead and turn there and we will learn some more information:

**Jeremiah 26:1-2:** In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah came this word from the LORD, saying, 2 Thus saith the LORD; Stand in the court of the LORD'S house, and speak unto all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the LORD'S house, all the words that I command thee to speak unto them; diminish not a word:

So, we learn that this happened during the beginning of King Jehoiakim's reign. He was the son of the good King Josiah. But Jehoiakim is not a good King, and he will set about to undo all of the work that his father had done to rid the Kingdom of idolatry. He despises Jeremiah and so do the people that Jeremiah is preaching to. So, they decide to kill him for it.

**Jeremiah 26:7-8:** So the priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the LORD. 8 Now it came to pass, when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak unto all the people, that the priests and the prophets and all the people took him, saying, Thou shalt surely die.

**Jeremiah 26:11:** Then spake the priests and the prophets unto the princes and to all the people, saying, This man *is* worthy to die; for he hath prophesied against this city, as ye have heard with your ears.

The people are ready to kill Jeremiah because of his message from God. But look what Jeremiah tells them: **Jeremiah 26:12-15:** Then spake Jeremiah unto all the princes and to all the people, saying, The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and against this city all the words that ye have heard. (13) Therefore now amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the LORD your God; and the LORD will repent him of the evil that he hath pronounced against you. (14) As for me, behold, I *am* in your hand: do with me as seemeth good and meet unto you. (15) But know ye for certain, that if ye put me to death, ye shall surely bring innocent blood upon yourselves, and upon this city, and upon the inhabitants thereof: for of a truth the LORD hath sent me unto you to speak all these words in your ears.

He lets them know real fast that this wasn't about him, he is just the messenger and if they kill him for this they will have innocent blood on their hands. People aren't much different nowadays, they would rather kill the preacher than repent of their sins.

(3) Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place.

Again, we find the LORD giving them yet another chance to repent. He tells them if they will then he will allow them to continue to live in the land of Judah and not be carried away into captivity.

(4) Trust ye not in lying words, saying, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, *are* these.

Here the LORD is telling them not to believe the lies of the priest and false prophets who put more faith in the building and their religious routines than they do the LORD. In their minds, as long as they maintained the Temple of God and kept up their rituals of doing the routine services and sacrifices that they would be protected. But the LORD assures them that this is lying words and they better not trust them.

The LORD is not satisfied or pleased with our religious habits and our fleshly routines, He is more concerned with our true hearts, our desire to worship Him because we love him and want to please Him, not go through some mundane routine of worship. Even the pagans and the lost go through religious routines but it can't save them and it can't save you.

(5) For if ye thoroughly amend your ways and your doings; if ye thoroughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbour; (6) *If* ye oppress not the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and shed not innocent blood in this place, neither walk after other gods to your hurt: (7) Then will I cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers, for ever and ever.

Here he gives them a list of things that that they must do in order for Him to prevent their destruction and being carried away into captivity.

1. **Amend their ways and doings.** – turn away from idolatry and sin.
2. **Execute judgment between a man and his neighbor.** – goes back to loving your neighbor as yourself. Don't place certain men above others, treat everyone equally.
3. **Oppress not the stranger, fatherless, and widow.** – One of the characteristics of a Christian, someone that has the love of the LORD in their heart, is that they will have pity and compassion upon those that are less fortunate. We will try to help those that can't help themselves. In fact, over in the Book of James we see that this is called "**PURE Religion**" **James 1:27** Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, *and* to keep himself unspotted from the world
4. **Shed not innocent blood.** – This has already been happening. Again, we can look at Jeremiah 26 and see where King Jehoiakim had killed an innocent man that had also been prophesying like Jeremiah was:

### **Jeremiah 26:20-23**

(20) And there was also a man that prophesied in the name of the LORD, Urijah the son of Shemaiah of Kirjathjearim, who prophesied against this city and against this land according to all the words of Jeremiah:

(21) And when Jehoiakim the king, with all his mighty men, and all the princes, heard his words, the king sought to put him to death: but when Urijah heard it, he was afraid, and fled, and went into Egypt;

(22) And Jehoiakim the king sent men into Egypt, *namely*, Elnathan the son of Achbor, and *certain* men with him into Egypt.

(23) And they fetched forth Urijah out of Egypt, and brought him unto Jehoiakim the king; who slew him with the sword, and cast his dead body into the graves of the common people.

5. **Neither walk after other gods to your hurt.** – Idolatry was the chief sin of the Children of Israel and Judah. Bowing down to false gods and forsaking the LORD God Jehovah. Worshiping these false gods of their heathen neighbors was doing harm to them. They were missing out on the blessings of the LORD.

(8) Behold, ye trust in lying words, that cannot profit.

Again, he is referencing the lying words of their priests and prophets assuring them that their religious observations and Temple attendance was assurance of God's blessings. He says these are lying words and they cannot profit from them.

(9) Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not; (10) And come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, We are delivered to do all these abominations? (11) Is this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, even I have seen *it*, saith the LORD.

Then he really lets them have it. Sounds a whole lot like what people do today. He says you mean to tell me that you can stand there and pretend to be innocent after committing all of these sins and think that you are okay just because you come to the House of God and go through your pathetic religious ceremony?

Friends, we have people today that have it in their mind that just because they made some kind of profession of faith or said some kind of prayer that they can go around doing whatever they want and it's okay because they are under God's grace. Paul dealt with this in his letter to the Romans:

**Romans 6:1-7:** What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? (2) God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? (3) Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? (4) Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (5) For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness* of his resurrection: (6) Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. (7) For he that is dead is freed from sin.

(12) But go ye now unto my place which was in Shiloh, where I set my name at the first, and see what I did to it for the wickedness of my people Israel.

Here he is giving them a little history lesson. You see, the Ark wasn't always in Jerusalem. The first place the Ark was kept was in Shiloh among the Tribe of Ephraim. That is where God "**set His name at first.**" But the people of Ephraim were bowing down to false idols and worshiping false gods and it angered the LORD. We read about it in Psalm 78:

**Psalm 78:58-69:** For they provoked him to anger with their high places, and moved him to jealousy with their graven images.(59) When God heard *this*, he was wroth, and greatly abhorred Israel: (60) So that he forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh, the tent *which* he placed among men; (61) And delivered his strength into captivity, and his glory into the enemy's hand. (62) He gave his people over also unto the sword; and was wroth with his inheritance. (63) The fire consumed their young men; and their maidens were not given to marriage. (64) Their priests fell by the sword; and their widows made no lamentation. (65) Then the Lord awaked as one out of sleep, *and* like a mighty man that shouteth by reason of wine. (66) And he smote his enemies in the hinder parts: he put them to a perpetual reproach. (67) Moreover he refused the tabernacle of Joseph, and chose not the tribe of Ephraim: (68) But chose the tribe of Judah, the mount Zion which he loved. (69) And he built his sanctuary like high *palaces*, like the earth which he hath established for ever.

Because of the sins of Ephraim, God chose Judah to set His name and establish the place of the Ark of the Covenant.

(13) And now, because ye have done all these works, saith the LORD, and I spake unto you, rising up early and speaking, but ye heard not; and I called you, but ye answered not; (14) Therefore will I do unto *this* house, which is called by my name, wherein ye trust, and unto the place which I gave to you and to your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh. (15) And I will cast you out of my sight, as I have cast out all your brethren, *even* the whole seed of Ephraim.

Here in Jeremiah he is telling the inhabitants of Judah that they need to remember what happened in Shiloh because they are committing the same abominable acts and the same thing is going to happen to them.

(16) Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee.

Jeremiah attempts to pray a prayer of intercession for the people of Judah but the LORD refuses to answer his prayer. He says he isn't even going to hear it. They have gone too far.

(17) Seest thou not what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? (18) The children gather wood, and the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead *their* dough, to make cakes to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto other gods, that they may provoke me to anger.

The LORD asks Jeremiah, "**seest thou not what they do in the cities of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem?**" The "**children**" meaning young men, were gathering wood for their false idols and worship. The fathers were building the sacrificial fires. The women were kneading dough to bake the cakes that they offered up as sacrifices to their false idols. The whole family was given over to idolatry.

Hey, whole families are given over to idolatry these days too! The sins of the parents pass down to the children. If dad is a no count bum alcoholic, drug addict, 9 times out of 10 the sons will be too. If mom and dad see nothing wrong with laying out of Church, not reading their Bibles, not praying, or living for the LORD then that's the way the children grow up as well. Right now as we speak there are families all over this nation sitting around their idols in the living room, bed room, and dens.

Then he specifically mentions “[the queen of heaven.](#)”

The queen of heaven is not talking about Mary, the mother of Jesus. You know the Roman Catholics refer to her as the queen of heaven... we don't have time to get into all the reasons that is wrong, we'll preach about the Catholics some other time.

The queen of heaven is referring to a female deity, a goddess of the moon, sky, fertility, and war. The worship of her began with Nimrod in Babel. His wife's name was **Semiramis**, she was the queen of Babel. After God scattered Babel because of the tower they had built, the worship of Semiramis continued as **the queen of heaven.**

- The Babylonians called her **Semiramis**.
- The Assyrian's and Chaldeans called her **Ishtar**.
- The Phoenicians called her: **Ashtoreth** and **Astarte**. (ah-star-tee)
- The Egyptians called her **Isis**.
- The Romans called her **Venus**.
- The Greeks called her **Aphrodite**.
- The Americans call her **Lady GaGa, Madonna, Katy Perry, Beyonce...**

As worship of the Queen of Heaven continued, she was considered to be the wife of the false god, **Baal**, also known as **Molech**, the fire god. Because she was the fertility goddess it caused women to worship her in hopes of having children. You can only imagine what kind of worship took place when worshiping this female fertility goddess. That is where the practice of carving and setting up **Ashera poles** in what was called groves. These poles were in the shape of a phallic symbol --- male genitalia. It became very popular among the Israelites living around those pagan nations. The LORD hated this false worship. **1 Kings 14:15** For the LORD shall smite Israel, as a reed is shaken in the water, and he shall root up Israel out of this good land, which he gave to their fathers, and shall scatter them beyond the river, **because they have made their groves**, provoking the LORD to anger.

Then further down in **1 Kings 14:22-23** And Judah did evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked him to jealousy with their sins which they had committed, above all that their fathers had done. (23) For they also built them **high places, and images, and groves**, on every high hill, and under every green tree.

We find where Josiah had commanded that all of the places built for the worship of this queen of heaven to be torn down. We also see why they were there in the first place. Israel's King, Solomon brought them in because of his pagan wives.

**2 Kings 23:13:** And the high places that were before Jerusalem, which were on the right hand of the mount of corruption, which Solomon the king of Israel had builded for **Ashtoreth** the abomination of the Zidonians, and for **Chemosh** the abomination of the Moabites, and for **Milcom** the abomination of the children of Ammon, did the king defile.

Just in case you were not aware of this, there is a big push of the **queen of heaven** worship going on in our world today. Now, I don't watch the Super Bowl or the half-time shows but I kept hearing all of these people (some that claim to be Christian) going on and on about the half-time show of Lady Gaga. They were saying it was the best performance ever and she did a great job so I thought I would go online and find out what everyone was talking about.

What I saw absolutely blew my mind, and not in a good way either. Everyone kept saying that she was just there to entertain and not push some agenda but they were wrong. She was pushing an agenda, a hidden agenda just like Katy Perry and Madonna have both done when they performed at the half time shows in the Super Bowl. The hidden symbols of idol worship and satanic signs are everywhere.

Lady Gaga a few years ago, came to a red carpet show encased in a reptile egg and hatched out of it. She had men and women dressed in what appeared to be some type of Egyptian garb, carry her in on a litter. In an interview afterwards she claimed it was symbolic of giving birth to a new race among humans. She was referred to as the “queen of heaven.” Her fans by the thousands screaming and clapping for her. It's nothing but pure idol worship. But people love their idols. Just like they did in Judah. They loved them so much that they refused to stop offering sacrifices to them. Look over in **Jeremiah 44:15-23**

(15) Then all the men which knew that their wives had burned incense unto other gods, and all the women that stood by, a great multitude, even all the people that dwelt in the land of Egypt, in Pathros, answered Jeremiah, saying,

(16) *As for the word that thou hast spoken unto us in the name of the LORD, we will not hearken unto thee.*

(17) *But we will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our own mouth, to burn incense unto the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, as we have done, we, and our fathers, our kings, and our princes, in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem: for then had we plenty of victuals, and were well, and saw no evil.*

(18) *But since we left off to burn incense to the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, we have wanted all things, and have been consumed by the sword and by the famine.*

(19) *And when we burned incense to the queen of heaven, and poured out drink offerings unto her, did we make her cakes to worship her, and pour out drink offerings unto her, without our men?*

(20) Then Jeremiah said unto all the people, to the men, and to the women, and to all the people which had given him *that answer*, saying,

(21) *The incense that ye burned in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, ye, and your fathers, your kings, and your princes, and the people of the land, did not the LORD remember them, and came it not into his mind?*

(22) *So that the LORD could no longer bear, because of the evil of your doings, and because of the abominations which ye have committed; therefore is your land a desolation, and an astonishment, and a curse, without an inhabitant, as at this day.*

(23) *Because ye have burned incense, and because ye have sinned against the LORD, and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD, nor walked in his law, nor in his statutes, nor in his testimonies; therefore this evil is happened unto you, as at this day.*

Listen, God is not pleased with what is going on today just as he wasn't pleased with it in the days of Jeremiah. ---- We are going to have to end here tonight and pick back up next Wednesday Lord willing in verse 19.