

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY! NOTES FOR THIS WEEK: 12/7-12/8/2020  
THIS WEEK'S STUDY: *Jeremiah Chapter 4:5-5:31*

**Monday 7pm Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)**  
**THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS112, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

**MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484 - Mon 7 pm!**

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763?pwd=b25tUzhkaTE0UzIrSnpkVmZEWGJVQT09>

**Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484**

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87858644763>

**Tuesday 7am Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).**

**THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!**

**MEETING ID# - 85309150746 Passcode: 715340 - Tues 7 am!**

Join Zoom Meeting -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85309150746?pwd=TK5oVjN0TzdpWjE3UC9Oam05a21uQT09>

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Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 For Audio & notes from previous studies-- [www.ptwente.com](http://www.ptwente.com)

## **OPENING PRAYER – Introduction**

**Jer. 4:27; 5:10; 5:18 “Yet, I will not make a full end!”**

**OH THE GOODNESS OF GOD – Bethel Music - (5:03)**

*I love You Lord, Oh Your mercy never fails me. All my days I've been held in Your hands*

*From the moment that I wake up Until I lay my head. I will sing of the goodness of God*

*Chorus - All my life You have been faithful. All my life You have been so, so good. With every breath that I am able I will sing of the goodness of God*

*I love Your voice, You have led me through the fire. In darkest nights You are close like no other.*

*I've known You as a father. I've known You as a friend. I have lived in the goodness of God.*

*(Chorus)*

*'Cause Your goodness is running after, it's running after me. Your goodness is running after, it's running after me. With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now, I give You everything Your goodness is running after, it's running after me (2X)*

*(Chorus) (2X) Oh, I'm gonna sing of the goodness of God*

**Review:** At the beginning of chapter 4 we find an expression of the Lord's response to any movement on the part of the people toward Him. He is vitally interested in them, and He wants to bring them back into a right relationship to Himself. He tells them that He will not remove them from the land if they will but turn to Him.

**Jer 4:3** *For thus says the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem: "Break up your fallow ground, And do not sow among thorns. Break up your hardened hearts! Your untended, fallow, unfruitful ground!*

**Jer 4:4** *Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, And take away the foreskins of your hearts, You men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, Lest My fury come forth like fire, And burn so that no one can quench it, Because of the evil of your doings." Cut away being dominated by the flesh!*

**THIS WEEK'S STUDY: Jeremiah 4:5 – An Imminent Invasion – The Justice of God's Judgment – Continued warning to repent and turn back to the LORD! Evidences of God's great mercy and grace!**

*Disaster from the North*

**Jer 4:5** *Declare in Judah and proclaim in Jerusalem, and say: "Blow the trumpet in the land; Cry, 'Gather together,' And say, 'Assemble yourselves, And let us go into the fortified cities.'*

- **Blow the trumpet!** Now the warning is coming that their destruction is on the way; that Judah has taken a path that is opposed to God, they are being forsaken by God. He is going to use the Babylonians as His instrument of judgment against them. The trumpet was blown in order to warn the people of impending danger. The description is quite vivid because he uses the prophetic present, which sees the judgment as already in progress, so totally certain is its fulfillment, although the actual physical invasion may have occurred about 20-30 years later! What do you think may happen to this country within the next 25 years? What is your role as a born-again Christian? We have more insight of the end times than Jeremiah did! What do we do? **Luk 21:28** *Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."*

**Jer 4:6** *Set up the standard toward Zion. Take refuge! Do not delay! For I will bring disaster from the north, And great destruction." Jer 4:7* *The lion has come up from his thicket, And the destroyer of nations is on his way. He has gone forth from his place To make your land desolate. Your cities will be laid waste, Without inhabitant.*

- **Disaster from the north...the lion has come up from his thicket!** This evil from the north is the Babylonian army that God is going to bring as His instrument of destruction. The lion was mentioned in the dream of **Daniel 4:6-7**, when he saw the nations. The lion represented Babylon and it was destroyed by the bear (Persian King Cyrus in 539B.C.). Judgment is coming, the Babylonian army is on its way, they are going to waste your cities, they are going to leave *the cities without an inhabitant.*

**Jer 4:8** *For this, clothe yourself with sackcloth, Lament and wail. For the fierce anger of the LORD—Has not turned back from us.*

- **Clothe yourself with sackcloth**, a sign of mourning, was a camel's hide, worn backwards in afflicting themselves. The LORD is saying a time of great mourning is coming, so **clothe yourself with sackcloth and lament and wail:**

- **They did not return to the LORD with their whole heart** but continued to live after the flesh. They refused to walk after God and the things of the Spirit, thereby determining their own destiny as is always the case with man. **It would be totally wrong for them to now blame God** for the desolation and destruction that is coming. God warned them what was going to happen if they did not return. Yet, they refused to return and now the destruction is on the way.

***Jer 4:9 "And it shall come to pass in that day," says the LORD, "That the heart of the king shall perish, And the heart of the princes; The priests shall be astonished, And the prophets shall wonder."***

- ***The heart of the king shall perish.*** The king is to be the inspiration of the people, the one who is supposed to inspire the people to fight, to stand up, to defend yourself, but the heart of the ***king shall perish*** rather than leading the forces. He will be cringing before the enemy.
- ***The heart of the princes...priests shall be astonished, and the prophets shall wonder.*** The leadership of the nation is going to collapse, speaking of the terrible degeneration of the nation when the leaders and the spiritual aspects have failed, the people are left to wander and perish.

***Jer 4:10 Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Surely You have greatly deceived this people and Jerusalem, Saying, 'You shall have peace,' Whereas the sword reaches to the heart."***

- **Jeremiah echoes, (likely sarcastically) their false prophets by saying, "Ah, Lord GOD! Surely You have greatly deceived..., Saying, 'You shall have peace,' Whereas the sword reaches to the heart."** During this time as the Babylonians were approaching, false prophets were saying, "Peace, peace, lulling the people into this spiritual apathy and false security, prophesying that there was going to be peace.
- **Whereas the sword reaches to the heart: It wasn't the Lord GOD** who greatly deceived the people and Jerusalem; **it was the false prophets** who promised peace when judgment was coming instead. Instead of peace, judgment would come to an unrepentant Israel, causing the kingdom to die and many with it.

***Jer 4:11 At that time it will be said To this people and to Jerusalem, "A dry wind of the desolate heights blows in the wilderness—Toward the daughter of My people—Not to fan or to cleanse— Jer 4:12 A wind too strong for these will come for Me; Now I will also speak judgment against them."***

- ***A dry wind ...blows... toward the daughter of My people:*** Jeremiah soberly announced that judgment would come upon His ***people*** and ***Jerusalem***. It would be like a wind that destroys. The judgment that would come like a ***wind*** would be so ***strong*** that it would not be like a ***fan***, cooling the people; nor ***to cleanse*** with a gentle ***wind***. It will destroy and bring ***judgment***, like a ***wind too strong!***

***Jer 4:13 "Behold, he shall come up like clouds, And his chariots like a whirlwind. His horses are swifter than eagles. Woe to us, for we are plundered!" Jer 4:14 O Jerusalem, wash your heart from wickedness, That you may be saved. How long shall your evil thoughts lodge within you?***

- ***He shall come up like clouds, and his chariots like a whirlwind:*** A vision of the coming judgment. The instruments of the announced judgment would move quickly. They would come as quickly as ***clouds*** move through the sky, their ***chariots*** as fast as ***whirlwinds***, and their ***horses*** faster than ***eagles***.
- ***Woe to us, for we are plundered!*** The speed of the instruments of the Lord's judgment indicated that they would be unstoppable. They would succeed in conquering and ***plundering*** God's people. **God is just still pleading, it is still not too late.** Notice how God pleads with the sinner, how God pleads with man. In Ezekiel, the LORD said, "*Turn ye, for why will ye die, behold, I*

have no pleasure in the death of the wicked.” God is pleading with them even at the last hour, God is still pleading. God is calling on them to *wash their heart from their wickedness* that they might *be saved*.

- **Your evil thoughts lodge within you!** The *wickedness* in the heart of the people of Judah brought the threat of God’s judgment, but it wasn’t just a *heart* problem. It was also a problem with *evil thoughts*. They gave themselves to their *evil thoughts*, allowing them to *lodge within* their mind. How often do we allow evil thoughts to lodge in our minds?

**Jer 4:15 For a voice declares from Dan And proclaims affliction from Mount Ephraim:**

- **The armies were already in the northern part of the country!** The first place they would get to would be *Dan*. The Babylonians have taken *Dan* and moved down into the area of Mt. Ephraim, the central part of the country. Still these people were resting in a false security because these prophets were saying that it will never come here. Peace, peace, we are going to have peace.

**Jer 4:16 "Make mention to the nations, Yes, proclaim against Jerusalem, That watchers come from a far country And raise their voice against the cities of Judah.**

- **Watchers** (spies, besiegers, a besieging army, the enemy.) have *come from a far country!* They have already studied the defenses, they have already prepared their attack, raising *their voice against the cities of Judah!*

**Jer 4:17 Like keepers of a field they are against her all around, Because she has been rebellious against Me," says the LORD.**

- **Like keepers of a field**, guarding their crops in their *fields* they settled down to occupy and lay siege to the land. The picture is appropriate in that the largely rural population would be very familiar with the small shelters or booths erected by shepherders and farmers to protect their flocks and crops
- **Because she has been rebellious!** The whole cause was their *rebellion against* God. The LORD said to King Asa, “*The Lord is with you while you will be with Him, if you seek Him He will be found, if you forsake Him He will forsake you.*” This is a basic principle of God!

**Jer 4:18 "Your ways and your doings Have procured these things for you. This is your wickedness, Because it is bitter, Because it reaches to your heart."**

- **Your ways and your doing have procured these things for you:** It is your fault, you have really set your own destiny. Before the judgment came God gave Judah and Jerusalem clear warning that **the judgment would be their fault** and not God’s. It would be *bitter* and reach to their *heart*, but **it would be because of their wickedness, not God’s unfaithfulness!** Do you ever blame God for things that you have done, when things don’t work out the way you thought they should?

**Anguish over Judah's Desolation – Here is a central verse – Note Jeremiah’s compassion!**

**Jer 4:19 O my soul! my soul! I am pained in my very heart! My heart makes a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, Because you have heard, O my soul, The sound of the trumpet, The alarm of war. Jer 4:20 Destruction upon destruction is cried, For the whole land is plundered. Suddenly my tents are plundered, And my curtains in a moment. (Mat 23:37-39 & Luke 13:34-35) "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! [38] See! Your house is left to you desolate; [39] for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'BLESSED is HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!' " Luk 19:41 Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it,**

- ***O my soul*** (bowels, anguish!), ***my soul! I am pained*** (intestinal discomfort, sick to his stomach) ***in my very heart!*** The prophet himself is ripped up inside for this. Eminent danger and destruction is on its way. Yet the people will not repent, still living carelessly, walking after the flesh. **The prophet feels so helpless** as he is warning them of the impending doom, but they are disregarding. We see Jeremiah, **known as the weeping prophet**, weeping over **the conditions of the people and over the impending judgment that is coming**. He feels so helpless and frustrated because the people will not harken to what he is saying. **How much compassion do we, do I have for those doomed to destruction?** **How often do you feel helpless** when you see the wickedness occurring in the world and in our own country?
- **Jeremiah is hearing something in his soul!** Oh, to God that He would speak to us and we would hear Him, in these days that we would be more like that! **We need to hear that as a church.** **What have I heard?** Do we not have **an open window right now!** **If we don't take advantage of that what's the purpose of our being here?**
- **The land will be totally destroyed**, coming in a moment, suddenly falling to the Babylonians. Often God is merciful to a person, dealing with him in mercy. Over and over again, God will be patient and deal, but if there is persistence in evil, there comes a time when God says, as He did in *Gen 6:3a* ***And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man.***
- **The Bible says that he that is often being reprov'd and hardens his neck will suddenly be destroyed and that without remedy.** Often you think that you are just getting by with things because God has not brought judgment. People begin to get a little smug because God has not done anything about it, but He is just, merciful and gracious. However, there is a limit and God's Spirit will not always strive with man. Many are just wiped out in a moments time, suddenly the judgment of God falls. It is the same with the nation. Over and over again, God warned. He sent His prophets to them to warn them, but they continued their deadly plunge to destruction!

***Jer 4:21 How long will I see the standard, And hear the sound of the trumpet?***

- ***How long, LORD will this ring in my soul? How long will I hear the sound of the trumpet? How long will this destruction take place? How long will this war go on, this siege against Jerusalem, the sound of the trumpets and battle? How long will the battle rage?***

***Jer 4:22 "For My people are foolish, They have not known Me. They are silly (stupid, senseless) children, And they have no understanding. They are wise to do evil, But to do good they have no knowledge."***

- ***My people are foolish!*** The tragedy with a lot of people is that they do not really know God. They preach a soft, syrupy, extremely lenient, an almost immoral God. They really don't know that He is a God of righteousness and justice and thus judgment, a God of wrath against those things that destroy and defile. ***Rom 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,***
- **Knowing nothing about God, they are foolish children with no understanding!** They know all about *evil*. They have searched and studied the things of evil. ***They are wise to do evil, but they are so ignorant in the ways of truth.*** A good definition of "stupid"! We are told in the New Testament just the opposite! They were so perverse that their only skills were in doing *evil*, knowing nothing about doing what was right. **How is our balance between being wise to do evil and having knowledge to do good?**

***Jer 4:23 I beheld the earth, and indeed it was without form, and void; And the heavens, they had no light. Jer 4:24 I beheld the mountains, and indeed they trembled, And all the hills moved back and forth. Jer 4:25 I beheld, and indeed there was no man, And all the birds of the heavens had fled.***

- **Jeremiah now sees the nation, in sort of a visionary form**, what is going to happen, what is going to transpire as far as Judah is concerned. It was wasted and desolate.
- ***I beheld the earth, and indeed it was without form and void:*** In turning around the images from *Genesis 1*, Jeremiah gives a poetic and powerful picture of the utter devastation that would come upon Judah in the coming judgment. It is confusion and emptiness, stripped of all its

beauty, void of all its wealth, and, compared with what it was, everything out of place and out of shape.

- **The heavens, they had no light...** as the earth is without fruits.
- **The mountains on which they had worshipped their idols**, the mountains over which they had looked for help, all **trembled**, as if they had been conscious of the people's guilt.
- **indeed, there was no man...** Not the earth only, but the air, Judah was de-populated and left uninhabited. **all the birds of the heavens had fled.** Birds were created before man! Just desolation, not "before creation".

**Jer 4:26 I beheld, and indeed the fruitful land was a wilderness, And all its cities were broken down At the presence of the LORD, By His fierce anger.**

- **With prophetic insight, Jeremiah considers the might and power of God - all its cities were broken down:** The **cities** also and their gates and walls are **broken down** and levelled with the ground. The meaning of all this is that the **nation shall be entirely ruined, and every part of it shall share in the destruction; neither town nor country shall escape.**
- **Similar pictures are used to describe the Day of the LORD**, looking forward to the ultimate passing of this world before the new heavens and the new earth. **Isa 65:17 "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. 2Pe 3:12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Rev 21:1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.**

**Jer 4:27 For thus says the LORD: "The whole land shall be desolate; Yet I will not make a full end. Jer 5:10 "Go up on her walls and destroy, But do not make a complete end.**

**Jer 5:18 "Nevertheless in those days," says the LORD, "I will not make a complete end of you.**

- God promised that judgment would come to Judah and Jerusalem, **but the desolation would not be complete!** God would not make a **full end** of the place of His people in that **land**. In contrast this saving **statement shines brightly!** The nation shall be entirely ruined, and every part of it shall share in the destruction; neither town nor country shall escape.
- **Yet will not I make a full end - not a total consumption, always tempered with mercy!** For God will reserve a remnant to Himself, that shall be hidden in the day of the Lord's anger - not a final consumption, for Jerusalem shall again be built and the land inhabited. **What grace and mercy we see here again, from our LORD!! This will be repeated again in (Jer. 5:10 & 18; 30:11!**

**Jer 4:28 For this shall the earth mourn, And the heavens above be black, Because I have spoken. I have purposed and will not relent, Nor will I turn back from it.**

- **I have purposed and will not relent, Nor will I turn back from it.** At this point the die is cast. They have gone over the limits. The judgments that is coming is determined, there will be no reprieve, it is too late. **What a tragic thing in a person's life when they have hit that point of no return, when God writes them off and says leave them alone, I have given them up.**

**Jer 4:29 The whole city shall flee from the noise of the horsemen and bowmen. They shall go into thickets and climb up on the rocks. Every city shall be forsaken, And not a man shall dwell in it.**

- **This sad and tragic condition of Judah that is leading to their destruction and the time of sorrow and grief that are appointed upon her.** Now it happened, just as the LORD said it would, it happened. The Babylonians came, the land and the cities were destroyed, Jerusalem was razed. God promised that the judgment to come upon Judah was both inevitable (**I have purposed and will not relent**) and would be complete, **Every city shall be forsaken, and not a man shall dwell in it:**

**Jer 4:30 "And when you are plundered, What will you do? Though you clothe**

***yourself with crimson, Though you adorn yourself with ornaments of gold,  
Though you enlarge your eyes with paint, In vain you will make yourself fair;  
Your lovers will despise you; They will seek your life.***

- ***When you are plundered, what will you do?*** This is how mankind can act in such a time! Through Jeremiah the Prophet, God asked Judah this important question. Perhaps they thought they could somehow appeal to the invaders as a woman might adorn and decorate herself to appeal to a man. Yet God warned them, ***“In vain you will make yourself fair.”***
- ***Your lovers will despise you; they will seek your life:*** There was no way to decorate themselves enough to soften the judgment. It was certain. Instead of outward decoration, true repentance was their only hope. This is all coming down. Where do you put your emphasis? Where and in what or whom are you putting your thought? What’s important to you?

***Jer 4:31 "For I have heard a voice as of a woman in labor, The anguish as of her who brings forth her first child, The voice of the daughter of Zion bewailing herself; She spreads her hands, saying, 'Woe is me now, for my soul is weary Because of murderers!'"***

- ***I have heard a voice as of a woman in labor:*** This is a beginning of sorrows! Instead of seductive words from an adorned woman, Jeremiah prophetically heard a woman crying in pain and fear, as if she were giving birth. The screaming came from ***the daughter of Zion***, who in the misery of her judgment finally understood her condition.
- ***Woe is me!*** It was well if their sufferings put them in mind of their sins, the murders committed upon them of the murders committed by them; for God was now making inquisition for the ***innocent blood*** shed in Jerusalem, ***which the Lord would not pardon***. As sin will find out the sinner, so sorrow will, sooner or later, find out the secure.

***Jerusalem Refused to Repent – Searching for a Righteous Man***

***Jer 5:1 "Run to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem; See now and know; And seek in her open places If you can find a man (one man), If there is anyone who executes judgment, Who seeks the truth, And I will pardon her.***

- ***Run to and fro...seek in her open places If you can find a man – one man.*** The Lord said to Jeremiah to go and search through the city, see if you can find just one, anyone who is really seeking to do the right thing, who is truly honest in his ***judgment***. God said He would ***pardon*** it. This even puts Sodom & Gomorrah to shame. There God said if you could find 10 righteous men, He would not bring destruction. Here, He says that He would pardon Jerusalem ***if one man who executes judgment, who seek the truth*** could be found!

***Jer 5:2 Though they say, 'As the LORD lives,' Surely they swear falsely."***

- ***'As the LORD lives!*** These people had spiritual jargon. They were using spiritual phraseology, much like us saying Oh praise the Lord. Jeremiah could find many religious people in Jerusalem – many who would swear by the LORD and say, ***“As the LORD lives.”*** Yet he ***could not find anyone who sought the LORD in sincerity.***

***Jer 5:3 O LORD, are not Your eyes on the truth? You have stricken them, But they have not grieved; You have consumed them, But they have refused to receive correction. They have made their faces harder than rock; They have refused to return.***

- ***O LORD, are not Your eyes on the truth?*** Jeremiah’s prayer, ***appealing*** to God who saw and cared about truth among men. He prayed with a sense of amazement at the hardness and stubbornness of heart among God’s people.
- ***God had begun His judgment. God had begun His chastisement,*** but they were not responding to God. The Bible says ***Heb 12:6 FOR WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE CHASTENS, AND SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES.*** Chastening has one of two effects upon people. It either has ***the desired effect of correction*** and people when chastened often

repent and are corrected. But then there are **those who in chastening become bitter, bitter against God**. They turn their hearts against God and their hearts become hardened to God. That is why the Scripture says, *My son do not despise the chastening of the LORD*.

- **You have stricken them, but they have not grieved:** Jeremiah **mourned over the lack of repentance and brokenness over sin** among the people of Jerusalem. They were stricken yet not grieved; consumed yet not corrected. Despite all they had and would endure, *they have refused to return*. That's the longing of the heart of God!

***Jer 5:4 Therefore I said, "Surely these are poor. They are foolish; For they do not know the way of the LORD, The judgment of their God.***

- **Poor...Foolish! They don't really understand God.** It is foolish to think that you can get by with evil, to just spurn the things of God and get by with it. There are a lot of people who are deceiving themselves today because of God's characteristics of patience and longsuffering. God is so patient with us. He takes so much before He responds. People don't understand God, they think that His patience is weakness. Or worse yet that His patience is tolerance. Or even **worst of all, that His patience is thought to be approval!** Yes, God does know, and no one is getting by with evil. One day they will answer to God for their evil. How concerned are we for those who are persisting evil not knowing the way of the LORD?

***Jer 5:5 I will go to the great men and speak to them, For they have known the way of the LORD, The judgment of their God." But these have altogether broken the yoke And burst the bonds.***

- **Jeremiah turned to the great men**, the aristocrats of Jerusalem. With all their education and advantages, surely a righteous man could be found among them. They have known the judgment of their God. But these men had **broken the yoke**. They had **burst** forth from that submission to God. Although they knew God and the judgment of God, they had rebelled, and they had **broken the yoke and burst the bonds**. They also were rebels; perhaps educated rebels, but rebels against God, nevertheless. *Mat 11:30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.* Do this so the blessings of heaven can come upon you!

***Jer 5:6 Therefore a lion from the forest shall slay them, A wolf of the deserts shall destroy them; A leopard will watch over their cities. Everyone who goes out from there shall be torn in pieces, Because their transgressions are many; Their backslidings have increased. Lev 26:22: I will also send wild beasts among you, which shall rob you of your children, destroy your livestock, and make you few in number.***

- **Everyone who goes out from there shall be torn in pieces.** This possibly may be referring to Babylon, but the LORD speaks of because the fact that the leadership is corrupted and does not seek or know God therefore the lions, panthers, wolves are going to sort of prey upon the people. If you dare go out of the city you will be attacked by these animals because of many transgression and the backslidings have increased.
- **In more faithful and obedient times Israel came into the Promised Land, God used nature to fight for them.** *Deu 7:20* and *Jos 24:12* speak of how God sent the hornet to chase away Israel's enemies. Now in their rebellion, God sent nature to work against Israel instead of for them.

***Jer 5:7 "How shall I pardon you for this? Your children have forsaken Me And sworn by those that are not gods. When I had fed them to the full, Then they committed adultery And assembled themselves by troops in the harlots' houses. Jer 5:8 They were like well-fed lusty stallions; Every one neighed after his neighbor's wife. Eze 16:49, 59 Look, this was the iniquity of your sister Sodom: She and her daughter had pride, fullness of food, and abundance of idleness; neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. [50] And they were haughty and committed abomination before Me; therefore I took them away as I saw fit. Eze 33:11 Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the***

*death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'*

- ***How shall I pardon you for this?*** This is always the heart cry of God! God is always looking for a way to pardon. For God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. That is why He is so longsuffering and patient with man. Though they have turned their hearts against Him, have been bitter in their incriminations against Him yet God loves and is seeking the ways to pardon.
- ***Your children have forsaken me.*** The children are following after these false **gods**, the gods of pleasure, gods of wantonness and sexual desire. They are swearing by these gods which **are not gods**.
- ***assembled themselves by troops in the harlots' houses.*** It is a time of moral degeneracy. Here they are assembling like troops in the harlots' houses, in the houses of prostitution. Committing adultery, and yet these are the people who were swearing, "The LORD liveth!" And that was on the Sabbath day but on the rest of the week living after the flesh. God is declaring His incitement against them.
- ***They were like well-fed horses in the morning.*** Adulterers are compared to horses, because they are very lustful creatures, especially to those who having much food given them in the night, and being full in the morning, go forth **neighing**. They are the more coveting and lustful in the morning, seeking every opportunity to defile their **neighbor's wife!** That was pretty much the way it was in Israel. There was a complete breakdown from a moral standpoint, they were lusting after everyone else. Judah's culture and practices has **totally gone heavily into lust and sexuality**. Does **that sound familiar today?**

***Jer 5:9 Shall I not punish them for these things?" says the LORD. "And shall I not avenge Myself on such a nation as this?***

- ***"Shall I not punish them for these things?"*** A nation that was called the people of God who had now so turned their back on God and had so backslidden that there was really no true relationship, only surface but not really a heart relationship with God, who had sort of just put God outside of their society. It is easy to understand the heart of God in His desire to **avenge** Himself on **such a nation as this**. God commands the destruction that is to come. This was a **nation** due for judgment. **"Avenge Myself?" – (Jer. 5:9, 29; 9:9)**

***Jer 5:10 "Go up on her walls and destroy, But do not make a complete end. Take away her branches, For they are not the LORD's.***

- **Again, the mercy of God! (Repeated in Jer. 4:27; 5:18; 30:11)** Judah deserved to be fully destroyed. They deserved to be utterly wiped out, so God calls on the Babylonians to come up and destroy, **but don't make a complete end**. God is still going to reach out to them, still seeking to draw them back to Himself.
- ***Take away her branches, For they are not the LORD's.*** They were looking to their army, their towers, their fortresses, to their walled city for a defense but they were not looking to the LORD, who is the only true defense!

***Jer 5:11 For the house of Israel and the house of Judah Have dealt very treacherously with Me," says the LORD. Jer 5:12 They have lied about the LORD, And said, "It is not He. Neither will evil come upon us, Nor shall we see sword or famine.***

- **They had forsaken God and the ways of God.** They had turned against God, they had **dealt treacherously**.
- ***They have lied about the LORD, And said, "It is not He.*** They were denying God and the work of God in their midst. Yes, we have had five years of drought but that is not really the LORD, He is not punishing us, that is just the way things are happening. Earthquake, too, that is just the way things are happening.

- *Neither will evil come upon us, Nor shall we see sword or famine.* They were going on in a false confidence. There were false prophets prophesying lies to the people and the people were trusting in the lies of these false prophets.

***Jer 5:13 And the prophets become wind, For the word (of the LORD) is not in them. Thus shall it be done to them."***

- **God is laying the foundation, "This is why!"** Often when God's judgment comes people say, "Why would God?" There is always a reason why. God is spelling it out "because this is going on and this is going on. Therefore, because this is happening, and this is happening.
- **The solemn warning by God through the prophet Jeremiah to these people! We can see** so many appropriate applications to our nation and our condition in these days. May God help us to turn to the Lord with all of our hearts, not feigned religion, but a true relationship, forsaking flesh, the things of the world. Seek righteousness and judgment that we might have mercy and goodness of God bestowed upon us.
- **We must always remember that only Jesus Christ is the last great hope of mankind!** We Christians have a message for such a time as this! LORD, fill me with the Holy Spirit in the days we're living in! LORD, I need that! How very much, I need that! In my soul, I hear the sound of a trumpet! Are we not closer to it than Jeremiah was in his own day? Jesus said **Luk 7:28** *For I say to you, among those born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.*" Even John the Baptist was questioning whether Jesus was the Messiah or not, but we know for certain, having greater clarity than the greatest prophet that ever lived about our Savior and our Lord, about the gospel of Jesus Christ!
- **Jeremiah not only declared the message! He was the message! He was weeping! He was broken-hearted!** With Jeremiah it wasn't just that he had the message from the LORD. He was the message of the LORD **It was the way he said it!** Because God was weeping over Jerusalem! God was broken hearted. God had to get a young, broken hearted messenger so Jerusalem would hear His message from a weeping, broken hearted messenger. So that it would still be alive when we are hearing it right now, as it comes to us! **My soul! My soul,** My guts, My guts, I'm pained in my very heart!
- **Searching for a Righteous Man - Jer 5:1** *"Run to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem; See now and know; And seek in her open places If you can find a man, If there is anyone who executes judgment, Who seeks the truth, And I will pardon her.*
- **You? Me? Eze 22:30-31a** *So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. [31] Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; 2Pe 3:9* *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.* Our gracious LORD is always looking for an excuse to *pardon*. We see Him looking just for **a man who executes judgment, who seeks the truth, and I will pardon her!** Does He see anything in my life, in our lives that would give Him an excuse to pardon, the lost and our land?

***Closing Prayer***

### ***The Lord Proclaims Judgment***

***Jer 5:14 Therefore thus says the LORD God of hosts: "Because you speak this word, Behold, I will make My words in your mouth fire, And this people wood,***

***And it shall devour them.*** *Mat 21:33, 39 "Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. [39] So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him*

- ***Behold, I will make My words in your mouth fire...it shall devour them.*** Jeremiah's word was going to become like **fire**. The people were going to be like **wood** and the word of the LORD through Jeremiah was going to devour them. Whenever you start prophesying the truth you are going to encounter resistance. People do not want to hear the truth. They love the words of the false prophets, to be told that they are all right. They don't want to hear, "You have to repent, you have to change, or you are going to be destroyed, the judgment of God is going to come." They always turn against the true prophet of God. Jesus said in *Mt. 21:33,39* God had sent His prophets to the people, but they mistreated the prophets. They beat the prophets. God finally sent His only begotten Son and they crucified Him!

***Jer 5:15 Behold, I will bring a nation against you from afar, O house of Israel," says the LORD. "It is a mighty nation, It is an ancient nation, A nation whose language you do not know, Nor can you understand what they say. Jer***

***5:16 Their quiver is like an open tomb; They are all mighty men. Jer 5:17 And they shall eat up your harvest and your bread, Which your sons and daughters should eat. They shall eat up your flocks and your herds; They shall eat up your vines and your fig trees; They shall destroy your fortified cities, In which you trust, with the sword.***

- ***Behold, I will bring a nation against you from afar...they shall eat up your flocks and herds.*** Jeremiah repeated the promise that God would bring a mighty army of judgment against Judah and Jerusalem, later fulfilled by the Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar. They are going to destroy your walled cities, they are going to eat up your harvest, the things you and your children should be enjoying, they are going to take.
- ***Their quiver ... open tomb:*** The ***mighty men*** of the enemy would be invincible because their quivers would be filled with death-dealing arrows, always bringing more destruction. Every arrow could be depended on to slay someone.

***Jer 5:18 "Nevertheless in those days," says the LORD, "I will not make a complete end of you.***

- *I will not make a complete end of you:* The gracious promise is again repeated! (Repeated in Jer. 4:27; 5:10; 30:11) Though devastating judgment would come to Judah and Jerusalem, God would not forsake His covenant people and would bring restoration.

***Jer 5:19 And it will be when you say, 'Why does the LORD our God do all these things to us?' then you shall answer them, 'Just as you have forsaken Me and served foreign gods in your land, so you shall serve aliens in a land that is not yours.'***

- *Just as you have forsaken Me and served foreign gods in your land, so you shall serve aliens in a land that is not yours.* God gave them this *land*, but they turned from God and were serving strange gods. Because of that, God said, you will be strangers in a *land*, and you will serve the strangers. You will become the slaves of the Babylonians in a land that is not yours. It is so typical, when they have turned so completely against God, living so totally opposed to the things of God, such a complete immoral life and when the judgment of God comes they say, “*Why does the LORD our God do all these thing to us?*” Because you have not walked in the ways of the LORD, you have been walking after your own hearts and flesh, serving *foreign gods*, the gods of the flesh.

***Jer 5:20 "Declare this in the house of Jacob And proclaim it in Judah, saying, Jer 5:21 'Hear this now, O foolish people, Without understanding, Who have eyes and see not, And who have ears and hear not: Jer 5:22 Do you not fear Me?' says the LORD. 'Will you not tremble at My presence, Who have placed the sand as the bound of the sea, By a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass beyond it? And though its waves toss to and fro, Yet they cannot prevail; Though they roar, yet they cannot pass over it.***

- *Declare this...proclaim it!* God says to speak to the people, tell them to hear this, the word of the LORD, people who have eyes, but they do not see, ears but they don't hear. Their eyes are closed to God their ears are closed to the things of God.
- *Hear this now, O foolish people:* Through Jeremiah, God spoke to Judah and Jerusalem, exposing their spiritual and moral foolishness in resisting and rejecting Him.
- *Do you not fear Me?' says the LORD* They have no *fear of God* in their heart. That is one of the greatest problems with people today, they no longer have *the fear of God* in their heart. If they really had the fear of God in their heart they could not do the things that they do. How much do I really fear the LORD? Do I really have the fear of God in my heart?
- *Though its waves toss to and fro, yet they cannot prevail.* The illustration of the ocean and the sand. I am the one who has established the boundaries of the sea, and the boundaries for man, and man is passing over the boundaries. The waters of the sea continually pound upon the sand, yet the sand remains, and the sea remains within its bounds. The analogy is clear: if the *ocean cannot prevail against the sand*, God's people will never *prevail* in their rebellion against Him.

***Jer 5:23 But this people has a defiant and rebellious heart; They have revolted and departed.***

- God's people did not learn the lesson that nature clearly teaches – that it is foolish to fight against God. *They have revolted and departed.* They were revolting against the boundaries that God had set for propriety, for decency. They are rebellious and revolted and have gone over the line, over the mark. **How defiant and rebellious is my heart?**

***Jer 5:24 They do not say in their heart, "Let us now fear the LORD our God,***

***Who gives rain, both the former and the latter, in its season. He reserves for us the appointed weeks of the harvest." Jer 5:25 Your iniquities have turned these things away, And your sins have withheld good from you.***

- ***Your iniquities... your sins:*** “The two words used here for Israel’s breaches of covenant are common in the OT. Israel had both wandered away from Yahweh and failed to reach the goal set for her.” Don’t blame God!!
- ***Your iniquities and turned these things away, and your sins have withheld good from you:*** God described the blessings of rain and harvest and then told Judah why they did not have those blessings in abundance. Their *sins* had ***withheld good from*** them; it wasn’t God’s fault.
- ***Your sins have withheld good from you.*** This is an interesting verse, your sins have withheld good things from you. They had no knowledge that God is the One that has given the former and latter rains, our harvest, the One that is taking care of us. Because now of their sin they are hurting themselves. The good things that God desires to do for them, He cannot do because of their sin.

***Jer 5:26 'For among My people are found wicked men; They lie in wait as one who sets snares; They set a trap; They catch men.***

- ***'For among My people are found wicked men They lie in wait as one who sets snares; They set a trap; They catch men.*** There are ***wicked men*** today who are seeking to ***set snares and traps*** for you. Many ***traps*** are ***set*** for you as a child of God in the world today – television, movies, sports. You get snared and trapped. It is so easy to let pollution enter in. Satan is setting a ***trap*** for you because whatever a man sows he is going to reap. If you sow to the flesh, then to the flesh you are going to reap corruption. In using the picture of a bird-catcher (a fowler), it is possible that Jeremiah had in mind those who steal men unto slavery. It is more likely that he had in mind those who use their positions of power and influence to ***become great*** and grow ***rich***, at the expense of the weak and needy.

***Jer 5:27 As a cage is full of birds, So their houses are full of deceit. Therefore they have become great and grown rich.***

- ***They have become great and grown very rich from*** drug dealing, pornography and polluting the minds of people. They have caught them in the trap. One thing about that kind of pollution, once you get trapped you want more and more, becoming a victim, making them ***rich***.

***Jer 5:28 They have grown fat, they are sleek; Yes, they surpass the deeds of the wicked; They do not plead the cause, The cause of the fatherless; Yet they prosper, And the right of the needy they do not defend.***

- ***They do not plead the cause, the cause of the fatherless:*** Instead of taking advantage of the weak and needy, these wicked men should have used their positions of power and influence to do good for them.
- ***They are wicked, yet they prosper.*** They have no real interest in the orphan, in the needy. Their prosperity was not from the blessing of God. It was the result of their own sinful ambition and enterprise – and therefore invited the judgment of God.

***Jer 5:29 Shall I not punish them for these things?' says the LORD. 'Shall I not avenge Myself on such a nation as this?'***

- ***Can I let these things go by? Can I just overlook these things?*** The answer is no. A righteous, holy God must judge the iniquity and sin of man, or He is no longer righteous, holy and just. He is longsuffering and though He allows and tolerates so much, the judgment of God must come!

***Jer 5:30 "An astonishing and horrible thing Has been committed in the land:***

- ***An astonishing and horrible thing has been committed in the land:*** These were strong words, introducing something that was truly *horrible* in the eyes of God. There is also, filled with wonder that people can be so evil, so corrupt, so deceiving, so hypocritical, filled with hypocrisy. I wonder that they can send these things in the name of God professing themselves to be servants of God. As God saw then, and as we see now, how can such ***astonishing and horrible*** practices, in the name of God, be done? You just think, that cannot be, not in America. Surely that cannot be. And yet it is.

***Jer 5:31 The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule by their own power; And My people love to have it so. But what will you do in the end?***

- ***The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule by their own power; And My people love to have it so*** The priests were ruling over the people, prophesying the lies, capturing people with them. The people loved the false prophets. They loved to hear that everything is going to be all right. The people loved to have it so. They loved to hear these false prophets, saying that God will not punish evil. They loved to hear that everything is okay.
- ***But what will you do in the end?*** They were loving to hear the fact that they were going to destroy Babylon. The prophets were saying, "As the LORD liveth, Babylon shall fall, fall before your forces. The people loved to hear that, but it was a lie. Jeremiah said, "***What will you do in the end*** when the arrows are falling in the city, surrounded by the Babylonian armies, cutting off all food and supplies? When the walls are being broken down and the troops are pouring through the breeches, knocking on your door, speaking in a language which you don't understand, as they threaten you with their swords and spears? ***What are you going to do in the end*** when you are carried away as a slave to Babylon, taken from your wife and your children?
- ***You have trusted in lies, making them your hope.*** But now we have come ***to the end*** and the truth is revealed. You have forsaken God and God has forsaken you. It was only a surface kind of relationship, it was not with your whole heart. Now the truth is revealed but it is too late, you are captive at the end.
- ***Good question!*** What are you going to do "***in the end***", as we appear to be quickly approaching Jesus' second coming?

***Closing Prayer***