

JEREMIAH 14:7-9 – PRAY FOR RAIN, MERCY & FORGIVENESS!

7/25/15 Sat Morn Prayer

Jer 14:7-9 O LORD, though our iniquities testify against us, Do it for Your name's sake; For our backslidings are many, We have sinned against You. [8] O the Hope of Israel, his Savior in time of trouble, Why should You be like a stranger in the land, And like a traveler who turns aside to tarry for a night? [9] Why should You be like a man astonished, Like a mighty one who cannot save? Yet You, O LORD, are in our midst, And we are called by Your name; Do not leave us!



Current photo of the Oroville Dam Lake showing the current drought in California

Biblical Background:

- Because of Judah's iniquity and immorality, in response to their turning away from God, He had sent them a tremendous drought! Possibly a little like the present drought in California?
- We often make a grave mistake in blaming God for the calamities because God said that this is going to happen if you do these things. Now in Leviticus 26 beginning with verse 14, God warned them if they did not do all of these commandments, these are the things that are going to happen. These are the consequences, these are the results. Leviticus 26: 19-20 *I will break the pride of your power; I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze. [20] And your strength shall be spent in vain; for your land shall not yield its produce, nor shall the trees of the land yield their fruit.*
- Much the same in, Deu. 28:23-24 *And your heavens which are over your head shall be bronze, and the earth which is under you shall be iron. [24] The LORD will change the rain of your land to powder and dust; from the heaven it shall come down on you until you are destroyed. ."*
- A part of the punishment and the results of God taking His hand of blessing away from the nation would be a drought. Now all of these things were designed by God to turn their hearts back to the LORD. To wake them up to the fact that we are the wrong path. We are on a path that is leading to destruction and the whole purpose of God is to turn them away from that path, back to the path of righteousness, back into the path of blessing. Here, the nation is in its final plunge towards death and at this present time they are experiencing an extremely severe drought where the ground has become as hard as brass or iron.

It is so severe that Jeremiah prays to the LORD. In his prayer he acknowledges their iniquities.

Jer 14:7 O LORD, though our iniquities testify against us, Do it for Your name's sake;

- The "Do it for Your name's sake" is sort of, "send rain, LORD." Not for our sakes, our iniquities testify against us, but LORD for Your name's sake, send some rain.

[7b] For our backslidings are many, We have sinned against You.

- So in the prayer of Jeremiah the opening acknowledgment of our sin and our guilt and thus we do deserve this, but LORD, for Your name sake. Please give some reprieve.

[8] O the Hope of Israel, his Savior in time of trouble, Why should You be like a stranger in the land, And like a traveler who turns aside to tarry for a night?

- LORD, these are Your people, this is Your land, why should You be like a stranger here?

[9] Why should You be like a man astonished, Like a mighty one who cannot save? Yet You, O LORD, are in our midst, And we are called by Your name; Do not leave us!

- So Jeremiah is interceding, not on the basis of their deserving, not on the basis of their righteousness but he is actually pleading for the mercy of God at this point for the people. And the LORD responded to the prayer of Jeremiah.

Jer 14:10-11 Thus says the LORD to this people: "Thus they have loved to wander; They have not restrained their feet. Therefore the LORD does not accept them; He will remember their iniquity now, And punish their sins." [11] Then the LORD said to me, "Do not pray for this people, for their good.

- Jeremiah sees the suffering and the hardships that are caused by this prolonged drought, his heart is moved for the people, he prays that God might intervene, and that God might send the rains and break the drought and bring grass to the fields again. He is asking God for this reprieve, but God answers him and says that He just does not accept these people anymore, He has turned His back and He is going to visit them for their sins.
- **Jeremiah, don't pray for this people for their good.**

Jer 14:12 When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and grain offering, I will not accept them. But I will consume them by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence."

- There comes a time when the grace of God and mercy of God has been spurned to such a degree **that God will no longer will deal with an individual or with a nation.** They had gone **beyond the limit.** Throughout their history God had been so merciful. Throughout their history God had responded to their cries. As they turned away from God, God would turn away from them. They would cry out unto the LORD and the LORD would forgive them and begin to bless them again as they sought the LORD.
- But it was continual through their history. From the book of Judges, right after the time of Joshua, all through the book of Judges, Israel sinned against the LORD and they went into oppression, the Midianites oppressed them and they oppressed them for so many years. And the people cried unto the LORD and the LORD raised up Gideon. And all the way through it was the pattern of their history.
- Now it is too much. They have done it too often. **They have gone too deep into the sin.** They are **beyond the point of God's grace or mercy.** It is a **terrible place to be.** In the time of Noah God said, **"My Spirit will not always strive with man."** There can come a time in a person's life, in a nation's life where God no longer strives, He says, "Okay, that is it." **And God gives them over to their sin and to their reprobate minds.**
- Such was the case now of Israel. They had gone too far. So God said, "When they fast and cry, I am not going to listen. When they offer their burnt offering and their oblations, I will not accept them. But I am going to consume them by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence." They were presently being consumed by the famine and the pestilence that was in the land. Jeremiah is in a dialogue with God here.

SUMMARY:

- ***Pro 14:34 Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people.***
- ***2Ch 15:2b The LORD is with you while you are with Him. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you.***
- ***1Ti 2:1-2a Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, [2a] for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence.***
- **We should dread God's departure, more than the removal of our creature-comforts.**
- **Are you, am I, praying for our leaders and those in authority?**
- **Are we praying for rain?**

GRACE GREATER THAN ALL OUR SIN!

*Marvelous grace of our loving Lord, grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured, there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.*

Refrain:

*Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
grace, grace, God's grace, grace that is greater than all our sin!*

*Dark is the stain that we cannot hide. What can avail to wash it away?
Look! There is flowing a crimson tide, brighter than snow you may be today.
(Refrain)*

*Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace, freely bestowed on all who believe!
All who are longing to see his face, will you this moment his grace receive?
(Refrain)*