

BIBLE STUDY LIVE

A Cure For A Sick World

Jeremiah 8: 22 – 9:1

God Has A Standard For His People

Read: Heb 12:14

Coming into this 8th chapter of Jeremiah, the prophet had forewarned the nation of Judah that they must repent completely from their sinful practices and their abandonment of striving to live a life of personal holiness before the Lord.

The nation of Israel is the only nation in history that God had entered into a contract or covenant with such a promise of salvation. However, Israel's grave error was that they believed that this covenant or promise of salvation, mercy and grace that came from God could somehow grant them immunity from the judgment of God and that God's favor had afforded them the luxury or the privilege of living a lifestyle of un-repentant sin. **QUESTION:** What might have caused Israel to develop this mindset?

Any theology that minimizes the importance of Christians striving to live a life of personal holiness before the Lord is not a biblical teaching. Read **Romans 6: 1-2**

QUESTIONS: Was the Apostle saying that Christians are dead to the power and the temptation of sin? Exactly what part of sin is the born again believer in Jesus Christ dead to? Paul is not saying as some have suggested that we as Christian are dead to the power of sin or the temptation to sin but rather that we are dead to the penalty of sin which is eternal death; and dead to sin's claim on our souls.

Sin's Has An Agenda

Read Jeremiah 8:20 – 22

Sin will always take you farther than you wanted to go and keep you longer than you wanted to stay and charge you more than you wanted to pay. Prior to this time of destruction, Israel was experiencing tremendous economic prosperity. Like many societies, Israel believed that if the economy was alright then the nation must be alright. But there are times when the economy can be alright but the nation can be all wrong! Since Israel had not responded appropriately the warnings of the prophet, they were now experiencing the full consequences of their abandonment of God's word, God's will and God's way –

In Jeremiah 8:22, the prophet describes Israel as a sick patient in need of both a medical remedy and a knowledgeable physician to apply it. **QUESTION:** Why did Jeremiah asked the questions in Jer. 8:22? What point was the prophet trying to make? We now understand that Jeremiah was fully aware that Israel had both the balm and the physician available but for some reason the people were not recovering. Why do you think the people were not recovering?

Sin's Finest Hour

Read: James 1:15

Jeremiah realized that his nation had missed their God-given opportunity for deliverance from the coming destruction, now the only thing left for them to do is to apply for God's deliverance from within the destruction. The Apostle James traces the course of sin from its first little idol thought to its full grown fatal action.

Truth Decay and Relativism

Read Jer. 9: 4 – 5 ; John 18: 37 – 38 and John 14:6

The Center For Disease Control published literature designed to familiarize the public about the warning signs and symptoms of COVID 19. **QUESTION:** Why did the CDC think that it was a good idea to teach people how to recognize the symptoms of COVID 19? It is interesting to note that Judah's destructive fall from grace into the judgment of God came with some early signs, symptoms and warnings. It would be wise on our part to familiarize ourselves with the warning signs that God gave Judah prior to their divine destruction.

In one of the lines in the old song called the Battle Hymn of the Republic the author wrote: "Glory, glory hallelujah – his truth is marching on," It seems that today, that not only has truth "marched on" truth has all but "marched away!" The deconstruction of truth is a symptom of God's coming judgement. Trust is the basis of every relationship. Whether in a marriage, among friends or even among the citizens and those governing a nation; without trust no real relationship can form. You can never build anything lasting on lies. **QUESTION:** What is relativism? Relativism is the belief that everyone has their own truth. So then, according to relativism, everyone gets to decide what is truth. How does the concept of relativism compare to what Jesus said in John 14:6?

The Season of Apostasy

Read: Malachi 2:8; 2 Thessalonians 2:3 and Matthew 7:21 – 23

Exactly what is "apostasy?" Apostasy is the act of walking away from and/or abandoning your faith in God. A person who does this is called an "apostate." Now, when you first hear this definition, you might think of a person who publicly and profoundly denounces Christ and Christianity and no longer believes in Jesus or his teachings; but that would be an extreme example of apostasy. **QUESTION:** Is it possible to become an apostate and not even be aware of the change? Such a decline, begins with one small moral compromise, then another, then another until after a while, your talk looks nothing like your walk!

Desperate Measures

Read: Jer 8:15; Psalms 11:3 and 2 Timothy 2:19

By the time Judah was ready to take God's warnings seriously their enemy was already at their front door and escape was impossible! What has been America's response to the pandemic, economic collapse and civil unrest? It would appear that our nation's solution is to carry on as "business as usual!" **QUESTIONS:** What question did the writer of Psalms 11:3 ask and how does that apply to us today? In what way does the Apostle Paul answer this question in 2 Timothy 2:19? Can a nation or a person remain in sin so long that God's judgment is inevitable?

The Cure For A Sick Nation

Read: 2 Chron 6:36 and 7:14

It would appear that Solomon knew that God was gracious, but he didn't know for sure how gracious God was; and Solomon knew that God was merciful, but he didn't know just how merciful God was. **QUESTIONS:** When you read Solomon's prayer in 2 Chronicles chapter 6, what is Solomon trying to determine about God and Israel? Medicine only works if it is taken as directed. God's remedy in 2 Chronicles chapter 7 is a compound cure. (1) Humble yourselves (2) Pray (3) Seek my face (4) Turn from your wicked ways. Do you think there is some significance to this particular order or sequence?