

**Jer. 7:1 ¶ The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying,
Jer. 7:2 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 chapter begins with YHWH instructing Jeremiah to deliver another message of truth and warning to the people of Jerusalem. He is to stand at the entrance to the temple to deliver this message. You would think that those entering the temple "to worship the LORD" would want to hear God's message, but, sadly, that does not prove to be the case.

This brought a question to my mind: How many attend "God's house" throughout our nation and the world with the intent to worship Him? With the desire to hear what He has to say to them?

Jer. 7:3 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.

Jer. 7:4 Trust ye not in lying words, saying, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, The temple of the LORD, are these.

Jer. 7:5 For if ye thoroughly amend your ways and your doings; if ye thoroughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbour;

Jer. 7:6 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:

Jer. 7:7 Then will I cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers, for ever and ever.

Yet again, the LORD is calling His people to repentance and obedience. God loves His people; His desire is to bless them. He warns them that the temple does not make them immune to judgment. In fact, its presence should have served to remind them of their covenant with God and the consequences for rejecting Him.

God's plea (my paraphrase): Diligently work to mend your ways and execute righteous judgment among the people. Treat strangers in the land, the orphans and widows with kindness and compassion. Value life. Honor Me with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. Disobedience only serves to hurt you. If you will follow me as your LORD, I will allow you to dwell in this land, the land that I gave to your fathers as an everlasting inheritance.

The fact that God is going to bring destruction to the land and send the people into captivity in no way negates His promise to the founding fathers of Israel—Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. It is God's land to do with as He chooses, and He has chosen to give that land to the descendants of Abraham through Jacob. Sadly, the people had become so wicked that God needed to judge them and purify the land and the nation. That is a truth that many people today still do not understand. Because they do not believe in God and/or accept Him as Lord and His word as true, they think they have the right to determine to whom the land belongs. The land belongs to the Jews by the sovereign decree of God Almighty, and the nations are going to find this out the hard way.

Jer. 7:8 Behold, ye trust in lying words, that cannot profit.

Jer. 7:9 Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not;

Jer. 7:10 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?

Jer. 7:11 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.

The prophet goes on to declare that the people are trusting in lies. What lies? That God will protect them just because His temple is there.

Again, my paraphrase of God's message: Do you actually think that you can steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely and burn incense to Baal and other foreign gods and then come to the temple, the house called by My name, and claim my protection? Do you think I intend to protect people known for violence and destruction in My house? You can't deny that you do this because I have seen it with My own eyes.

Again, I can't help but make application to much I see in Christendom today. The people allow themselves to be led by false teachers that are misrepresenting God's truth. We congregate in houses of worship while embracing the sad morals of our society including abortion (or the right to choose as they prefer to call it—I call it murder), lack of commitment in marriage, cohabiting outside of marriage, homosexuality, deceptive business practices, and allowing idols in our lives that we use to justify not giving God the priority in our lives. We allow the false teachers to defraud the innocent by supporting their misrepresentation of the truth of God's word, e.g., the prosperity gospel, because we are so concerned about being politically correct and/or not being tagged as intolerant.

I read an article by a good man that took issue with Christians taking hold of the promises of God that are presented in context to Israel, such as that God is giving to His people here. I think the important point that He is missing is that the people of Israel were God's chosen people who were to declare Him to the world. No, the church hasn't replaced Israel; but at this point in time, the true church are God's chosen people through whom He is declaring Himself to the world. Scripture is clear that God doesn't change. Therefore, the principles that He establishes for dealing with His people are valid for His people of all times. I believe that if the church would "humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (2Chronicles 7:14) It's the same principle Jeremiah is declaring to the people in this passage. The problem is not with God—the problem is the lack of the fear of God among His people. The problem is our pride. I speak this to our shame.

Jer. 7:12 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.

Jer. 7:13 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;

Jer. 7:14 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.

Jer. 7:15 And I will cast you out of my sight, as I have cast out all your brethren, *even* the whole seed of Ephraim.

In this section of verses God is basically saying that the people should remember what happened to Shiloh, the place in Israel that housed the tabernacle and the ark (the representation God's presence) in the beginnings of the nation. It was destroyed and the people judged.

1 Samuel 4:4–11 “So the people sent to Shiloh, that they might bring from thence the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth between the cherubim’s....And when the Philistines heard the noise of the shout, they said, What meaneth the noise of this great shout in the camp of the Hebrews? And they understood that the ark of the LORD was come into the camp....O ye Philistines, that ye be not seroants unto the Hebrews, as they have been to you: quit yourselves like men, and fight. And the Philistines fought, and Israel was smitten, and they fled every man into his tent: and there was a very great slaughter; for there fell of Israel thirty thousand footmen. And the ark of God was taken....”

Psalms 78:56–62 “Yet they tempted and provoked the most high God, and kept not his testimonies: But turned back, and dealt unfaithfully like their fathers: they were turned aside like a deceitful bow. For they provoked him to anger with their high places, and moved him to jealousy with their graven images. When God heard this, he was wroth, and greatly abhorred Israel: So that he forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh, the tent which he placed among men; And delivered his strength into captivity, and his glory into the enemy’s hand. He gave his people over also unto the sword; and was wroth with his inheritance.”

Shiloh was located in the Northern Kingdom, which at the time of Jeremiah's ministry had been taken captive by the Assyrians. God is basically saying that just as surely as I brought judgment then, I will just as surely bring judgment now.

Jer. 7:16 ¶ 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.

I think the LORD is instructing Jeremiah not to pray for this people. If he tries to intercede for them, God will not listen.

It's always interesting to me that God seems to give multiple opportunities for His people to repent in spite of His omniscience. I believe that is for the benefit of individuals. Though judgment upon the nation is sure, I believe God is reaching out to the hearts of the few in the nation that will respond in repentance and faith—the remnant through whom He will fulfill those covenant promises

and through whom the Messiah will be given.

Jer. 7:17 Seest thou not what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem?

Jer. 7:18 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.

Jer. 7:19 Do they provoke me to anger? saith the LORD: *do they not provoke themselves to the confusion of their own faces?*

YHWH continues to justify His instruction by pointing out how wickedness is so prevalent and public. Whole families participate in preparing offerings to present to “the queen of heaven” and other false gods. They are knowingly provoking God to anger. Don’t they understand that they are bringing about their own judgment and ruin?

It is very obvious from the context that this “queen” is part of the pantheon of false gods worshipped among the nations at that time. It is interesting to note that Catholics use the title “Queen of Heaven” in reference to Mary, the mother of Jesus, and the apparitions appearing around the world that claim to be she. If you do much reading at all regarding the messages of this apparition, you will soon find that many are in conflict with scripture. I can only conclude that she is one of those deceiving “angels of light” associated with Satan and his cohorts.

2 Corinthians 11:14–15 “And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.”

You can read much more on this subject at the following website:

<http://www.eternal-productions.org>.

Jer. 7:20 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, mine anger and my fury shall be poured out upon this place, upon man, and upon beast, and upon the trees of the field, and upon the fruit of the ground; and it shall burn, and shall not be quenched.

When reading this verse, I couldn’t help but be reminded of God’s words as recorded by Moses.

Exodus 34:14 “For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God....”

Deuteronomy 6:13–15 “Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name. Ye shall not go after other gods, of the gods of the people which are round about you; (For the LORD thy God is a jealous God among you) lest the anger of the LORD thy God be kindled against thee, and destroy thee from off the face of the earth.”

Another thing that stood out in this verse is how sin brings consequences to the

surrounding environment. When men are judged, the land and other creatures in it experience the consequences.

These are words that should provoke fear and trembling—“mine anger and my fury shall be poured out...and shall not be quenched.” I think that just like the great majority people today, Israel no longer feared God.

Jer. 7:21 ¶ Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Put your burnt offerings unto your sacrifices, and eat flesh.

Jer. 7:22 For I spake not unto your fathers, nor commanded them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices:

Jer. 7:23 But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you.

I think the NIV translation is much easier to understand for this section of verses: *“Go ahead, add your burnt offerings to your other sacrifices and eat the meat yourselves! For when I brought your forefathers out of Egypt and spoke to them, I did not just give them commands about burnt offerings and sacrifices, but I gave them this command: Obey me, and I will be your God and you will be my people. Walk in all the ways I command you, that it may go well with you.”*

It’s interesting how much energy man will invest in performing rituals and adhering to routines to project a desired appearance of spirituality. When it comes to actually serving God according to His will as revealed in His word, however, we choose to follow our own inclinations while trying to justify actions that go against that very revelation. We seem to be wired to try to meet God on our own terms rather than His.

Jer. 7:24 But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward.

The sad truth—God’s people chose not to listen to Him. They chose to act according to their own purposes and their own desires as stated above.

The Hebrew for the word *imagination* was interesting. It stated “in the sense of twisted” from a root that stated “to be hostile; enemy.” It was actually emphasizing the fact that their purposes were rooted in a heart that was hostile to God; their thinking was twisted; it wasn’t rooted in the truth. Instead of growing spiritually, they were in spiritual decline.

Jer. 7:25 Since the day that your fathers came forth out of the land of Egypt unto this day I have even sent unto you all my servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending them:

Jer. 7:26 Yet they hearkened not unto me, nor inclined their ear, but hardened their neck: they did worse than their fathers.

The prophet continues God's message to the people. He declares that God has been faithful to send His prophets to declare His truth and His judgment. Sadly, the people had chosen to ignore the prophets and the truth they declared. As they continued in their sinful ways, they became even more entrenched in sin than were their fathers. That is an important truth—Sin unrestrained results in even worse sin.

Jer. 7:27 Therefore thou shalt speak all these words unto them; but they will not hearken to thee: thou shalt also call unto them; but they will not answer thee.

Jer. 7:28 But thou shalt say unto them, This is a nation that obeyeth not the voice of the LORD their God, nor receiveth correction: truth is perished, and is cut off from their mouth.

The LORD reminds Jeremiah that the people are going to reject the message he declares; his message will fall on deaf ears. They will refuse to repent of their sin. However, he is not to quit; he is to be faithful to continue to proclaim God's word. He is to confront them with their sin and warn them of the judgment to come.

The church today would do well to follow his example. We have become so focused on talking about God's love that the message of identifying sin and declaring judgment has become almost nonexistent. We need to declare the whole counsel of God.

Jer. 7:29 ¶ Cut off thine hair, O Jerusalem, and cast it away, and take up a lamentation on high places; for the LORD hath rejected and forsaken the generation of his wrath.

Jer. 7:30 For the children of Judah have done evil in my sight, saith the LORD: they have set their abominations in the house which is called by my name, to pollute it.

Jer. 7:31 And they have built the high places of Tophet, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire; which I commanded *them* not, neither came it into my heart.

This is yet another call to mourning and repentance. YHWH has rejected this generation, the generation of His wrath. God's long-suffering has reached its limit. Judgment is necessary because of the wickedness of the people. It has gotten to the point that even the temple is no longer exempted from their wickedness. They have brought their idols into the temple. They pay homage to these false gods by sacrificing their own children in the fire. YHWH, the one true God, had never asked for such sacrifices; in fact, this type of sacrifice never entered His heart.

I can hear someone now saying, but what about Abraham and Isaac. That was a personal time of testing for Abraham that Abraham knew would result in the resurrection of Isaac if necessary for God to keep His covenant.

Hebrews 11:17–19 "By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that

had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure."

It was an example of righteous faith and obedience to God. These sacrifices to false gods were acts of murder done with selfish motives—to gain the favor of these impotent gods.

Though we do not place babies in the burning arms of an idol as sacrifices today, we have resorted to a different type of burning to get rid of unwanted babies before they can be born. Consider this quote from an article at www.liveactionsnews.org by Cassy Fiano on November 30, 2016: "Saline abortions fall under the method known as "instillation abortion"—a method where substances including saline, digoxin, potassium chloride, or prostaglandin are injected into a mother's womb....In a saline abortion, the baby is not only poisoned, but also chemically burned alive from the inside out."

Jer. 7:32 Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that it shall no more be called Tophet, nor the valley of the son of Hinnom, but the valley of slaughter: for they shall bury in Tophet, till there be no place.

Jer. 7:33 And the carcasses of this people shall be meat for the fowls of the heaven, and for the beasts of the earth; and none shall fray *them* away.

Jer. 7:34 Then will I cause to cease from the cities of Judah, and from the streets of Jerusalem, the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride: for the land shall be desolate.

The LORD declares that the time is coming when the carcasses of His wicked people will provide a great feast to the carnivorous birds as they fill the valley where they sacrificed their children. At that time Judah will be a place of sadness and desolation.