







Prophecy: Jeremiah (of Anathoth, Judea)

Date: 600 B.C.

Trouble: Threat of foreign occupation and captivity

Causes: Arrogant leaders, ungodly culture, rampant idolatry

Diagnosis: Stubbornness, evil hearts, broken covenant with God

The Lord said, "There is a conspiracy among the people of Judah. They have returned to the sins of their fathers and refuse to listen to my words. They have followed others gods to serve them. They have broken the covenant I made ... So I will bring on them a disaster they cannot escape. (Jeremiah 11:9-10)

HOSTILE DAYS

- 1. God = loving kindness and tender mercy. But he can be <u>provoked</u> to <u>anger</u> (11:17)
- 2. God's past blessings <u>guarantee</u> nothing. <u>Favor fades</u> in the face of <u>rebellious</u> behavior (11:16, 12:7-8)

When God's patience reaches its <u>limits</u>, there are many <u>forms</u> that his judgement can take.

I will send for many fishermen, declares the Lord, and they will catch them. After that I will send for many hunters, and they will hunt them down on every mountain and hill and from the crevices of the rocks. My eyes are on all their ways and they are not hidden from me nor is their sin concealed from my eyes.

I will repay them double for all their sins, because they have defiled my land with the lifeless forms of their vile images and have filled my inheritance with their detestable idols (16:17-18)

No community or civilization can **escape** God's wrath when it falls.

HUMILIATING DAYS

People that formerly <u>acknowledged</u> and <u>respected</u> God will <u>turn against</u> God's LAWS and PRINCIPLES.

Allies will become enemies (13:20-21)

When disaster strikes from God, none of the <u>false gods</u> which we praise and promote will be able to <u>help</u> us. (11:12)

HEAVY DAYS (for those who love and honor God)

- 1. Refuse to compromise your beliefs, values, or worship (15:19-20)
- 2. Prepare for tough times!

QUESTION

O Lord, I bring a case before you and speak with you about your justice. Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why do the faithless folks live at ease? How long will the land lie parched? (12:1-4)

GOD'S ANSWER

If you have raced with men on foot and they have worn you out, how can you compete with HORSES? If you stumble in safe country, how will you manage in the THICKETS by the Jordan? (12:5)

We must not simply <u>look</u> <u>back</u> with longing.

His power can perform such change in us and in <u>this</u> <u>day</u> that future generations will look back to our day with great awe! (16:14-15)