

JEREMIAH 1 vs 13

Remember: the House of Israel / the 10 northern tribes... already were resettled in Assyria captivity, at the foot of the Caucasus mountains... 170 years earlier... when Jeremiah was writing this book.

13 And the word of the LORD came to me the second time, saying, What do you see?

And I said, I see a seething pot ...a large, boiling caldron;

and its face tilting away from the north ...in other words, it is ready to boil over... and it is tilting from the north... not toward the north... which means: its contents are heading south to Jerusalem. So this is like hearing the hurricane or the tsunami is on its way.

14 Then the LORD said to me,

from the north an evil will break forth on all the inhabitants of the land / Jeremiah is indicating the direction of Babylon's invasion. First: from Babylon... west through Syria; then turning south to Jerusalem. Right? ...where Damascus is.

15 For, lo ...mark this,

I will call all the families of the kingdoms of the north, says the LORD / Babylon and all the others, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome...and any later arrivals, too, during the time of the Gentiles;

and they will come, and they will set everyone his throne at the entrance to the gates of Jerusalem / of the blessed capital city of David. Now, from our historical vantage point, we know these thrones were more like patio chairs and outdoor furniture -- very temporary.

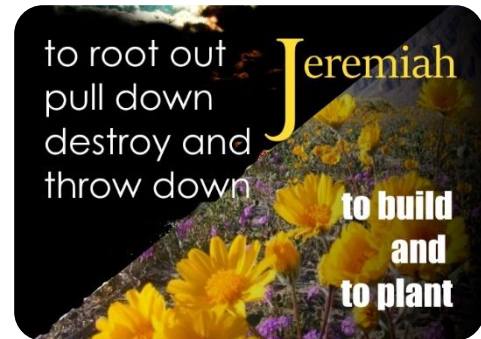
And the LORD adds...

and against all its walls round about, and against all the cities of Judah / against the 2 tribes of Judah who were still in the land... because all the northern 10 tribes of Israel were gone 170 years earlier.

16 And I will pronounce My judgments against them...

regarding all the wrongdoing of those who have forsaken Me,

and have burned incense to other gods, and worshiped the works of their own hands / the Lord says, they offered sacrifices to gods who didn't exist, and praised... and prized... and valued their genius stupidity; as they aggressively violated God's unique covenant with them of all peoples.



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Just an aside: you know those people who wrongly say: it's my life! No, not reality! We are renters... we are to be caretakers of the life and talents the Lord uniquely threw into the package deal! Right?

So, those people really admired what they were doing; while ignoring what Moses and David and the prophets told them about honoring God. They sound like our generation; so don't be throwing stones at them, and not learning our lessons; and these people 2500 years ago... rise up in the judgment against us. Right?!

17 Therefore gird up your loins and arise, and speak to them all that I command you: clearly, Jeremiah is told, buckle up his vital parts... get a little courage; get ready to speak some truth,

be not dismayed at their faces ...and you know, with what Jeremiah has to tell them, they might not be smiling; for a second time the Lord says...

lest I dismay you before them / I see in the footnote to this KJV verse:

lest I break you in pieces before them

Said plainly...

lest I take that rod and beat your butt... before them / so the Lord also has some words for Jeremiah, Get a little cheery!

18 For, behold / pay attention,

I have made you this day a defended city / a fortified city. The people thought Jerusalem was a defended city... and they were secure. Incorrect! Jeremiah is secure. He is like...fortified city... the Lord GOD being round about him,

and an iron pillar / in Psalm 105, we read: Joseph was sent to Egypt...literally: *until iron entered into his soul*. The LORD toughened him up... like a lone, iron pillar

and bronze walls against the whole land: Jeremiahs was like brass walls, impervious to the enemy's arrows.. and he probably didn't even realize it; which is why the Lord is telling him...



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against the **kings of Judah** / who were just another lousy government doing evil in the sight of the Lord,

against its **princes** ...the civil authorities... corrupt in their alliances and trades,

against its **priests** ...the religious authorities... routinely loveless; the arrogant, living dead,

and against the **people of the land** ...who tacitly approved; who sheepishly followed.

And did you hear that? There is nobody left! They are all against the prophet Jeremiah, chosen by God.

19 And they will fight against you;

but they will not prevail against you ...and doesn't that sound a lot like Jesus saying to His disciples: *I will build... My church, and the gates of hell... try as they may... will not prevail against it!*

for I am with you, says the LORD,

to deliver you ...which is exactly what the LORD said at the beginning... when the word of the LORD came. The LORD gives witness a second time... just in case Jeremiah didn't hear... or had forgotten;

I am with you... to deliver you ...to save and to rescue you speedily!

You know, if God be for us; who... but a fool... would be against us!

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