

JEREMIAH 1 vs 13

Remember: the House of Israel / the 10 northern tribes... already had gone to Assyria 170 years earlier... when Jeremiah was writing this book.

¹³ **And the word of the LORD** came unto me the second time,

saying, **What do you see?**

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

and the face thereof 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,**

Out of the north an evil shall break forth upon all the inhabitants of the land.

Out of the north ...Jeremiah is indicating the direction of Babylon's invasion. First: from Babylon... west through Syria; then turning south to Jerusalem. Right?

Out of the north ...where Damascus is

Out of the north an evil shall break forth upon all the inhabitants of the land.

Verse ¹⁵ For, lo ...mark this,

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

says the LORD;

and they shall come,

and they shall set everyone his throne at the entrance to the gates

of Jerusalem ...of the blessed capital city of David 3,000 years ago. 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 ...the 2 tribes of Judah... because all the northern 10 tribes of Israel went into captivity in Assyria 170 years earlier).

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

regarding all the wickedness

of those who have forsaken Me,

and have burned incense / offered sacrifices... to other gods,

and worshiped ...and praised... and prized... and valued

the works of their own hands ...just an aside: you know those people who erroneously say: it's my life! No, not reality! We are renters... we are caretakers of the life... and all the talents that the Lord God uniquely gave... thrown into the package deal! Right?

and who worshiped ...and praised... and prized

the works of their own hands ...and you know, sometimes we should probably say: *our own hands*... in case we be throwing stones, and not learning lessons; and the people in those generations 3,000 years ago... rise up in the judgment against us. Right?!

Verse ¹⁷ Therefore gird up your loins ...more clearly, Jeremiah is told, buckle up your vital parts... get a little courage; get ready to speak some truth,

and arise ...get going!,

and speak to them all that I command you:

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...

be not dismayed at their faces,

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!

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Verse 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...**a defended** ...and fortified **city**... the Lord GOD being round about him,

I have made you... a defended city

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 brasen walls ...brass walls, impervious to the enemy's arrows

against the whole land,

against the kings of Judah ...who became just another lousy government... doing evil in the sight of the Lord,

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

against the priests thereof ...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... shall not prevail against it!*

they will fight against you...

but they will not prevail against you;

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 thee... speedily!

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