

JEREMIAH 4 vs 1

In the previous chapter, Jeremiah tells us of the outcome of the **House of Israel** — recipient of all the nationalistic promises first given to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob... but due to their faithlessness... they were taken north to Assyria and then lost to history. Yet Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea and other prophets are sent by the LORD to massively declare the word of God to them and announce truths that will occur to them as the time of the Gentiles concludes.

So these prophetic words are still to be fulfilled in the **House of Israel**... who are NOT Jewish... and will not resemble the OT traditions... but will have *pushed their enemies to the ends of the earth*, and become *as numerous as the sand of the sea... and the stars of the heavens*; somewhere growing into a *multitude of nations* dwelling together in a community or commonwealth; in alliance with *a great nation* when the time of the Gentiles comes to a close; people who are known as: *children of the living God*.

¹ **If you will return, O Israel, says the LORD, then return to Me:**

and if you will put away your abominations out of My sight, and you will not waiver,

² **And your pledge, As the LORD lives / if your pledge is not empty words... in other words,**

In God we trust... if truly you are learning from and leaning on God alone,

In truth not lies, in judgment the same law for all, and in righteousness in doing what is right;

then the nations shall bless themselves in Him / the LORD, and in Him shall they glory.

The House of Israel and the House of Judah, both God's people... were richly blessed that they might become a blessing to the world... as ambassadors for Him... *to proclaim His great name from the rising to the setting of the sun*. They were not blessed to luxuriate and glory in their immense knowledge and skills; and through their wealth like common criminals create alliances to rip off the rest of the world.

Having addressed lost **Israel**, now Jeremiah speaks to little **Judah**... who hadn't learned from the greater.

³ **For thus says the LORD to the men of Judah / the 4th son of Jacob, Leah his mother was a Canaanite; his name means: praise.** Since Judah was able to convince the brothers to spare Joseph, his descendants were first to take their territory in the land promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Also, from his lineage would arise the great law giver, Messiah; and from his name is the term **Jewish**... only used after the southern tribe returned from Babylon.

For thus says the LORD to the men of Judah

and Jerusalem,

Break up your fallow ground / your hard heads and hearts,

and do not sow among thorns / now days we'd probably say, don't grow up to be a prick!

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⁴ Circumcise yourselves to the LORD,

and take away the foreskins of your heart / whack on your most passionate, private parts... and get yourself under control,

you men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem / you prideful and overly confident men:

lest My fury / My wrath... come forth like fire, and burn with none to extinguish it, because of the evil of your doings.

⁵ Declare in Judah, and proclaim in Jerusalem;

and say,

Blow the trumpet in the land / sound the alarm... God's judgment is already on the way:

Cry aloud,

and say,

Assemble yourselves, and let us go into the fortified areas.

⁶ Set up the standard toward Zion / raise the flag:

retire, stay not / better...

seek refuge, don't stand still:

for I will bring evil from the north, and a great destruction.

⁷ The lion is come up from his haunt, the destroyer of the nations is on his way;

he has left his place to make your land desolate;

your cities shall be ruined, without a dweller.

⁸ So put on sackcloth, lament and howl:

for the fierce anger of the LORD has not turned back from us.

⁹ And it will happen that day, says the LORD,

that the heart of the king and the heart of the princes shall fail; and the priests shall be appalled, and the prophets shall be astonished.

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¹⁰ Then I said, Ah, Lord GOD!

Surely You have greatly deceived this people and Jerusalem, saying,

You shall have peace; whereas the sword is at our throats.

¹¹ At that time this people and Jerusalem will be told, A dry wind from the high places in the desert blows toward the daughter of My people,

not to winnow, not to cleanse,

¹² Even a strong wind shall come from Me: now I will give judgment against them.

¹³ Behold, he comes like clouds, his chariots like a whirlwind: and his horses are swifter than eagles.

Woe to us, for we are ruined!

¹⁴ Wash your evil heart, O Jerusalem, that you may be saved. How long will you harbor vain thoughts?

¹⁵ A voice declares from Dan, a disastrous announcement from Mount Ephraim.

¹⁶ Report to the nations; proclaim it against Jerusalem; swift leopards are leaping from a far land, leaping and growling against the towns of Judah.

¹⁷ As watchers in a field, they surround her on every side; because she has been rebellious against Me, says the LORD.

¹⁸ Your way of doing things has brought it on yourself; this is your evil.

How bitter. It touches your heart.

¹⁹ My guts, my guts! My heart pains, it is pounding; I cannot be silent, because my soul has heard the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.

²⁰ Disaster upon disaster; the whole land is destroyed: suddenly my tents and curtains are destroyed in a moment.

²¹ How long must I see the standard / the war signals?

and hear the trumpet blast?

And that is exactly what happened as Babylon attacked Judah...