

JEREMIAH 4 vs 1

In the previous chapter, Jeremiah tells about the **House of Israel** — recipient of the nationalistic promises given to **Abraham, Isaac and Jacob**... but due to their faithlessness... they were taken north to Assyria and lost to history. Yet Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea and others were sent to declare the word of God as the time of the Gentiles ends.



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 push their enemies to the ends of the earth; somewhere growing into **a multitude of nations** in community and alliance with **a great nation** when the time of the Gentiles comes to a close; people known as: children of the living God.

These 3 shepherds to the world were all greatly blessed and given unique assignments **one prophet says none of them did well**.

1 If you will return, O Israel, says the LORD, then return to Me: and if you will put away your abominations from 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 rightness in doing what is right;



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

The House of **Israel** and the House of **Judah**, 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 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 did not learn from Israel.

3 For thus says the LORD to the men of Judah / the 4th son of Jacob, Leah his mother was a Canaanite; the tribe cursed by Noah. Since Judah convinced the brothers to spare Joseph, his descendants first took their territory in the land promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. From his lineage would come Messiah.

For thus says the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem, Break up your fallow ground / your hard heads and callous hearts, and do not sow among thorns / now days we'd probably say, don't grow up to be a prick!

4 Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, and take away the foreskins of your heart you men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem / whack on your heart, not you thingamajig... and get yourself under control; you prideful and overly confident men:

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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, seek refuge, don't stand still:** / raise the flag toward Zion, toward the City of David; which is merely a futile act if only criminals, thieves and robbers and no king like David is reigning:

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 will 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 *vile* heart of the king and the heart of the princes will fail; and the priests will be appalled, and the prophets will be astonished.

¹⁰ **Then I said, Ah, Lord GOD! Surely You have greatly deceived this people and Jerusalem, saying, You will 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 will 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**.**

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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 and hear the trumpet blast? / Jeremiah sees the flag raised again; the war signals, and hears the sirens blaring; which is what happened as Babylon attacked Judah... as the flags are carried in battle; now to Zion, the city of David; what?, recalling the good King David? But he pursued God; and they didn't. And the LORD said, return to Me, find your refuge in Me!


For a 3rd time in this chapter... the alarms continue. Now days, they have 15 seconds to take cover. And like anyone in a war zone, including Jeremiah, in exasperation they must think, Here we go again!


Jeremiah asks...**How long will I see the standard, and hear the sound of the trumpet?**

22 For My people are foolish ...they are the proverbial fools; **with no knowledge of Me; they are silly children... they have no understanding; they are skillful** / artful... crafty, **to do evil, but to do good** / to do well recalling Cain who killed his brother.

but to do good, they have no knowledge / so the Lord GOD has been listening to Jeremiah... as the sirens keep blaring, and the foolish children keep working their evil! And the Lord GOD felt Jeremiah's pain.

Suddenly, Jeremiah is given a vision...

 **23 I beheld the earth, and lo... it was without form and void, and heaven... there was no light** / and these words: *without form and void*... with no light in heaven... describes the earth in a condition as a result of judgment; some event of near total ruin that seems to predate the recreation we read about in Genesis 1. Jeremiah is shown a past historical event.

 **24 I beheld the mountains, and, lo... they shake** / this word is: *ra-ash*, it is used in **Isaiah 14: How are you fallen from heaven, oh Lucifer. Is this the man that made the earth to tremble?** same word: to shake? Jeremiah says...

I beheld the mountains, and, lo... they shake, and all the hills move lightly / I bet they did!

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➡ ²⁵ **I beheld, and lo... no man** / in Hebrew, this word is: **adam**. So, Jeremiah tells us what he saw... there was *no Adam*. And pay attention, look closely; is this before Adam was created?

Jeremiah says...

I beheld, and, lo ...mark this, **no Adam... and all the birds of heaven had fled** / when the sky is still sunny, but a tornado is coming, even birds have enough brains to recognize the storm is on its way.

And for a 4th time... Jeremiah says...

➡ ²⁶ **I beheld, and, lo** ...mark this, **the fruitful place** / in Hebrew: *Carmel*... an elegant place... suddenly **Carmel... is a wilderness and all the cities** / what? Jeremiah just said there was *no Adam*; yet this word means: *dwelling places* intelligently constructed. Remember, even those foolish people, silly children... were given intelligence. It seems, Jeremiah sees other fools sometime long ago that had been around, with enough sense to create residences, who also chose to be skillful to do evil.

all the cities / he doesn't see caves; he doesn't see nests. Jeremiah is not looking at temporary shelters; he definitely sees **cities**.

and all its cities... were broken down at the presence of the LORD by His fierce anger.

And Jeremiah seeing what he saw, now the LORD answers Jeremiah's questions:

How long will I see the standard? And hear the sound of the trumpet?

²⁷ **For thus the LORD said, the whole earth will be desolate; yet, I will not make a full end.**

One day there will come *a new heaven and earth*... but not now in this vision; Jeremiah saw evidence there was a massive recycle program going on!

²⁸ **For this will the earth mourn, and heaven above will be black: because I have spoken** / this word is: *dabar*. It is first used when God spoke to Noah after the flood. **I have purposed** / I have considered and planned

and will not... rethink / I will not sigh... nor regret

neither will I turn back from it / I will not retreat.



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From these verses it seems the Lord GOD was already a past-Expert... having to deal with foolish people... skillful to do evil; but to do good... lacking knowledge; which is something we should also learn as He deals with those in our genius 21st century. Jeremiah saw a past event... before Adam. The prophet Joel saw a similar day coming... when the sun and moon will be darkened; and the stars stop shining.

But back to reality, 2500 years ago and Jeremiah understands the assault on Judah and Jerusalem:

29 The whole city will flee from the horsemen and bowmen; they will go into thickets and climb up on the rocks, every city will be abandoned, and not a man dwell in it / the stunned citizens will attempt to escape:

30 O desolate one / Jerusalem, what will you do? Though you clothe yourself with **scarlet, though you decorate yourself with **gold ornaments**, though you enlarge your eyes with paint; in vain you make yourself beautiful.**

Your lovers despise you, they seek your life / most of their business and social paramours and associates would kill Judah if the Lord let them; but God has other long-term plans, He knows a faithful remnant will respond to Him in these last days... to become His Praise.

31 For I have heard a voice as of a woman in labor, the anguish of one giving birth to her first child, the voice of the daughter of Zion, herself wailing, weary, reaching out hopeless; alas, **my life is given to murderers /** one voice has finally realized they have been used by assassins.

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