

# JEREMIAH 4 vs 21

<sup>21</sup> **How long will I see** / this Hebrew word is: *ra'ah*. It is first used in scripture when God saw light... and it was good.

Jeremiah asks...

**How long will I see the standard** / the flag carried in battle; earlier in this chapter the LORD said, *Set up the standard* -- the flag toward Zion; the city of David; draw strength recalling the good King David a man in pursuit of God. Earlier, the LORD said, *return to Me*. With flags flying He says: *Find your refuge in Me!*



**and hear the sound** / these 2 words were first used in Genesis... *when they heard the sound of the Lord GOD... walking in the garden in the cool breeze of the day*. Jeremiah is using words the Creator remembers as... good.

But Jeremiah says...

**and hear the sound of the trumpet** / for a 3<sup>rd</sup> time in this chapter... apparently the alarm has once again sounded. 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 the prophet has just asked the LORD...

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

<sup>22</sup> 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** / the Hebrew word is: *yatah... to do well*. This word is first used in Genesis 4 when Cain had brought an unacceptable offering from the cursed ground; and the LORD said, *if you do well*.

**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 has a vision...

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Verse <sup>23</sup> 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.

Verse <sup>24</sup> 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!

Verse <sup>25</sup> I beheld, and **lo... no man** / in Hebrew, this word is: **adam**. In other words, Jeremiah tells us what he saw... there was *no Adam*. And pay attention, look closely; this is before Adam was created.

Jeremiah says...

**I beheld, and, lo ...mark this, no Adam...**

**and all the birds of heaven... had fled** / you know, 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 4<sup>th</sup> time... Jeremiah says...

<sup>26</sup> **I beheld, and, lo ...mark this, the fruitful place** / in Hebrew: *Carmel*... an elegant place...

suddenly

**Carmel... is a wilderness** / hmm?,

**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. 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.

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Jeremiah sees... **cities**.

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

We read...

**and all its cities... were broken down**

**at the presence of the LORD by His fierce anger.**

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

*How long will I see the standard?*

*And hear the sound of the trumpet?*

**Verse <sup>27</sup> 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!

**the whole earth will be desolate**

**yet, I will not make a full end.**

**Verse <sup>28</sup> 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, Jeremiah learned...

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 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Jeremiah saw a past event... before Adam. The prophet Joel saw a similar... future day coming... when *the sun and moon will be darkened; and the stars stop shining.*

But back to 2500 years ago and the assault on Judah and Jerusalem:

**Verse 29 The whole city will flee from the horsemen and bowmen; they will go into thickets and climb up on the rocks / the stunned citizens will attempt to escape:**

**every city will be abandoned, and not a man dwell in it.**

**30 O desolate one, 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.

