**“THE JUST GOD, FROM JEREMIAH”**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. Jeremiah 1:16-19

 -a. one of the many prophets that God had “sent” to correct His wayward people

 -b. corrupt times abounded as seen in Jer.2:8

 -c. the “true prophets” life was not a “bed of roses” – Jer.15:10

2. Jeremiah had witnessed the “great days of the kingdom” -Jer.1:2— *“days of Josiah”*

 and as well the “sad days” of the Babylonian captivity” - Jer.1:3

 *“unto the carrying away into captivity”*

3.Faithful to God was “this prophet” for he was aware of the “justice of God”,

 and that for those seeking to be faithful, God was always there for their care.

 -a. great times had been, and NOW, things were changing

 -b. God has to act, for the good of this nation

4. As corruption had come among “this nation”, God needed to do something if

 they were to be saved… So...

 -a. He sent a prophet!

 -b. and the “weapon issued” was “the inspired word” Jer.1:17

5. As STILL desires for all to be saved,

 -a. there still exists those who have rejected God

 neglected God

 been deceived by false views

 -b. that same “weapon” has been sent forth,

 Rom.1:16…

 Eph.6:17… *“sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God…”*

 -c. we MUST make sure we are not a part of those, for in the end they shall perish

**INTRODUCTION:**

**(I) “THEY HAD DECEIVED THEMSELVES”**

 1. Jer.2:21-23…also verse 35

 2. God said, “they had sinned”,

 and the people said, “what have we done?” – Jer.8:6

 “we are really not that bad…” – Pro.30:12

 3. *“their judgments”* did not portray themselves as really “wrong” -

 Why would God seek to punish us? – Jer.5:19

 -a. allowing themselves to be deceived/tricked by teachings being accepted -Jer.8:8

 -b. by their unacceptable attitudes towards God?

 -c. Jer.13:27……. *“how long will you remain unclean*?”

 was the question that was asks.

 -d. Jer.2:8

 -1-. *priests* had no respect towards God

 -2-. *teachers* of the Law were ignorant of the truth

 -3-. *rulers* neglected God’s will

 -4-. *prophets* looked to Baal “for guidance”

 -e. as they had said, ***“God will not do anything to us…”*** – Jer.5:12-13

 4. QUESTION? … can we deceive ourselves into thinking we are O.K.?

 God will not avenge our being unfaithful

 our doing as we just believe?

 our following what others may say?

 -a. a determining source of truth does exists

 -b. is this what we are looking into?—or opinions of others?

 -c. II Tim.3:16-17

 5. II Cor.13:5… examine yourselves

 -a. scriptures are a “mirror” that we can look - into - and - see - ourselves

 -b. and what shall we ***“see?”*** .. James 1:23-25

 -c. scriptures are for our learning, maturing, developing – II Tim.3:16-17

 6. We may, as Israel see ourselves, but in reality, God sees us ***“as we really are”***

 -a. Rev.3:17

 ***“we need to look into that mirror more closely each day”***

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**(II) “THEY RECEIVED PUINISHMENT”**

 1. Jer.9:7-9…

 -a. God said, “I have no choice”… “the rebellious people leave ME no choice”

 -b. they sought NOT God, nor instruction that could preserve them as His people.

 2. Jer.13:25

 Based on their actions, this is what God had for them

 -a. could have been great blessings

 -b. ended up being a punishment for all that they had done

 -1-. forgotten God/ ignored, rejected

 -2-. trusted in falsehoods

 3. Hundreds of years later,

 Paul set forth that it is a “righteous thing” for God to act – II Thess.1:5-6

 4. Romans 2:5

 5. God, who is *“not a respecter of person’s”* has ALWAYS acted in a just manner

 -a. for His nature requires it to be according to this fashion – Col.3:25

 Gal.2:6

 -b. As Peter was “reminding those of his day”

 God spared ***not*** the *angels* when they sinned - \_ II Pet.2:4

 “ the *ancient world,* but brought a flood – II Pet.2:5

 “ *Sodom and Gomorrah* in their sins – II Pet.2:6

 -c. by what “source of truth” do many hope for salvation in our world today???

 6. Israel had built a case for their “destruction”, and the payout was coming.

 7. And if we “choose to live” as Israel did, we shall be given our “earned wages” also -Rom.6:23

 8. Gal.6:7-8 ……… Rom.2:9-10…

 **our *destiny is determined by the choices we make everyday***

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**(III) “GOD’S DESIRE TO SAVE”**

 1. Jer.5:7…

 2.As much as God desires for man’s salvation,

 man has to make the correct actions to again be united with God

 -a. God’s willingness is set forth to accept them back – Jer.3:22

 -b. Jer.4:1

 3. If “they” seek to return, God’s willingness is there to receive – Jer.5:1

 4. II Pet.3:9.. *“not willing that any should perish..”*

 5. God has made possible the ability “to return” – Rom.5:8

 -a. I Cor.6:9-fff …as Paul lists many of the past sins of the Corinthians

 Idolatrous, adulterers, covetous, drunkards, etc

 -b. verse 11… “and such were some of you…
 -c. verse 11.. “but, ye were washed…”

 -d. God has made possible our ability to be saved – II Peter 1:11-12

 but something ***IS*** required of us as well.

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**(IV) “ISRAELS REPENTANCE WILL SAVE THEM”**

 1. Jer.3:19

 -a. although Israel had departed, a call to return was issued – Jer.3:19..vs.20

2. “repentance” being ;

 -a. that change of mind

 -b. which results in a change of conduct

 -c. Jer.4:1………………. -1-. have a change of mind

 -2-. put away thine abominations

 “THEN” will I receive you

 3. God, looked forward to the time in which Israel WOULD repent, change

 and could then be forgiven. – Jer.29:10….30:3

 4. As sin has occurred, and our fellowship broken with God,

 the ability to be “reunited” was made possible. – Isa.1:18-20

 -a. the message of the apostles was as started in Lk.24:47

 -1-. change in mind

 -2-. resulting in a change in our lives

 -3-. and into all the world would this message go forth – Acts 17:30

 -b. we, as Israel have the ability to “change”,

 but, *our determination*

 *the will* must be present that brings this about.

 5. What God was seeking from Israel **IS STLL** what we must yield unto Him.

6. In the last days of Jeremiah, the people “would not listen”

 “would not repent”

 and God DID just what He said…………….they were conquered,

 taken into captivity – Jer.52:7

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**CONCLLUSION:**

1. As God dealt with HIS people, the same principles still exist for us today

 What Jeremiah said about his people still applies for us.

2. We must desire to be saved,

 God can’t do that for us.

3. Jer. 9:23-24