

WHEN A SOCIETY REJECTS GOD!

Jeremiah 5:1-31

Democracy – Rule by the People for the People

Education – From “No more teachers, no more books, no more teachers dirty looks” to insolent defiance.

Family – Children who “divorce” their parents

Religious Organisations – Wholesale rejection of accountability. If you don't like the group you are affiliated to, you just create your own.

This is the society God sent Jeremiah to speak against.

THEME TEXT – Jeremiah 5:5 “So I will go to the leaders and speak to them; surely they know the way of the LORD, the requirements of their God.” **But with one accord they too had broken off the yoke and torn off the bonds.**

THE CALAMITY FACING THOSE WHO REJECT AUTHORITY

I. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A SOCIETY THAT REJECTS AUTHORITY

1. DECLINE IN ACCEPTED STANDARDS - v1-2 v1 *Go up and down the streets of Jerusalem, look around and consider, search through her squares. **If you can find but one person who deals honestly and seeks the truth, I will forgive this city.*** v2 *Although they say, 'As surely as the LORD lives,' still they are swearing falsely."*

2. REPEATING THE SAME MISTAKES - v3 *O LORD, do not your eyes look for truth? You struck them, but they felt no pain; you crushed them, but **they refused correction.** They made their faces harder than stone and refused to repent..*

How many times do we make the same mistakes before we learn a lesson.

3. FALSE WORSHIP - v7 *"Why should I forgive you? Your children have forsaken me and sworn by gods that are not gods..."*

The “THREE CHAIR” Principle. If the person in the First Chair has a personal faith and does not encourage the Child in the Second Chair to have their OWN PERSONAL faith, the Grandchild in the Third Chair, will not have any faith at all.

4. SEXUAL DEVIANCE - v7b *I supplied all their needs, yet they committed adultery and thronged to the houses of prostitutes. v8 **They are well-fed, lusty stallions, each neighing for another man's wife..***

Research shows that while only 4-12% of Websites on the Internet are Pornography, 30-40% of all daily internet usage is connected to Pornography. Research also shows that 80% of Pornographic websites display violence against women being acceptable sexual practice.

5. FALSE OR NO RELIGION - v12 *They have lied about the LORD; they said, "He will do nothing! No harm will come to us; we will never see sword or famine. v13 **The prophets are but wind and the word is not in them; so let what they say be done to them."***

If you know the truth you should practice what you preach.

Matthew 24:5 For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.

Matthew 24:11 and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.

*John 8:44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. **When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.***

6. THE WEAK ARE OPRESSED - *Their evil deeds have no limit; they do not plead the case of the fatherless to win it, they do not defend the rights of the poor*

II. THE CAUSES OF A SOCIETY THAT REJECTS AUTHORITY

1. LACK OF BIBLICAL KNOWLEDGE - v4 *I thought, "These are only the poor; they are foolish, for **they do not know the way of the LORD,** the requirements of their God.*

2. REJECTING BIBLICAL KNOWLEDGE - v5 *So I will go to the leaders and speak to them; surely they know the way of the LORD, the requirements of their God." **But with one accord they too had broken off the yoke and torn off the bonds.***

Even the Leaders are rejecting the Word of God.

3. SINFUL BEHAVIOUR - v25 *Your wrongdoings have kept these away; your sins have deprived you of good.*
v26 *"Among my people are wicked men who lie in wait like men who snare birds and like those who set traps to catch men*

Three Different words for SIN are used in these two verses:

- a. AWON – “wrongdoings” – to wander away (from God)
- b. HATTAH - “your sins” – falling short of God’s standard.
- c. RASA – “wicked(ness) men” – “Bent out of shape”

III. THE CHARACTERS IN SOCIETY THAT REJECTS AUTHORITY

1. POOR - v4 *I thought, "These are only the poor; they are foolish*

2. RICH - v5 *So I will go to the leaders*

3. CHILDREN - v7 *Your children have forsaken me ...*

4. EVERYBODY - v27 *Like cages full of birds, their houses are full of deceit; they have become **rich and powerful** v28 and have grown **fat and sleek**.*

5. PROPHETS AND PRIESTS - v31 *The prophets prophesy lies, the priests rule by their own authority, and my people love it this way.*

IV. THE CONSEQUENCES FOR A SOCIETY THAT REJECTS AUTHORITY

1. JUDGEMENT - v6 *Therefore a lion from the forest will attack them, a wolf from the desert will ravage them, a leopard will lie in wait near their towns to tear to pieces any who venture out, for their rebellion is great and their backslidings many.*

2. SEVERE PUNISHMENT - v14 *Therefore this is what the LORD God Almighty says: "Because the people have spoken these words, I will make my words in your mouth a fire and these people the wood it consumes. v15 O house of Israel," declares the LORD, "**I am bringing a distant nation against you--** an ancient and enduring nation, a people whose language you do not know, whose speech you do not understand. v16 Their quivers are like an open grave; all of them are mighty warriors. v17 They will devour your harvests and food, devour your sons and daughters; they will devour your flocks and herds, devour your vines and fig trees. With the sword they will destroy the fortified cities in which you trust.*

3. DISPAIR - v31 *The prophets prophesy lies, the priests rule by their own authority, and my people love it this way. **But what will you do in the end?***

We are living in a world full of despair, without HOPE or DIRECTION

V. THE CORRECTION NEEDED BY A SOCIETY THAT REJECTS AUTHORITY

1. ACKNOWLEDGE THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD - v20 *"Announce this to the house of Jacob and proclaim it in Judah: v21 Hear this, you foolish and senseless people, who have eyes but do not see, who have ears but do not hear: v22 Should you not fear me?" declares the LORD. "Should you not tremble in my presence? I made the sand a boundary for the sea, an everlasting barrier it cannot cross. The waves may roll, but they cannot prevail; they may roar, but they cannot cross it.*

2. PRACTICE GODLY CLEANSING - v9 *Should I not punish them for this?" declares the LORD. "Should I not avenge myself on such a nation as this? v10 "Go through her vineyards and ravage them, but do not destroy them completely. **Strip off her branches, for these people do not belong to the LORD.***

JESUS SAID IN John 15:1-2 *"I am the true vine, and **my Father is the gardener. v2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit**, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes[1] so that it will be even more fruitful.*

3. RECEIVE GRACE AND MERCY - v18 *"Yet even in those days," declares the LORD, "**I will not destroy you completely.***

Without God’s GRACE and MERCY we are DOOMED

CONCLUSION

JESUS said

John 15:4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

THE OPPOSITE OF REBELLION IS OBEDIENCE