

Jeremiah's Prophecies

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It has been assumed by some people that Jeremiah's prophecies were directed toward the ancient nation of Israel and therefore have no significance, or consequence, to societies in the 21st century. If this understanding is proven incorrect then many of the warnings issued by Jeremiah need to be viewed as being applicable today.

In approximately 626 BCE as Jeremiah commenced his work ("Jeremiah", Unger's Bible Hand Book, Moody Press, p. 343), and as the ten tribes of Israel were taken captive by the Assyrians in approximately 721 BCE, any prophetic warnings aimed at these ten tribes would be redundant. This is due to the fact that they were already slaves in a foreign land,

The new emperor, Shalmaneser V (726-722 B.C.) thereupon laid siege to the Israelite capital of Samaria. Before the fall of the city had been fully consummated, a new leader had seized the reins of power. He was Sharrukin II or Sargon II (721-705 B.C.), whose new regime was inaugurated by the fall of the city ("Assyria"; The New Unger's Bible Dictionary, Moody Press, p. 120).

Because ten tribes of Israel were in captivity by the time of Jeremiah's prophecies, his warnings could only apply to the remaining tribes of Judah and Benjamin (cf. 2Chr. 34:32) or to the future descendants of all twelve tribes. This would mean that some of Jeremiah's prophecies have a dual meaning because some did not apply to the period in which they were given. Instead, they would be fulfilled at a future date. This will be confirmed later when the 7th chapter of Jeremiah is examined. Also, the fact that Jeremiah was not sent to warn only Judah and Benjamin is made evident in the following scripture,

Then the Lord (Angel of the Lord as no one has seen or heard Almighty God; cf. Jn. 5:37) put forth His hand and touched my (Jeremiah's) mouth, and the Lord said to me: 'Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. ¹⁰See, **I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms**, to root out and to pull down, to destroy and to throw down, to build and to plant (Jer. 1:9-10; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

It has been speculated by some people that part of Jeremiah's commission was to take a princess from the tribe of Judah (i.e. to root out) and then accompany her to Ireland for the purpose of eventually taking over leadership (i.e. pull down) in the British Isles. This speculation has not been founded on credible historical works, and therefore should be considered highly questionable. Instead, the verses quoted above show that Jeremiah would have authority to proclaim many events that would have consequences upon nations and kingdoms well into the future. Also, Jeremiah's prophecies will be examined later in the context of judging the fallen host of heaven,

For behold, I have made you (Jeremiah) this day a fortified city and an iron pillar, and bronze walls against the whole land – against the kings of Judah, against its princes, against its priests, and against the people of the land (Jer. 1:18; Ed. note in parenthesis).

The instant I (Almighty God) speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, to pull down, and to destroy it,⁸ if that nation against whom I have spoken turns (repents) from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I thought to bring upon it.⁹ And the instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it,¹⁰ if it does evil in My sight so that it does not obey My voice, then I will relent concerning the good with which I said I would benefit it (Jer. 18:7-10; Ed. notes in parentheses).

This last scripture describes the first major event that Jeremiah would prophesy about and it would involve the tribes of Judah and Benjamin that were located in and around Jerusalem. Although the peoples in these two tribes knew better, they did not repent,

I will utter My judgments against them (Judah; v. 15) concerning all their wickedness, because they have forsaken Me, burned incense to other gods, and worshipped the works of their own hands (Jer. 1:16; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Although God is very patient and longsuffering (cf. Ex. 34:6; Nu. 14:18; Ps. 86:15; 2Pet. 3:9), He will not tolerate open rebellion indefinitely. In Judah's case they had the example of the ten tribes, who were taken into captivity about 125 years earlier, to learn that there are consequences for those who persist in living a life of sin (cf. Jer. 2:32b). Because Judah did not learn from Israel's example, God declared that Judah behaved worse than Israel,

Then I (God) saw that for all the causes for which backsliding Israel (10 tribes out of the 12) had committed adultery (spiritually speaking), I had put her away and given her a certificate of divorce (10 tribes were taken into slavery by the Assyrians); yet her treacherous sister Judah did not fear (did not learn from Israel's punishment for sin), but went and played the harlot also (Jer. 3:8; Ed. notes in parentheses).

And yet for all this her (Israel's) treacherous sister Judah has not turned to Me (repented) with her whole heart, but in pretense (superficial religiosity), says the Lord. ¹¹Then the Lord said to me (Jeremiah), 'Backsliding Israel has shown herself more righteous than treacherous Judah (Jer. 3:10-11; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Even with the ten tribes of Israel in captivity, God prophesied through Jeremiah that they would eventually realize the consequences of their way of living and seek to repent and return to living in accordance with His law and commandments,

Go and proclaim these words toward the north (location north of Samaria after their captivity by the Assyrians), and say: 'Return, backsliding Israel,' says the Lord, 'And I will not cause My anger to fall on you; For I am merciful,' says the Lord, 'And I will not remain angry forever. ¹³Only acknowledge your iniquity (sin; cf. 1Jn. 3:4), that you have transgressed against the Lord your God, and have scattered your charms (ways) to alien deities under every green tree, and **you have not obeyed My voice,**' says the Lord (Jer. 3:12-13; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

This repentance on the part of the ten tribes of Israel will not occur, en masse, until the Messiah returns to establish the law and commandments of his Father in heaven,

At that time Jerusalem shall be called The Throne of the Lord, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the Lord, to Jerusalem; they shall walk no more after the stubbornness of their evil heart (Jer. 3:17).

We lie down in our shame and our reproach (disgrace) covers us. For we have sinned against the Lord our God, we and our fathers (many generations up to the return of Messiah), from our youth even to this day, and have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God (Jer. 3:25; Ed. notes in parentheses).

These ten tribes are mixed with peoples from other nations primarily in the Western world and because they do not follow God's ways, they believe they are Gentiles. They follow the pagan customs learned from their Assyrian captors and as a result they do not know that their forefathers descended from Jacob and that they should be observing the seventh day Sabbath, New Moons, and God's annual Holy Days that are usually referred to, incorrectly, as being Jewish,

Speak to the children of Israel (all 12 tribes), and say to them: **The feasts of the Lord**, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, **these are My feasts** (Lev. 23:2; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Today, descendants of ancient Israel unknowingly observe pagan rites and many of these customs are associated with modern Christianity including Sunday worship, Christmas observance, New Year's celebrations in January, Easter, etc. These are included with activities that God considers "abominations" because they are contrary to His law and commandments (cf. Mt. 7:21-23),

If you return, O Israel, says the Lord, return to me; and if you will **put away your abominations** out of My sight. Then you shall not be moved (taken into physical and/or spiritual captivity). ²And you shall swear, 'The Lord lives,' in truth, in judgment (justice), and in righteousness (cf. Ps 119:172)... (Jer. 4:1-2a; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Because ancient Judah was following in the footsteps of her sister Israel, Jeremiah warned them that they would soon suffer captivity as well,

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying, ²Stand in the gate of the Lord's house, and proclaim there this word, and say, 'Hear the word of the Lord, **all you of Judah** who enter in at these gates to worship the Lord!' (Jer. 7:1-2; emphasis added).

Behold, you (Judah) trust in lying words that cannot profit. ⁹Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, burn incense to Baal (Sun-god – hence Sunday worship), and walk after other gods whom you do not know, ¹⁰and then come and stand before Me in this house which is called by My name, and say, 'We are delivered to do all **these abominations**'? (Jer. 7:8-10; ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

But go now to My place which was in Shiloh, where I set My name at the first, and see what I did to it **because of the wickedness of My people Israel** (10 tribes that were taken into captivity) (Jer. 7:12; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

As mentioned previously in this study, Jeremiah was given some prophecies that were dual in nature. In other words, they saw a fulfillment during the time of the prophet but they also pointed to a future time (or times) when similar events would occur again

because the descendants of Jacob would continue to repeat the same evils over and over. With this principle in mind, the following prophecy applied to the nation of Judah during Jeremiah's time, but it applied equally during the time that Jesus Christ taught the people of Judea,

Has this house, which is called by My name, become a den of thieves in your eyes? Behold, I, even I, have seen it, says the Lord (Jer. 7:11).

Then Jesus went into the temple and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the moneychangers and the seats of those who sold doves. ¹³And he said to them, 'It is written, My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves' (Mt. 21:12-13).

Because the nation of Judah was involved with many pagan customs during the time of Jeremiah, they were treating God's temple with contempt and they were warned there would be consequences for their actions. The result was an invasion of Jerusalem and the captivity of the nation of Judah by the Babylonians. During the time of Jesus Christ, the Judeans were treating God's temple with contempt and Christ prophesied that the temple would be destroyed, which the Romans accomplished in 70 CE,

Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple. And his disciples came to him to show him the buildings of the temple. ²And Jesus said to them, 'Do you see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down (Mt. 24:1-2).

Now as he (Christ) drew near, he saw the city (Jerusalem) and wept over it, ⁴²saying, 'If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace (cf. Ps. 119:165)! But now they are hidden from your eyes. ⁴³For the days will come upon you (ref. to 70CE and the destruction of the temple) when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, ⁴⁴and level you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation' (Lk. 19:41-44; Ed. notes in parentheses).

During the time of Jeremiah, the nation of Judah was worshipping the queen of heaven whose name was Ishtar, the Assyrian goddess of fertility. In our enlightened Christian world today, Easter is observed in honor of this same goddess with fertility symbols like rabbits, chicks, and colored eggs. Instead of baking moon and star shaped cakes for the queen of heaven today, there are substitutions like hot cross buns, Easter cakes, chocolate bunnies, etc.. To create an illusion of being religious, the name of Christ is associated with this pagan day of worship (see the study: Why Passover, Not Easter, Should Be Central to Christianity),

Do you (Jeremiah) not see what they do in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? The children gather wood, the fathers kindle the fire, and the women knead their dough, to **make cakes for the queen of heaven...** (Jer. 7:17a; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Because many religious people today observe the same pagan customs that both Israel and Judah have been practicing for a very long time, Jeremiah's prophecies apply to them even though they may be regarded as Gentile today,

Behold the days are coming, says the Lord, that I will punish all those who are circumcised with the uncircumcised – Egypt, Judah, Edom, the people of Ammon, Moab, and all who are in the farthest corners, who dwell in the wilderness. For all these nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised in the heart (Jer. 9:25-26).

It is highly unlikely that the ten tribes of Israel heard any of Jeremiah's prophecies because they were a captive nation by the time that Jeremiah commenced his work. Therefore, the warnings that Jeremiah proclaimed would have been directed to future generations who descended from these ten sons of Jacob. One of these prophecies is very insightful because it connects pagan practices with Israel's desire to "follow the crowd" rather than stand up for God's law and commandments. The customs that Jeremiah refers to in the next scripture are very similar to activities that occur during the observance of Christmas, which is rooted in the Sun-worship system,

Hear the word which the Lord speaks to you, O house of Israel. Thus says the Lord: ²Do not learn the way of the Gentiles; do not be dismayed at the signs of heaven (i.e. astrology), for the Gentiles are dismayed at them. ³For the customs of the peoples are futile (vanity); for one cuts a tree from the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the ax. ⁴They decorate it with silver and gold; they fasten it with nails and hammers so that it will not topple (Jer. 10:1-4; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Is it really just a coincidence that trees are a central part of observing (worshipping) the pagan Christmas celebration culminating on December 25th every year? In reality, it's the same old religious practice that was commonplace during Jeremiah's time but now it's modified with different names and updated with modern trappings like electric colored lights and stars; tinsel and colored glass balls instead of real silver and gold decorations; and in many cases a real tree is replaced with an artificial one.

According to Jeremiah's prophecy regarding the fall of Jerusalem in 587 BCE, this invasion was preceded by drought, famine, and pestilence. These were meant to get Judah's attention in the hope they would repent and start following God's law and commandments,

Judah mourns, and her gates languish; they mourn for the land, and the cry of Jerusalem has gone up. ³Their nobles have sent their lads for water; they went to the cisterns and found no water. They returned with their vessels empty; they were ashamed and confounded and covered their heads. ⁴Because the ground is parched, for there was no rain in the land, the plowmen were ashamed; they covered their heads. ⁵Yes, the deer also gave birth in the field, but left (abandoned her young) because there was no grass (Jer. 14:2-5; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Unfortunately, because Judah's leaders lied about what was happening and stated that everything was going to work out fine, the nation did not repent,

And the Lord said to me (Jeremiah), 'The prophets prophesy lies in My name. I have not sent them, commanded them, nor spoken to them; they prophesy to you a false vision, divination (telling the future by signs and omens), a worthless thing, and the deceit of their heart.

¹⁵Therefore thus says the Lord concerning the prophets who prophesy in My name, whom I did not send, and who say, 'Sword and famine shall not be in this land – 'By sword and famine those prophets shall be consumed! ¹⁶And the people to whom they prophesy shall be cast out in the streets of Jerusalem because of the famine and the sword; they will have no one to bury them –

nor their wives, their sons nor their daughters – for I will pour their wickedness on them! (Jer. 14:14-16; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Because the politicians and religious leaders were lying to the citizens of Jerusalem in an attempt to preserve their positions, God sentenced them to death by the very things they were claiming would not occur. While these leaders were still alive, they made Jeremiah's life a misery because he was warning them about the devastation that would come if they did not repent. Thankfully, God encouraged Jeremiah by assuring him that his enemies would not prevail against him,

And I (Almighty God) will make you (Jeremiah) to this people a fortified bronze wall; and they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail against you; for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the Lord (Jer. 15:20; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Jeremiah's warnings to the people of Judah apply in today's society because Almighty God does not change (cf. Mal. 3:6) and our world is very similar to the one during the time of Jeremiah. The only difference is that the gods we rely on today for healing, answers to difficult problems, solutions to complex issues, and protection when threatened by outside forces are medical doctors, psychiatrists, scientists, astrologers, military forces, etc. Therefore, the following scriptures describe the state of our world now,

And it shall be, when you (Jeremiah) show this people all these words, and they say to you, 'Why has the Lord pronounced all this great disaster against us? Or what is our iniquity (sin)? Or (for those who claim to be religious) what is our sin that we have committed against the Lord our God?' ¹¹Then you shall say to them, 'Because your fathers have forsaken Me,' says the Lord; 'they have walked after other gods and have served them and worshiped them, and **have forsaken Me and not kept My law**' (Jer. 16:10-11; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the Lord. For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when good comes, but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land that is not inhabited (Jer. 17:5; emphasis added).

By the time of Jeremiah, the nation of Judah had ceased observing God's Sabbaths correctly (2Ti. 3:1-5), but had they repented and started to properly follow this command, they would have been spared from the destruction of the Babylonians,

Thus says the Lord; 'Take heed to yourselves, and bear no burden on the Sabbath day, nor bring it in by the gates of Jerusalem; ²²nor carry a burden out of your houses on the Sabbath day, nor do any work, but hallow the Sabbath day, as I commanded your fathers. ²³But they did not obey nor incline their ear, but made their neck stiff (were stubborn) that they might not hear nor receive instruction (Jer. 17:21-23ff; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Even among religious circles today, there is much debate regarding which day is the Sabbath day and whether or not it should be obeyed (See various studies on our website concerning God's Holy Days). It is interesting that the issue of obedience to the Sabbaths of Almighty God became "the test" that Judah failed and failure to obey the Sabbath command led to their captivity in Babylon. If this same test were applied to our societies today, the nations and individuals claiming to know Almighty God would fail

miserably. There is little doubt that the majority today would respond in exactly the same manner as ancient Judah did,

And they (Judah) said, 'That (keeping God's Sabbaths) is hopeless! So we will walk according to our own plans, and we will every one do the imagination of his evil heart (Jer. 18:12; Ed. notes in parentheses).

As stated previously, God has not changed and therefore the punishment that was eventually inflicted upon Judah, will occur again,

I (Almighty God) will scatter them as with an east wind before the enemy; I will show them the back and not the face (i.e. God will not hear their pleas for help) in the day of their calamity (Jer. 18:17; cf. 20:4-5; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Also, anyone warning nations today about their evil ways will receive the same treatment that Jeremiah did. This is already occurring when anyone stands up for God's truth and states that His law and commandments are to be obeyed,

Then they (leaders in the nation of Judah) said, 'Come and let us devise plans against Jeremiah; for the law shall not perish from the priest (as Jeremiah is saying), nor counsel from the wise (as Jeremiah is claiming), nor the word from the prophet (which Jeremiah warned about). **Come and let us attack him with the tongue** (to discredit what he says), and **let us not give heed to any of his words** (Jer. 18:18; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

The ultimate goal of these leaders in Judah was to destroy Jeremiah so that his prophecies would no longer be heard,

Yet, Lord, You know all their counsel which is against me, **to slay me** ... (Jer. 18:23a; emphasis added).

Now it happened, when Jeremiah had made an end of speaking all that the Lord had commanded him to speak to all the people (of Judah), that the priests and the (false) prophets and all the people seized him saying, 'You will surely die!' (Jer. 26:8; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Unfortunately, many people today do not realize that Jesus Christ was killed by those who had exactly the same mentality as the leaders of Judah during the time of Jeremiah. Christ was exposing all those areas where the Jewish leadership was causing the Judeans to sin (cf. 23rd chapter of Matthew), and they wanted to silence him for this. During the time of Jeremiah, it was a religious leader that had him arrested, and it will be those from religious backgrounds that will attack anyone who stands up for God's truth as expressed in His law and commandments,

Now Pashhur the son of Immer, the priest who was also chief governor in the house of the Lord, heard that Jeremiah prophesied these things. ²Then Pashhur struck Jeremiah the prophet, and put him in the stocks that were in the high gate of Benjamin, which was by the house of the Lord (Jer. 20:1-2).

Despite the efforts of those in religious or political leadership positions to suppress the truth, God's word will always be fulfilled. In Jeremiah's day, the Babylonians sacked Jerusalem and shortly after Christ's death the Romans sacked Jerusalem,

For I (Almighty God) have set My face against this city (Jerusalem) for adversity and not for good, says the Lord. It shall be given into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall burn it with fire (Jer. 21:10; Ed. notes in parentheses).

For the political leaders who ignore God's law and commandments and justify breaking them by claiming they are just fulfilling the will of the people, because doing so is essential to their political survival, God says the following,

He (King Jehoiakim) shall be buried with the burial of a donkey, dragged and cast out beyond the gates of Jerusalem (Jer. 22:19; Ed. note in parenthesis).

To those in religious leadership positions, God says He will replace them and the new leaders will teach the law and commandments correctly,

'Woe to the shepherds (religious leaders) who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!' says the Lord. ²Therefore thus says the Lord God of Israel against the shepherds who feed My people: 'You have scattered My flock, driven them away (from God and His truth as expressed in His word, which includes the law and commandments), and not attended to them. Behold I will attend to you for the evil of your doings,' says the Lord. ³But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase (in the correct understanding of God's word). ⁴I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them (correctly with God's word); and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking,' says the Lord (Jer. 23:1-4; cf. 23:21-22, 25-27; Ed. notes in parentheses).

As mentioned previously in this study, the ten tribes of Israel were taken captive out of Samaria by the Assyrians before the time of Jeremiah's prophecies. As the prophetic statement in this next scripture is addressed to all twelve tribes, it has to apply to a future generation (cf. Jer. 23:13). The context of the following scripture is the return of Christ, who will rule this planet and restore his heavenly Father's law and commandments,

'Behold, the days are coming (future tense),' says the Lord, that I will raise to David a **Branch of righteousness** (cf. Ps. 119:172); a King shall reign and prosper (act wisely), and execute judgment (justice) and **righteousness** (cf. Ps. 119:172) in the earth (land). ⁶In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel (ten of the families descended from Jacob) will dwell safely; now this is his name by which he will be called: The Lord Our Righteousness (Heb. YHWH Tsidkenu) (Jer. 23:5-6; cf. Rev. 19:11-16; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

A future type of Jeremiah will be given the means to warn all the nations of this earth that they need to cease breaking God's law and commandments. Based on the lack of repentance during Jeremiah's time, it seems that "history will repeat itself" just prior to Christ's return as King of kings and Lord of lords and very few will heed the warnings (cf. Rev. 19:11-16),

Therefore prophesy against them all these words, and say to them: 'The Lord will (future tense) roar from on high, and utter His voice from His holy habitation; He will roar mightily against His fold (modern descendants of all twelve tribes of Israel). He will give a shout, as those who tread the grapes (cf. Rev. 14:17-20), **against all the inhabitants of the earth**. ³¹A noise will come to the ends of the earth – for **the Lord has a controversy with the nations; He will plead His**

case with all flesh. He will give those who are wicked to the sword, says the Lord'. Thus says the Lord of hosts: ³²Behold, disaster shall (future tense) go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the farthest parts of the earth. ³³And at that day the slain of the Lord shall be from one end of the earth even to the other end of the earth. They shall not be lamented, or gathered, or buried; they shall become refuse on the ground' (Jer. 25:30-33; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Although Jeremiah's commission tended to be one of doom and gloom based on the evil behavior of God's people, one of his messages also included the hope of a better time in the future when all nations would finally learn that living contrary to God's law and commandments only brings grief and hardship upon everyone,

Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel (10 of the 12 families of Jacob) and with the house of Judah (including Benjamin) – ³²not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make (future tense) with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts (inward desire to obey God's law and commandments); and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ³⁴No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity (sin), and their sin I will remember no more (Jer. 31:31-34; Ed. notes in parentheses).

It is important to note in the context of this last prophecy, that all nations will be grafted into the spiritual nation of Israel (cf. 11th chapter of Romans; 1Pet. 2:4-5, 9-10) once they have been led to repentance by Almighty God (cf. Rom. 2:4). This is a future event which is clearly evident by the state of the world today. Our world today is very lawless and is going to get worse prior to Christ's return. In fact, Christ stated that this condition would be one of the signs that his return is near,

And as he (Christ) was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came toward him by themselves, saying, "Tell us when these *things* will be, and what *is* the sign of your presence and the full completion of the age?" (Mt. 24:3; RNT; Ed. note in parenthesis).

And because of the increase in lawlessness, the love of many shall grow cold (Mt. 24:12; RNT; cf. 1Jn. 5:2-3).

According to Jeremiah's prophecies, as well as those of Isaiah and Ezekiel, it appears that Almighty God is going to reinstitute the work of the Levites and other ministers. This is a future scenario, and the time frame is associated with the return of Jesus Christ and his rulership over this earth,

Behold, the days are coming,' says the Lord, 'that I will perform that good thing which I have promised to the house of Israel (10 of the 12 families descended from Jacob) and to the house of Judah (including Benjamin)': ¹⁵In those days and at that time (future tense) I will cause to grow up to David a Branch of righteousness (ref. to Christ); he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell safely. And this is the name by which she will be called.' *The Lord Our Righteousness.* ¹⁷For thus says the Lord: 'David shall never lack a man to sit on the throne of the house of Israel; ¹⁸**nor shall the priests, the Levites, lack a man to offer burnt offerings before Me, to kindle (burn) grain offerings, and**

to sacrifice continually' (Jer. 33:14-18 cf. Isa. 66:12-24; Eze. 40: 1-40; 41:1-26; 42:1-20; 43:1-27; 44:1-31; 45:1-25; 46:1-23; 47:1-23; 48:1-35; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Although the law regarding animal sacrifices was suspended after the death of Jesus Christ and the destruction of Jerusalem in 70CE, it appears that there will be some form of a "schoolmaster" reinstated as a teaching mechanism after Christ's return (cf. Eph. 3:24-25),

And the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, saying, ²⁰Thus says the Lord: 'If you can break My covenant with the day and My covenant with the night, so that there will not be day and night in their season, ²¹then My covenant may also be broken with David My servant, so that he shall not have a son to reign on his throne (ref. to Christ), **and with the Levites, the priests, My ministers.** ²²As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, nor the sand of the sea measured, so will I (future tense) multiply the descendants of David My servant **and the Levites who minister to Me** (Jer. 33:19-22; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Today the descendants of Levi, whose forefathers acted as Almighty God's representatives during the First Covenant period, have had their authority suspended (cf. Heb. 7:11-12). However, as God's law is first and foremost "spiritual," and therefore does not change, He can administer it differently in the physical realm whenever he wishes to do so, and if He chooses to reinstate some of the descendants of Levi at a future date He can do that (cf. Rom. 9:20-21),

For we know that the law is spiritual... (Rom. 7:14a).

I beseech (urge) you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service (Rom. 12:1; Ed. note in parenthesis).

You (the Body of Christ) also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ (1Pet. 2:5; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Through Jeremiah, God continued to emphasize the fact that He plans to utilize some of the descendants of Jacob, a portion of whom were Levitical priests, at a future time,

Thus says the Lord, 'If My covenant is not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth, ²⁶then I will cast away the descendants of Jacob and David My servant, so that I will not take any of his descendants to be rulers over the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob... (Jer. 33:25-26a).

Before Jeremiah's prophecies were concluded, he warned about judgments to come upon nations that were significant powers in the region just prior to the birth of Jesus Christ. Following Christ's death and resurrection, these same nations would have less significance and would not be considered as major players on the world stage. The nations of Egypt, Babylon, Philistia, Moab, Ammon, Edom, Damascus, etc., were mentioned by Jeremiah with specific punishments described. Today, some of these nations would not even be recognized by the names they were referred to during Jeremiah's time. Despite this fact, God refers to some of them in a spiritual sense because of what they represented and who influenced their conduct,

And the angels who did not keep their proper (own) domain but left their own habitation (which was spiritual), He (God) has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness (they will remain deceived) for the judgment of the great day (2nd resurrection; cf. Rev. 20:11-14); ⁷**as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them** in a similar manner to these, **having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh**, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance (punishment) of eternal fire (potential for everlasting death if they refuse to repent of sin and rebellion against God) (Jude 6-7; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Now when they (God's witnesses to His truth) finish their testimony, the beast that ascends out of the bottomless pit (Satan and his forces, both spiritual and physical) will make war against them. ⁸And their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city **which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt**, where also our Lord was crucified (Rev. 11:7-8; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

God views all the cities of this world as being under the influence of Satan and his spiritual followers. Therefore, these cities are often synonymous with the forces of evil,

Then he (an angel) said to me (Daniel), 'Do not fear Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I (the angel) have come because of your words. ¹³**But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me** twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes (in the spirit realm), came to help me, for **I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia** (Dan. 10:12-13; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

The phrase "Prince of Persia" is used to describe Satan, while the officers under him are referred to as the kings of Persia. In the book of Ephesians, Satan is referred to as "the prince of the power of the air" showing that he has the ability to influence the attitudes of those under his jurisdiction (cf. Eph. 2:2; 2Cor. 4:4). Therefore, when Satan offered Jesus Christ all the kingdoms of this world, he was actually offering Christ the position of co-ruler over a third of the angels who had previously rebelled against Almighty God (cf. Mt. 4:8-9; Rev. 12:4, 9).

Given the fact that the kingdoms described in Jeremiah's prophecies are no longer major powers in today's world, his warnings were directed toward Satan and the spiritual leaders under him who manipulate the peoples and nations of this planet. These evil spirit beings are referred to by the names of various countries and cities as well as specific rulers, who knowingly or unknowingly perform Satan's bidding,

For this is the day of the Lord God of hosts, a day of vengeance, that he may avenge Himself on His adversaries. The sword (symbol of battle) shall devour; it shall be satiated and made drunk with their blood (because the fallen host of heaven will eventually become flesh and blood as a result of their sin; cf. 2Pet. 3:8); for the Lord God of hosts has a sacrifice in the north country (referring to the location of God's throne in heaven) by the River Euphrates (figuratively where God's Holy Spirit originates). ¹¹Go up to Gilead and take balm. O virgin, the daughter of Egypt (spiritual type of the nation of Egypt in the last days); in vain you will use many medicines; you shall not be cured. ¹²The nations have heard of your shame (cf. Isa. 14:12-21; Eze. 28:14-19), and your cry has filled the land; for the mighty man (physical leadership) has stumbled against the mighty (leadership of the fallen host); they both have fallen together (Jer. 46:10-12; Ed. notes in parentheses).

After proclaiming prophecies against both the physical and spiritual leaders who are under the influence of Satan, Jeremiah switched back to the immediate threat faced by his countrymen in the nation of Judah (see Jer. 46:13-Jer. 49:39). Then, starting in Jeremiah 50:1, God inspired his loyal prophet to utter warnings that will not see their final fulfillment until the return of Jesus Christ,

In those days and in that time, says the Lord, the children of Israel shall come (descendants of 10 tribes), they and the children of Judah together; with continual weeping they shall come (having realized who they are and the extent of their sinful ways), and seek the Lord their God. ⁵They shall ask the way to Zion, with their faces toward it, saying, 'Come let us join ourselves to the Lord (because their forefathers had been given a certificate of divorce due to their spiritual adultery) in a perpetual covenant that will not be forgotten (Jer. 50:4-5; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Although the physical nation of Babylon was the agent used in the destruction and captivity of ancient Judah, it will be the spiritual nation of Babylon that will attempt to destroy the work of God as the return of Jesus Christ draws near. This spiritual Babylon is mentioned numerous times in the book of Revelation,

And he (an angel) cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, '**Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become the habitation of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!** ³For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication (their sins are totally out of control), the kings (leaders) of the earth have committed fornication with her (followed along with spiritual Babylon's lawless behavior), and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury.' ⁴And I heard another voice from heaven saying, '**Come out of her, my people,** lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues (Rev. 18:2-4ff; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Just as Revelation 18:4 warns God's people to come out of the ways of this present evil system, so Jeremiah was inspired to declare a similar warning,

Move from the midst of Babylon, go out of the land of the Chaldeans; and be like the rams before the flocks. ⁹For behold, I (Almighty God) will raise and cause to come up against Babylon **an assembly of great nations from the north country** (the army of God under the leadership of Christ; cf. Job 37:22; Isa. 14:13), and they shall array themselves against her; from there she shall be captured (cf. Rev. 20:1-3). Their arrows (symbolic of battle) shall be like those of an expert warrior; none shall return in vain (Jer. 50:8-9; cf. 51:6, 45; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

As this end-time battle involving spiritual Babylon will be primarily Jesus Christ against the fallen host under Satan, it will not necessarily be seen by human beings on this earth (cf. Rev. 19:11-21; 20:1-3).

Many people have believed that the book of Revelation foretells events that will unfold on the earth and affect only mankind. However, many of the activities described in Revelation will be occurring in the spirit realm as Satan fights to maintain his grip on the affairs of this planet (cf. Eph. 2:2; 2Cor. 4:4). As soon as Satan is defeated, there will be rejoicing in heaven,

Then the heavens and the earth and all that is in them shall sing joyously over Babylon; for the plunderers shall come to her from the north, says the Lord (Jer. 51:48).

After these things (cf. Jer. 51:48) I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, 'Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power to our God! ²For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot (reference to spiritual Babylon; (cf. Rev. 18:1-2) who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her' (those persecuted by Satan's attacks on those who have obeyed God's law and commandments (cf. Rev. 12:17). ³Again they said, 'Alleluia! And her smoke rises up (figuratively) forever and ever!' (Rev.19:1-3; Ed. notes in parentheses).

In conclusion, Jeremiah's prophecies did not apply to the ten tribes of Israel at the time he gave them because the descendants of these ten sons of Jacob were already captive in the land of the Assyrians. However, depending on the context, some of Jeremiah's prophecies applied to the nation of Judah and were a warning from Almighty God that they needed to repent otherwise they would end up in captivity like the ten tribes of Israel. Because the nation of Judah did not heed Jeremiah's warnings, they were taken captive by the nation of Babylon and this occurred during Jeremiah's lifetime. On the other hand, many of Jeremiah's prophecies were never fulfilled during his time and some of these were far reaching, even to the return of Jesus Christ. The work that Jeremiah did, will be repeated in a similar manner just prior to Christ's return and the outcome will be the same because a number of prophecies show that very few will take God's warning seriously and certain destruction will follow (cf. Mt. 24:36-39; Rev. 11:3-14).

This document is the collaborative work of individuals who believe God's truth should be given freely (Mt. 10:8; 1Cor. 2:12; 2Cor.11:7; Rom. 10:14-21) and the message of the one true God should be made available to all nations (Mt. 24:14) as a prerequisite to the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings (Mt. 17:10; 19:17; Mk. 9:11; Lk. 1:17; Rev. 19:11-16).

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