

Jeremiah 38

Read Jeremiah 38:1-5:

Jeremiah was a true prophet. The scriptures display true and false prophets for our learning. It is a hard job to be a prophet. Only a true prophet will utter words that put their lives at risk. False prophets are people-pleasers. The prophet was sent to a godless society. The governor and priest threw Jeremiah in prison. God renamed Pashur the priest to a name that means 'terror on every side'. A prophet steps into a war zone; and is a hard tool for hard hearts. True prophets have the power of God's word. God's word never leaves you unchanged. We can't get around it.

And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.” (Matthew 21:4)

The scriptures speak symbolically of plowing hard ground. A plow opens hard-pan soil. The plow is symbolic to the hard-circumstances which humble unrepentant men to receive God's word. A hard heart that will not receive God's word needs to be broken up like hardened clay.

A true prophet points to our need. Normal human nature might take the attitude: 'let them burn'. We cannot misrepresent God; though our personality clouds our judgement. Some of us who are given to grudges, outbursts or fits of rage need to know that God won't let you represent him; until this issue is resolved.

Now there was no water for the congregation; so they gathered together against Moses and Aaron. -And the people contended with Moses and spoke, saying: “If only we had died when our brethren died before the LORD! -Why have you brought up the assembly of the LORD into this wilderness, that we and our animals should die here?-And why have you made us come up out of Egypt, to bring us to this evil place? It is not a place of grain or figs or vines or pomegranates; nor is there any water to drink.”-So Moses and Aaron

went from the presence of the assembly to the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and they fell on their faces. And the glory of the LORD appeared to them. -Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, -"Take the rod; you and your brother Aaron gather the congregation together. Speak to the rock before their eyes, and it will yield its water; thus you shall bring water for them out of the rock, and give drink to the congregation and their animals." -So Moses took the rod from before the LORD as He commanded him. And Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock; and he said to them, "Hear now, you rebels! Must we bring water for you out of this rock?" -Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod; and water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank. -Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them." (Numbers 20:2-12)

- Jeremiah was one of four Major Prophets (Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel and Jeremiah). The only distinctions between the major and minor prophets are the amount of writings they wrote. The Major Prophets wrote five books and 167 chapters. The Minor Prophets wrote eleven books and 67 chapters. True prophets put their life on the line.

False prophets tell the people what they hope for. They are self-serving chameleons. A prophet that only offers assurances is an oxymoron. Any fool can speak from their imagination. Men tend to imagine God according to their own views of right and wrong.

-Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. (Acts 17:29)

The circumstances producing humility, which prepare hearts for new solutions. God's word rings to our core. You have to heed it; or it will bug your conscience. You have to go out of your way to bypass the call of God on our lives.

Do not be afraid of their faces. For I *am* with you to deliver you," says the LORD. -Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me: "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. -See, 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." (Jeremiah 1:8-10)

Jeremiah foreshadowed Jesus in certain ways:

- They both never abandoned the Jews; and they wept over Jerusalem
- They spoke of God's judgement against men. They were considered to be prophets of doom, who predicted the temple destruction. They rebuked religious hypocrisy and spiritual imposters. They condemned the false interpretations and scriptural abuses used for personal gain. The double-minded showmen used canned answers and had no humility. They spoke of being puffed up with pride.
- They had a sanctified lineage; but put no value in what man has done. They condemned corrupt temple practices and pretenses of worship.
- They spoke of a new temple not made by human hands; and a new spiritual covenant between God and man.
- They were greatly misunderstood and were rejected by their own people. They were rejected by political and religious leaders. They were falsely-accused, arrested and beaten.

➤ Why do people kill the prophets?

It is really an extension of how man feels about God and authority in their lives. The prophet brings a message of hope and directs people away from danger. Who would punish a man for saving someone's life?

For every tree is known by its own fruit. For *men* do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush. -A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks. (Luke 6:44-45

Read Jeremiah 38: 6-13: The king released Jeremiah into the hands of the leaders. Their stated intent was to kill him. It was reported to him by an Ethiopian eunuch that Jeremiah was now in a mud-filled pit/dungeon without food or drinking water. He would die there within a couple of days or so for sure. The king had him rescued. Why would the king give the prophet over to those who wanted to kill him; only to rescue him afterwards?

Read Jeremiah 38:14-23: The king asked for a secret word from Jeremiah. Jeremiah must have thought “you have to be kidding me!” You don’t listen to what I tell you; even though I am always right on the money. Plus you want to kill me when you don’t like the message. The king assured him that he would be protected if he leveled with the king. The king was fickle and afraid of public embarrassment. King Zedekiah reversed his position at a whim. Jeremiah assured him that if he listened to him he would be protected.

Unless you are saved; you are a puppet for Satan’s purposes. Some of our current leaders are standing back while Satan destroys us and our nation. They have no godly convictions. The people become like leaves in the wind. They are blown around with the spirits of this world.

Blessed is the man that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful. -But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. -And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. -The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind drives away. (Psalm 1:1-4)

You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it. -But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me (John 8:44-45)

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. (John 10:10a)

The prophet was telling people to get out of the way of the coming destruction. The evil spirits influencing unbelievers hearts tried to stop the prophets message. Satan wants to kill you and me and all men. We cannot retaliate against evil men. Our battle is not of the flesh.