

## Jeremiah 9

Read Jeremiah 9: 1-2: Jeremiah is called the weeping prophet. He did not seem to enjoy his assignment. He was a captain on a sinking ship. God told him to preach repentance to a people who refused to repent. He vividly foresaw his people being wiped out in the future. Knowledge often brings sorrow. We think of prophets like powerful rock stars; but they were not. They were stuck with an obligation to do a very difficult and tiresome task. Jeremiah wanted to quit; but could not.

O LORD, you have deceived me, and I was deceived; you art stronger than I, and have prevailed: I am in derision daily, every one mocks me. -For since I spoke, I cried out, I cried violence and spoil; because the word of the LORD was made a reproach to me, and a derision, daily. -Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay. (Jeremiah 20:7-9)

The prophets often referred to their message as a burden.

The burden which Habakkuk the prophet did see. -O LORD, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear! even cry out unto thee of violence, and thou wilt not save! (Habakuk 1:1-2)

They were rejected by men to be accepted by God.

Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. -Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection: -And others had trial of cruel mocking and scourging, yes, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: -They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; -(Of whom the world

was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. (Hebrews 11:34-38)

What do you do when you have the burden to share the gospel; but there are no interested persons in listening? Some people stand on street corners and hand out tracks to a small percentage of interested persons. Some travel to distant lands where there is more interest.

Jeremiah wanted a change in venue. It is tiring to fight a losing battle.

Read Jeremiah 9:3-6: It can seem that the Old Testament is repetitive. The sins of man; and the corrections from God seem endless. God is showing beyond a shadow of a doubt that he is justified in his actions.

Read Jeremiah 9:7-9: God will turn up the heat on sinners to turn their hearts to God for mercy. Heat refines gold; and burns trash.

Read Jeremiah 9:10-11: All of nature is harmed when man sins.

-The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again.  
(Isaiah 24:19-20)

-Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:  
(Romans 5:12)

For the earnest expectation of the creature waits for the manifestation of the sons of God. -For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, -Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. -For we know that the whole creation groans and travails in pain together until now. (Romans 8:19-22)

The beginning of nature was rich in diversity in a Garden of Eden environment. The end will be a millennial garden.

Read Jeremiah 9:12-16: God is making every aspect of sin to be bitter, repulsive and painful. There are two issues playing out here. The willful disobedience of man and the inability to hear God's voice. Obedience and righteous desire have a large impact on our ability to understand the scriptures.

Do you see a man that is hasty in his words? There is more hope of a fool than of him. (Proverbs 29:20)

Better is the poor that walks in his integrity, than he that is perverse in his lips, and is a fool. -Also, that the soul be without knowledge, it is not good; and he that rushes with his feet sins. -The foolishness of man pervert his way: and his heart fretts against the LORD.  
(Proverbs 19:1-3)

Read Jeremiah 9:17-24: It is considered a virtue in the east to be a good mourner. People actually hire out to attend funerals so that it will appear that the deceased was well known...and will be greatly missed. God is joking with this ridiculous practice. He is saying that they better hire some mourners because disaster is coming.

Therefore the LORD, the God of hosts, the LORD, says thus; Wailing shall be in all streets; and they shall say in all the highways, Alas! alas! and they shall call the husbandman to mourning, and such as are skillful of lamentation to wailing. (Amos 5:16)

Page  
4

God really will destroy a life that will not heed his word. All of life revolves our willingness to follow him.

It is not a good idea to get too excited about any successes or abilities we have. They won't last. Our joy should be in our knowledge of God. We need to develop an excitement for our knowledge of God.

Read Jeremiah 9:25-26: God will judge those who know about him and he will judge those who don't. His people are the antithesis of

what we promote. We are hypocrites because we have a higher opinion of our self than others do. That is the human condition at large. We are an especially-stark contrast because our standard is perfection.