

Jeremiahs' Cry
Jeremiah 2
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show what we can learn from God's relationship with Judah as we find it in Jeremiah 2.

Intro: 1. In this chapter we see the sin of the people and the rebuke from God.

I. The charge to preach at Jerusalem (v.1-4)

A. Marching Orders (v.1-2a)

1. Go preach (**v.1-2a**)
2. God remembers their former faithful state (**v.2b**)

B. Israel's previous state before God (**v.3-4**)

1. They were holy to God.
2. They were first fruits to the Lord.
3. God's word was to be heard and heeded by Israel.

II. The Case against Judah (v.5-8)

A. What have I (God) done to deserve this treatment (**v.5**)

1. Judah has no excuse for their unfaithfulness.
2. How sad it was that the affectionate caring God was now their offended God.

B. They did not seek the God who delivered them (**v.6**)

1. Examples are given where God has delivered them.
2. Despite this God fed and watered them.

C. God fulfilled his promises Judah did not (**v.7-8**)

1. God took care of them (**v.7a**)
2. They returned His blessings with sin and unfaithfulness (**v.7b-8**)

III. Evils Committed by God's People (v.9-13)

1. As their rebellion grew so do God's plea for them to return (**v.9-10**)
2. The rhetorical question is asked if they turned to gods that are not gods (**v.11-12**)
 - a. His people have turned to gods they can do nothing (does not profit), they are no help.
 - b. No one has witnessed the type of evil these have done (**v.12**)
3. Their two evils are listed (**v.13**)
 - a. They forsook Him who is the fountain of living waters
 - b. They forsook God for cisterns which leak and cannot hold water.

IV. Coming Punishment and Why (v.14-19)

1. The reason for all their trouble is traced back to them having forsaken God (**v.14-18**)
 - a. They have brought all these things on themselves (**v.17**)
2. It was wrong for them to forsake God and not fear Him (**v.19**)
 - a. God will place fear in them again

V. Judah's massive idolatry described (v.20-30)

1. God broke their bonds of slavery in the past (**v.20a**)
2. They in return turned from God despite God giving them the best (**v.20b-22**)
 - a. Their sin stains were so deep they would not be easily removed (**v.22**)

3. They love sin and look for it like a wild animal sniffing the wind (v.23-25)
4. Their false gods cannot help them in times of trouble (v.26-28)
5. God says He has tried to turn them back but it was in vain (v.29-30)

VI. God had been forgotten for so long (v.31-37)

1. God had blessed them, they have not gone without (v.31), Yet they forgot God long ago (v.31-32)
2. They have taught others their sinful ways and their sin cannot be hidden (v.33-35)
 - a. Their sin was easily seen no search was necessary
3. They have not changed (v.36a) and their alliances with others have been short lived (v.36-37).
 - a. Their “allies” could not help (v.37b)

XII. Lessons for us today.

- A. Being faithful in the past is not enough (v.1-3)
 1. They once were faithful and loyal to God.
 2. God had blessed them exceedingly.
 2. Those days were in the past and past faithfulness is not enough for God.
- B. Denying sinful behavior does not work with God
 1. They were pleading innocence while all along being guilty. (v.29)
 2. Pronouncing innocence would not do, only repentance (v.35a)

Application & Conclusion:

1. Man must not argue against God as He will only sink deeper in sin.
2. When we struggle, we would do well to remember the blessings that come from being obedient to God.
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9