



Jeremiah 11-12

JEREMIAH Chapter 11

We now enter another section of the book of Jeremiah. The message at the gate of the temple has been completed. Now Josiah, the good king, has died. He, in disobedience, took the army to fight against the Egyptians and he was killed in battle. His son, Jehoiachin, took over the throne and was an evil man. All of the good that his father had done was undone by the son or begun to be undone. He only reigned for a couple of months and then he was replaced by Jehoiachin. He was an evil king and thus that nation has now begun its final plunge into sin, into moral decay and ultimately into defeat before their enemies.

Jeremiah is called now to preach to the people in the next two chapters on the broken covenant. Now when God called the nation of Israel out of Egypt He established the basis upon which they would have fellowship with Him and enjoy all of the benefits that fellowship entails. He would be their God. He would watch over them. He would defend them. He would bless them. He would defeat their enemies. He would establish them and they could enjoy all of the blessings of God reigning and ruling over them. Provided, they would keep the rules that God established. Now the rules are not odious. And as you read the rules you find that they are very fair for God is very fair.

Now, God said if you keep these rules than this is what I will do for you. But if you break these rules than this is what is going to happen to you. They broke the rules and thus the things that God declared what would happen with the broken covenant are about to happen to them. In the thirtieth chapter of Deuteronomy:

And it shall come to pass, when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind among all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath driven thee,

Now, the ultiment thing is if you don't keep the covenant, if you do not obey then you will be driven. Now, as long as you obey I will by your God and you will be My people and you will have the blessing.

And shalt return unto the LORD thy God, and shalt obey his voice according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine heart, and with all thy soul; That then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee.

So the LORD talks about the blessing and the curse. But going back to Leviticus 26, here are the rules of the covenant.

Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the LORD your God.

You are not to have any other gods, images or likenesses.

If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them; Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. And your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and ye shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely.

You will have plenty of food to eat, you will have prosperity, you will dwell there safely. I will you peace in the land. You will lie down and you will not be afraid.

And I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid: and I will rid evil beasts out of the land, neither shall the sword go throughout your land. And ye shall chase your enemies, and they shall fail before you by the sword. And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight: and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword. For I will have respect unto you, and make you fruitful, and multiply you, and establish my covenant with you. And ye shall eat old store, and bring forth the old because of the new. And I will set my tabernacle among you: and my soul shall not abhor you. And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people. I am the LORD your God, which brought you forth out of the land of Egypt, that ye should not be their bondmen; and I have broken the bands of your yoke, and made you go upright.

You are no longer stooped over in slavery but now you are walking upright. Now, that is what God is going to do. Keep these rules and this is what I am going to do. But, (verse 14 of Leviticus 26)

But if ye will not hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments; And if ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that ye will not do all my commandments, but that ye break my covenant: I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning ague, that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart: and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. And I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass: And your strength shall be spent in vain: for your land shall not yield her increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruits. And if ye walk contrary unto me, and will not hearken unto me; I will bring seven times more plagues upon you according to your sins. I will also send wild beasts among you, which shall rob you of your children, and destroy your cattle, and make you few in number; and your high ways shall be desolate. And if ye will not be reformed by me by these things, but will walk contrary unto me; Then will I also walk contrary unto you, and will punish you yet seven times for your sins. And I will bring a sword upon you, that shall avenge the quarrel of my covenant: and when ye are gathered together within you cities, I will send the pestilence among you; and ye shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy. And when I have broken the staff of your bread, ten women shall bake your bread in one oven, and they shall deliver you your bread again by weight: and ye shall eat and not be satisfied. And if ye will not for all this hearken unto me, but walk contrary unto me; And I will destroy your high places, and cut down your images, and cast your carcases upon the carcases of your idols, and my soul shall abhor you. And I will bring the land into desolation: and your enemies which dwell therein shall be astonished at it. And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste. Then shall the land enjoy her sabbaths

Now, God is promising if they do not hearken, if they don't obey, if they break the covenant than things will get progressively worse until ultimately they will be driven out of the land and scattered. The time has almost come for this prophecy over a thousand years earlier to be fulfilled. God gave them chance after chance after chance to repent. He brought droughts but they did not repent. He had brought pestilences but they didn't repent. They had been defeated by their enemies; they still did not repent. So now the time is come when they are going to be destroyed by their enemies and scattered throughout the earth. We are come to that place. They have broken the covenant of God. If you keep the covenant He will be your God. You will be blessed in a thousand different ways. If you break the covenant than this is what is going to happen.

God, when He created man, created man for fellowship. The fellowship of God was predicated upon man's obedience to God. Of all the trees in the garden you may freely eat except the tree in the midst

of the garden. If you eat of that you shall surely die. So the fellowship was predicated upon him not eating of that tree. What did he do? He ate of that tree. And thus the fellowship and communion with God was broken. Thus the purpose of God in creating man is thwarted. Now God still desired to fellowship with man. He longed to live in fellowship and communion with His creation. So God said, "Alright, these are the rules. If you will abide by these rules then I will be your God and you will be My people and I will bless you and we will have this relationship." It was established on this covenant of their keeping the laws of God, His statutes and judgments.

But again, man failed. And the history of Israel is that of failure in keeping the covenant. So they were driven from the land and they were scattered over the earth. But as we get to the twelfth chapter God promised that He would bring them back after this scattering. It is obvious that man could not keep the covenant, though it is not, as I say, odious. It is not something terrible. Yet, man, with his sinful nature did not keep it.

Therefore, God has established a new covenant with man because God still wants fellowship. God wants to live in fellowship and communion with His creation. Now the old covenant was dependent upon man's obedience and what man would do. But man failed, so God has established a new covenant that is based upon what He has done through Jesus Christ. And now God requires that we believe on His work through Jesus Christ. He has made a new covenant that is attainable by all of us. By our believing in Jesus Christ we can have fellowship with God. We can live in harmony and union and enjoy the blessings of fellowship with God through this new covenant.

But Jeremiah is to tell them now about the broken covenant.

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, Hear ye the words of this covenant, and speak unto the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem;

So he is to go throughout the country. And especially to the city of Jerusalem with this message from God concerning the covenant.

And say thou unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel; Cursed be the man that obeyeth not the words of this covenant.

Now when they came into the land they came into the area of Shechem. Part of the tribe stood on Mt. Ebal and part on Gerizim and those on Gerizim pronounce the blessings of God if you keep the covenant. And those on the top called down on the valley the curses if you break the covenant. And as they would pronounce the curses; what God would do, the people would say Amen, so be it, so be it. And as they pronounced the blessings the people said, "Yes, so be it, so be it." The people there made a covenant with God. They said, "We will keep Your covenant. We will do all that You have said." But in spite of their vow they did not keep the covenant. And so the LORD said:

Cursed be the man that obeyeth not the words of this covenant, Which I commanded your fathers in the day that I brought them forth out of the land of Egypt, from the iron furnace, saying, Obey my voice, and do them,

So the old covenant was dependant upon their obedience and their doing the things. Our new covenant is based upon our faith in what Christ has done.

according to all which I command you: so shall ye be my people, and I will be your God:

That is the basis for this relationship; your keeping the covenant, obeying My voice, doing all that I have commanded you. Then you will be My people and I will be your God.

That I may perform the oath which I have sworn unto your fathers, to give them a land flowing with milk and honey, as it is this day. Then answered I, and said, So be it, O LORD. Then the LORD said unto me, Proclaim all these words in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem, saying, Hear ye the words of this covenant, and do them,

Listen and do. Now James spoke about those who were hearers of the word but not doers deceiving themselves. So Jeremiah is saying, “Hear the words and do them.”

For I earnestly protested unto your fathers in the day that I brought them up out of the land of Egypt, even unto this day, rising early and protesting, saying, Obey my voice.

And so throughout their history God was crying unto them to obey, to keep the covenant.

Yet they obeyed not, nor inclined their ear, but walked every one in the imagination of their evil heart: therefore I will bring upon them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded them to do; but they did them not.

God commanded them to obey. They did not obey but they just turned a deaf ear to God and they did what they pleased. And thus God said that the curses were going to come.

And the LORD said unto me, A conspiracy is found among the men of Judah, and among the inhabitants of Jerusalem. They are turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers

They determined, they go together, they determined that they were going to go back to the wicked practices that were subdued by Josiah. They were going to go back to those pagan idols and those pagan gods.

which refused to hear my words; and they went after other gods to serve them : the house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken my covenant which I made with their fathers. Therefore,

And that therefore is because they had failed to keep the covenant. They did not obey God. They had broken the covenant.

Therefore thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will bring evil upon them, which they shall not be able to escape; and though they shall cry unto me, I will not hearken unto them.

There comes a place in a man's life who has continually hardened his heart to the work of the Spirit, to the voice of God where that man can go beyond the place of repentance. In the gospel of John 12:38 speaking of the Pharisees said, “Therefore they could not believe.” Not that they would not but that they could not believe. It is possible for a person to go beyond a place of repentance. Here God said that they have gone beyond it. “When they cry now, I will not listen. I won't hearken. They can pray to Me now but it is not going to do any good.”

Then shall the cities of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem go, and cry unto the gods unto whom they offer incense: but they shall not save them at all in the time of their trouble. For according to the number of thy cities were thy gods, O Judah; and according to the number of the streets of Jerusalem have ye set up altars to that shameful thing, even altars to burn incense unto Baal.

They had as many gods as they had cities. And they had as many alters in every street of Jerusalem; altars unto Baal where they burned their incense unto Baal. I have made mention before, but it bears repeating, that in the recent excavation done by the late Professor Shiloh there on the Mt. Zion, the city of Ophel or the city of David. And it goes to the area of the dung gate in Jerusalem at the present time down to the spring of Gihon. The city of Jerusalem at the time of Jeremiah. The city that was destroyed while Jeremiah was still alive by the Babylonian army who left the city desolate. They broke down the houses, they broke down the temple and the city was just left in heaps, desolate heaps.

Just recently in the last 12 years they began extensive excavations. As they were excavating those very house that were destroyed by the Babylonian army. In those houses, occupied by the people that Jeremiah was prophesying to and told to prophecy to, in the houses of those people as they have just recently doing these extensive excavations they have found hundreds of little idols, stone, wooden. The very idols that Jeremiah was speaking about. They have discovered there in this ancient city of David and you can see the Bible come alive. In a while we will read of Shaphan the scribe. They were sort of public notaries. It is interesting that as they were doing all of this excavation they even found Shaphan's seal that he would put on the documents. He would put the wax down and take his little seal and make his imprint in it. And the seal of Shaphan was actually found and is now in the museum of natural history in Jerusalem. You have him right here in the Bible. They actually found it, that to me is so exciting.

Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up a cry or prayer for them: for I will not hear them in the time that they cry unto me for their trouble.

God is saying to Jeremiah, "Don't pray for them." He told Jeremiah that back in 7:16. "The LORD said to Jeremiah: pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry, prayer for them, neither make intercession to me for I will not hear you."

He said it over in 14:11 once more: "Then said the LORD unto me, pray not for this people for their good." They had gone so far that God said just not to pray for them anymore.

At an earlier time in their history when Samuel was judge in the land, the people came to Samuel and they demanded a king to reign over them like the other nations. And Samuel was greatly hurt because it marked a period in history where they were leaving God's best, a theocracy, and moving into a monarchy.

They were to be a special nation in that God was to be their king and ruler. This was different from all other nations because there was no earthly throne occupied by an earthly potentate. But they were to be a people that were just to be known as a people who were ruled by God; a theocracy. But they were demanding now a monarchy. "Appoint us a king like the other nations." And Samuel went to the LORD and the LORD said, "Do unto them as they desire." So when Samuel addressed the people he rebuked them for rejecting God as their king. And he told them of the failure in seeking an earthly ruler rather than God to rule as a nation. And as he finished this scathing denunciation of them they said, "Don't stop praying for us. Pray for us." And Samuel said; "God forbid that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you." In other words, it would be a sin if I stopped praying for you. And though the nation was in a position of spiritual declension yet the prophet was still praying. Well, Samuel was a prophet and a priest and a judge.

But now they have gone so low that God is saying to Jeremiah not to pray for them. Don't make intercession, don't cry to me. For I will not hear you. It is useless, I will not hear when they pray. How tragic that a person can go so far the God gives up on them. When He says, "There is no sense in talking about it anymore, they have gone too far."

So God said concerning Israel:

What hath my beloved to do in mine house, seeing she hath wrought lewdness with many, and the holy flesh is passed from thee? when thou doest evil, then thou rejoicest.

The sacrifices, the peace offerings, the communion offering. The peace offering was that of communion. They would bring the peace offering and they would roast it and people would sit down and eat it and fellowship with God and worship the Lord and it was called the holy flesh.

The LORD called thy name, A green olive tree, fair, and of goodly fruit: with the noise of a great tumult he hath kindled fire upon it, and the branches of it are broken.

So Israel was likened unto an olive tree. But now the branches are broken, once beautiful, now desolate. Paul the apostle in Romans 11 picks up this olive tree symbolism and how that God cut off the natural branches and He grafted in, contrary to nature, the Gentiles, that they may partake of the fatness of the tree: the promises of God, the blessings of the covenant. And we Gentiles were, contrary to nature, grafted in and we have become the beneficiaries of the covenant blessings that God promised His people. He promised to Abraham. But Paul said, “Be careful, don’t boast against the natural branch, the nation of Israel, for if God grafted us in contrary to nature He is also able to restore again the natural branch.” And he affirms that God will for all of Israel shall be saved when the deliverer comes forth out of Zion. So Paul got this figure of the olive tree and the branches broken from Jeremiah.

For the LORD of hosts, that planted thee, hath pronounced evil against thee, for the evil of the house of Israel and of the house of Judah, which they have done against themselves (sin is against you, sin effects you) to provoke me to anger in offering incense unto Baal. And the LORD hath given me knowledge of it, and I know it: then thou shewedst me their doings.

So God had given to Jeremiah this insight and knowledge of what was going on. In the book of Ezekiel which we will be coming to in a while, Ezekiel, the LORD said, “Dig a hole in that wall.” And he dug a hole inside of this room and he looked around and there was all this pornography on these walls. And the LORD said, “I have allowed you to go inside the minds of the leaders of the people and you see what is going on in their thoughts.” And he saw the filth and the thoughts of the people.

God allowed Jeremiah insight into what was going on. The same thing was true with Habakkuk until he said, “Lord, don’t show me anything else, I don’t want to see it. I can’t take it, it is too bad.”

But I was like a lamb or an ox that is brought to the slaughter; and I knew not that they had devised devices against me, saying, Let us destroy the tree with the fruit thereof, and let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name may be no more remembered.

There were guys plotting Jeremiah’s death. He did not know it. He was innocent like a lamb and did not realize it, that they were leading him to the slaughter. And here in his own home town there were men that were conspiring to put him to death.

But, O LORD of hosts, that judgest righteously, that tryest the reins and the heart, let me see thy vengeance on them: for unto thee have I revealed my cause.

So Jeremiah called unto the LORD to wipe them out. I like that. We have sort of a soft kind of a, Oh bless you brother, kind of a thing when people have done just horrible things. I like David and I like Jeremiah. These guys are straight.

Therefore thus saith the LORD of the men of Anathoth, (So Jeremiah has asked the LORD to take vengeance on them. Let me see it.) that seek thy life, saying, Prophecy not in the name of the LORD, that thou die not by our hand:

So they said, "Either you quit prophesying or we are going to kill you.

Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, I will punish them: the young men shall die by the sword; their sons and their daughters shall die by famine: And there shall be no remnant of them: for I will bring evil upon the men of Anathoth, even the year of their visitation.

JEREMIAH 12

Righteous art thou, O LORD, when I plead with thee

I know that you are righteous and I want to talk to you about a couple of things. It is always important that I do not challenge God. It is fine to question God. There is nothing wrong with questioning. It would be unrealistic not to have questions. Things happen in our lives that we don't understand and we need many times to question God and there is nothing wrong with questioning God. It is wrong to challenge God. Now Jeremiah had a couple of questions.

We are so prone to say, "I don't think that God is fair because look what has happened." Well, that is challenging God that is not questioning and saying, "God I don't understand what is happening here. What is going on? I know you are fair, I know you are righteous but this does not seem righteous to me. This doesn't seem fair to me. So LORD, how come?" See, that is fine. But to charge God foolishly, "I don't think God loves me. If God loved me than why did this happen to me?" Whenever you say, "If God is good, then..." that is implying that God is not good and that is challenging God and charging God foolishly.

So Jeremiah begins by affirming, "LORD, I know that you are righteous but I would like to talk to you about a couple of things."

The same is true with Psalm 72. The psalmist began by saying, "I know that the LORD is good. Boy, I almost was wiped out. I saw the prosperity of the wicked and how they were so blasphemous and horrible and yet they seem to have everything that they wanted. And when I sought to understand it, it was too much for me. I was just wiped out." But he began with the affirmation, "I know that God is good. I don't understand when God is good, why He would allow this."

That is fine. Questioning is fine. The psalmist found his answer in questioning God. Jeremiah found his answer in questioning God. Habakkuk found his answer. But do not challenge God. Don't charge God foolishly.

So he began with his affirmation. "I know that You are righteous of LORD. But let me talk to You about a couple of things, Your judgments."

Wherefore doth the way of the wicked prosper?

Now this a question of problem that man has faced through the years. And we still do not understand it. Why does God allow wicked people to go on prospering? Now, if you were God would you allow the wicked to prosper? Now me! I would cut them off in a hurry. And so it was a problem in the mind of Jeremiah. Here were these wicked men of Anathoth who were plotting to kill him. And they

seemed to be so happy and prosperous. It troubled Jeremiah. “Lord, why do you allow the wicked to prosper? Why are all of them so happy that deal so treacherously? Why do You allow them to be so happy when they deal treacherously?” And this was a real problem in the mind of the prophet.

wherefore are all they happy that deal very treacherously? Thou hast planted them, yea, they have taken root: they grow, yea, they bring forth fruit: thou art near in their mouth,

They talk about You but You are far from their hearts. They talk about God but yet their hearts are alienated completely from God.

but thou, O LORD, knowest me: thou hast seen me, and tried mine heart toward thee:

This is true. God knows you and has seen you and He has tried your heart. God puts us through testing. Sometimes we pass and sometimes we fail. The bad thing about failing the test is you have to take it again. And so often when things start going bad, I say, “This is a test.” I want to pass it. I don’t want to go through this one again. Basically Jeremiah is saying, “LORD, you know that my heart is toward You, my mind is toward You. You know the sincerity of my heart. But these men are insincere. They may worship You with their lips but their hearts are filled with deceit, cunning and murder.”

pull them out like sheep

They were plotting. He was going like a sheep going to the slaughter so he is saying, “LORD, pull them like sheep for the slaughter and prepare them for the day of slaughter.”

and prepare them for the day of slaughter. How long shall the land mourn, and the herbs of every field wither, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein? the beasts are consumed, and the birds; because they said, He shall not see our last end.

They said, “We are going to wipe out Jeremiah and he won’t see. He talks about judgment, he won’t be here to see it.” And so he has given his complaint to God. Basically his complaint is that God, though He has said He was going to deal with them, is still in the future and he wants God to deal now. He wants instant justice. He wants God to smite them now. I want to see it LORD. He had said, “Let me see Your revenge, your vengeance on my enemies.” He wanted to see the hand of God striking them. It was the patience of God and the longsuffering of God that problemated him.

I must confess that is the problem with me today. The patience of God with evil, the longsuffering of God with evil. I tell you, if I were God when these guys were out here I would have sent a lightening bolt and fried them all. But God is so patient. It problems me that He is so patient. I wish He weren’t. Oh how fortunate the world is that I am not God. Because I sure enjoy His patience when He deals with me. I want Him to be longsuffering when He deals with me. Oh, the patience of God and the goodness of God even when dealing with evil men.

Now the LORD, here He has this overwrought prophet. The guy is all upset. “LORD, I know You are righteous, but I really have some problems here. I want to talk to You about this.” He is all upset and the LORD just says to him, “Hey man,

If thou hast run with the footmen, and thy have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with the horses?

You have not seen anything yet. It is going to get worse. And the question is: how are you going to

contend with the horses? And the answer is: you can not contend with the horses except through the strength and the help of the LORD. So Jeremiah, you are going to have to seek My strength and seek My help and you are just going to have to trust Me for your survival.

We all of us as we grow in our Christian walk when we realize that if we are going to survive it is only going to be by trusting the LORD. I am not sufficient for the battle but my sufficiency is of Christ and He is all sufficient. And so He brings us to that place of just trusting in Him.

and if in the land of peace, wherein thou trustiest, they wearied thee, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?

In the times of peace you have had problems, what are going to do when it really overflows like the Jordan?

For even thy brethren, and the house of thy father, even they have dealt treacherously with thee; yea, they have called a multitude after thee: believe them not, though they speak fair words unto thee.

Jeremiah, even your own family, you brothers, have dealt treacherously, so you cannot trust them. Then God is speaking. This is sort of a lament. This is the heart of God. And now you are seeing the heart of God. Here is a people who have failed. Here are a people who are primed for judgment. Here are a people for whom there can be no prayers offered. They have gone beyond prayer. Even if they prayed God will not hearken. But what is the heart of God towards these rebellious evil people.

I have forsaken mine house, I have left mine heritage; I have given the dearly beloved of my soul into the hand of her enemies.

So He talks of them still as the dearly beloved of His soul. Oh, that stubborn love that God has for man. He won't let go in spite of their evil, in spite of their broken covenant, in spite of their failure God is still saying, My beloved! My dearly beloved of My soul, I have to give them over to the hand of her enemies.

Mine heritage is unto me as a lion in the forest; it crieth out against me: therefore have I hated it.

He hated what they were doing. They were crying out against God like a lion crying out against God and God hated what they were doing but God still loved them. That is so often true, God hates what a person does though He still love that person.

Mine heritage is unto me as a speckled bird, the birds round about are against her;

Like the odd chicken, how the rest of them all peck on her. The speckled bird, all the rest are picking on her. So all of the nations are pecking on Israel.

come ye, assemble all the beasts of the field, come to devour. Many pastors have destroyed my vineyard, they have trodden my portion under foot, they have made my pleasant portion a desolate wilderness. They have made it desolate, and being desolate it mourneth unto me; the whole land is made desolate, because no man taketh it to heart.

I wonder how long before we start taking things to heart. Look around at what is happening. Look around at what is happening in the music scene. Look what is happening in the movie industry. Look what is happening in the government. Look what is happening to the economy. How long before we begin to

take these things to heart. Realize we are in deep serious trouble.

The spoilers are come upon all high places through the wilderness: for the sword of the LORD shall devour from the one end of the land even to the other end of the land: no flesh shall have peace.

This devouring sword of Babylon.

They have sown wheat, but shall reap thorns: they have put themselves to pain, but shall not profit:

That is, painful labor, but nothing will come of the labor.

and they shall be ashamed of your revenues because of the fierce anger of the LORD. Thus saith the LORD against all mine evil neighbours, that touch the inheritance which I have caused my people Israel to inherit; Behold, I will pluck them out of their land, and pluck out the house of Judah from among them.

Now, here is the problem. They are going into captivity, they are going to be carried away. But yet God says, "I am going to bring them back." It is dark, but yet God always holds out this window of hope and when the people are scattered and they turn back to God and truly repent, then God is going to bring them back into the land.

And it shall come to pass, after that I have plucked them out I will return, and have compassion on them, and will bring them again, every man to his heritage, and every man to his land.

I am going to restore. I am going to bring them back. Oh, again, God's compassion and God's love. His unfailing love.

And it shall come to pass, if they will diligently learn the ways of my people, to swear by my name, The LORD liveth; as they taught my people to swear by Baal;

The people were all swearing by Baal, but He wants them to again to swear by His name saying; "The LORD liveth."

then shall they be built in the midst of my people. But if they will not obey, I will utterly pluck up and destroy that nation, saith the LORD.

The prophecy of the broken covenant. As we get to chapter 13 we have a very interesting illustrated sermon by Jeremiah. You are going to like 13. There are really good lessons by way of vivid illustrations.

I would like to recommend a glorious birthday, Christmas, or grandparents, you don't need any excuse. You can get your grandkids something anytime. That is one of the neat things of being grandparents. But this tale of the champion is out. I want you to see it. It is fantastic. The art and the story is a great story of David told a very exciting way for children. It is a cassette tape with an illustrated book that has some of the best illustrations I have ever seen in a child's book bar none. They are available now over at the book store. For all of the kids on your Christmas list it is a great present. Because it has double benefits. It gets the word of God into their hearts in an exciting attracting way.

Now may the LORD be with you, watch over and keep you in His love. We rejoice over the new covenant that God has made. The new covenant whereby we have fellowship with Him. But not only fellowship with Him but the power of His Spirit within us to help us to live as God would have us to live. And so, may this week you experience God's help and God's strength in your places of weakness and may

you grow in your walk and in your relationship with Him through this week as He ministers by His Spirit.