

# THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

## JEREMIAH 6:1-8:3

Isaiah's theme is “The Salvation of the Lord.”

Ezekiel's subject is “The Glory of the Lord.”

Daniel foresees “The Kingdom of the Lord.”

While the Prophet Jeremiah declares “The Judgment of the Lord.” *If you wanted to wake a nation up out of its spiritual slumber with a series of blistering judgments, what kind of man would you send?*

I'd look for a hard-boiled, crusty guy - somebody with a military background - a former Navy Seal - who won't flinch, or back down - a man with ice water in his veins.

*But that's not the kind of man God chose!* God took no delight in judging His people. It broke His heart. Thus, God chose a tender-hearted, loving man...

Yes, Jeremiah stood boldly and pronounced God's judgment, but never without a tear in his eye. It's been said, “Touch the book of Jeremiah anywhere and it will weep.” *It's a stern message from a yearning heart.*

Chapter 6 is called, “A Chapter of Alarms.” It’s like a shrill siren warning the nation of a coming invasion.

Verse 1, “O you children of Benjamin, gather yourselves to flee from the midst of Jerusalem!” At the time of Solomon’s son, Rehoboam, the ten northern Hebrew tribes followed after the subtle idolatry of Jeroboam, and became the northern kingdom of Israel.

The two southernmost tribes, Judah and Benjamin, stayed faithful to Yahweh. They became the kingdom of Judah. Jeremiah was actually a Benjaminite from Anathoh. And here he’s concerned about the welfare of his people who had sought refuge in Jerusalem.

He says, “Blow the trumpet in Tekoa, and set up a signal-fire in Beth Haccerem; for disaster appears out of the north, and great destruction.” Tekoa and the House of Haccerem were cities south of Jerusalem.

Their mention shows the extent of this coming calamity. The “*disaster... out of the north*” was the invading Babylonian army - the superpower of the day.

By late May, early June 605 BC, Babylon and its general Nebuchadnezzar, had taken control of the eastern rim of the fertile crescent.

Egyptian troops under the command of Pharaoh Necho had marched to the border of Turkey and Syria to hold off the westward advance of the Babylonians. The Egyptians camped at the city of Carchemish.

It was there a decisive battle took place. In a surprise attack the Babylonians routed the Egyptians. Pharaoh Necho tucked tail and retreated back across the Nile, leaving nobody to stop the advancing Babylonians.

The Babylonian blitzkrieg poured down from the north, toppling kingdom after kingdom. It took just a few months before Nebuchadnezzar invaded the land of God's people, Judah, and laid siege to the city of Jerusalem. It would be the first of three invasions.

Jeremiah is now sounding the alarm. God's judgment is set. Jerusalem will fall. The Benjaminites had taken refuge in the city, trusting in its walls. Thinking they'll prevail. Jeremiah tells them, *they won't!*

Babylon will overrun Jerusalem - as far as Tekoa and Beth Haccerem. The enemy will sweep over the land.

The Prophet Jeremiah was faithful to sound the alarm, *but as we'll discover nobody was listening.*

He continues in verse 2, "I have likened the daughter of Zion (another name for Jerusalem) to a lovely and delicate woman. The shepherds with their flocks shall come to her. They shall pitch their tents against her all around. Each one shall pasture in his own place."

“Prepare war against her; arise, and let us go up at noon. Woe to us, for the day goes away, for the shadows of the evening are lengthening. Arise, and let us go by night, and let us destroy her palaces.”

In other words, time is running out! The sun is about to set on Jerusalem. The Babylonians were plotting their invasion, licking their chops at that very moment.

“For thus has the Lord of hosts said: “Cut down trees, and build a mound against Jerusalem. This is the city to be punished. She is full of oppression in her midst.” And notice who’s saying this... who’s giving His permission for Jerusalem to come under siege? God!

Yahweh is using the Babylonians to come against His own people. They’re His instrument of judgment.

“As a fountain wells up with water, so she wells up with her wickedness. Violence and plundering are heard in her. Before Me continually are grief and wounds.” Here’s how God saw His people. They were a fountain of wickedness. They spewed rebellion.

Jerusalem was like Yellowstone Park’s cone geyser, Old Faithful. It spews steam every 63 minutes. It’s one of nature’s most predictable phenomenas. But sadly, God’s people were just as predictable. They were a steady stream of evil that caused God great grief.

“Be instructed, O Jerusalem, lest My soul depart from you; lest I make you desolate, a land not inhabited.” Thus says the Lord of hosts: “They shall thoroughly glean as a vine the remnant of Israel; as a grape-gatherer, put your hand back into the branches.”

A harvester of grapes would pick the vine more than once. He’d put his hand back into the branches.

Thus, Judah will be invaded more than once.

Before her judgment is complete, Babylon will invade the nation Judah three times - in 605, 597, 586 BC.

Verse 10, “To whom shall I speak and give warning, that they may hear? Indeed their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot give heed. Behold, the word of the Lord is a reproach to them; they have no delight in it.”

Here was the problem facing Jeremiah. He was speaking, warning, *but the people weren’t listening.*

They grew an flap over their ear. They didn’t want to hear what God had to say. They’d rather bury their heads in the sand, and imagine a false security.

And this is *our* problem. *“The word of the Lord is a reproach”* - Politicians take the oath of office with their hand on the Bible. They quote it to serve their own interests... *But obey it? Take it seriously and binding?*

No way! It's a reproach, a restraint they don't need.

We've rejected God's wisdom and trust in our own.

*“Therefore I am full of the fury of the Lord.”* What an ominous statement, and from a tender, merciful man.

*“I am weary of holding it in. I will pour it out on the children outside, and on the assembly of young men together; for even the husband shall be taken with the wife, the aged with him who is full of days.*

*And their houses shall be turned over to others, fields and wives together; for I will stretch out My hand against the inhabitants of the land,” says the Lord.”*

The coming judgment will disrupt families - kids will be taken from their parents and wives will be separated from their husbands. Land and homes will be lost.

*“Because from the least of them even to the greatest of them, everyone is given to covetousness; and from the prophet even to the priest, everyone deals falsely.”*

Realize, there are no innocent casualties of God's judgment. Everyone is guilty. Everyone has sinned.

Verse 14, “They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, saying, ‘Peace, peace!’ When there is no peace.” Here’s God’s beef the priests, the clergy of the day. They healed the hurt of God’s people “*slightly.*”

In other words, their treatment was superficial. They suffered a serious malady, and were given a placebo.

Imagine, a doctor sticking a bandaid on a cancerous tumor and prescribing a few aspirin - and promising the patient everything will be okay. That’s malpractice!

Yet that’s what the priests were doing with God’s people. They were telling them everything will be okay. They were telling them what they wanted to hear. They were saying, “*Peace, peace! When there is no peace.*”

And I’m afraid this wasn’t the last time the clergy have been guilty of such a crime. Today, pastors teach an easy-believism - a cheap grace. They give folks the impression they can shed a tear and ask for salvation without showing any real repentance - *with no desire to turn from their sin and live under the authority of Jesus.*

Dealing with sin is no longer the issue. It’s been replaced with boosting one’s self-esteem or thinking positive thoughts. *It’s like putting a bandaid on a tumor.*

It's been said of today's gospel, "If it were a medicine it would be too weak to heal and if it were a poison it would be too weak to harm." We've healed the hurt "slightly" rather than doing the radical surgery it needs.

Think of it this way, you don't cut out man's sin nature endoscopically. It requires more than non-invasive surgery. It still takes Jesus doing *open heart*.

Verse 15, "Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed; nor did they know how to blush." It's been said, "Of all God's creation only mankind can blush."

That's because we were created with moral and ethical sensibilities. We know when things aren't right.

When we're compromised and taken advantage of, or when we lose our dignity, or when we're shamed, or when what should be private gets exposed - *we blush*.

Yet it's possible to sear or desensitize a conscience.

This is what happened to God's people, Judah, they had forgotten how to blush. They'd become so use to sin and perversion they were no longer ashamed by it.

And this is what's happened to American morality over the last six decades. What would've caused our grandmother to blush no longer raises an eyebrow.

“Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; at the time I punish them, they shall be cast down,” says the Lord. Thus says the Lord: “Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; then you will find rest for your souls.”

If you want peace and rest for your souls, “*ask for the old paths.*” The answer is not *a new morality - or a new philosophy* - but a return to the former standards.

Realize, past generations were exposed to the same temptations we are, yet they chose “*the good way.*”

Always remember, “*Truth never needs updating.*” It’s not a new way - an updated morality - that we need, but a new resolve to walk again in “*the old paths.*”

Yet sadly, notice the answer the Jews in Jeremiah’s day, give him, “**But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’**”

These Jews were determined to break with tradition, even if their tradition was right. It’s been said, “*Never remove a fence until you know why it was put up in the first place.*” The Jews in Jeremiah’s day didn’t care.

They were pulling up fence posts left and right.

Verse 17, “Also, I set watchmen over you, saying, ‘Listen to the sound of the trumpet!’ But they said, ‘We will not listen.’ Therefore hear, you nations, and know, O congregation, what is among them. Hear, O earth!

Behold, I will certainly bring calamity on this people - the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not heeded My words nor My law, but rejected it.

For what purpose to Me comes frankincense from Sheba, and sweet cane from a far country? Your burnt offerings are not acceptable, nor your sacrifices sweet to Me.” We’ll see later, the Jews thought they were immune from God’s judgment because of the sacrifices they offered Him. But sacrifice alone is a hollow ritual. God wants devotion and obedience - not just sacrifice.

“Therefore thus says the Lord: “Behold, I will lay stumbling blocks before this people, and the fathers and the sons together shall fall on them. The neighbor and his friend shall perish.” Thus says the Lord: “Behold, a people comes from the north country, and a great nation will be raised from the farthest parts of the earth.” Here he begins to describe the Babylonians...

“They will lay hold on bow and spear; they are cruel and have no mercy; their voice roars like the sea; and they ride on horses, as men of war set in array against you, O daughter of Zion. We have heard the report of it; our hands grow feeble. Anguish has taken hold of us, pain as of a woman in labor.” The

Babylonians had a fierce reputation. They impaled their conquered foes, and skinned them alive - even plucked out their eyes.

Remember, Daniel's friends faced their fiery furnace.

Jeremiah is saying telling God's people this army from the north plays rough. Judah needs to take heed.

Verse 25, "Do not go out into the field, nor walk by the way." It's not safe beyond the walls of Jerusalem. Take a walk at your own risk. "Because of the sword of the enemy, fear is on every side." Danger surrounds.

"O daughter of my people, dress in sackcloth and roll about in ashes! Make mourning as for an only son, most bitter lamentation; for the plunderer will suddenly come upon us." Terrible days await God's people.

God says to Jeremiah, "I have set you as an assayer (an assayer was someone who tested the purity of the molten metal) and a fortress among My people, that you may know and test their way. They are all stubborn rebels, walking as slanderers. They are bronze and iron, they are all corrupters; the bellows blow fiercely, the lead is consumed by the fire..." Jeremiah refers to the refining process. The metal was heated to extreme temperatures. This caused its impurities to rise to the surface. They were skimmed off. The metal was purer.

And if you've been a Christian for any period of time you've become acquainted with this process. God does this in us. He puts us through the fiery trial to burn out our impurities and hypocrisies. We end up purer.

But this normally reliable process wasn't working in Jeremiah's day. He says, "the smelter refines in vain, for the wicked are not drawn off." Even though God turned up the heat, the rebellion of the people was so deeply entrenched it wasn't skim-able. The hottest trial was unable to separate the people from their evil.

Thus, "People will call them rejected silver, because the Lord has rejected them." Here was a sad outcome.

Notice, what God can't purify, He ends up rejecting.

We're told the same in John 15:6, "If anyone does not abide in Me, He is cast out as branch and is withered..." You can't say you belong to God if you're resistant to the changes He wants to work in your life.

Chapter 7, "The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying, "Stand in the gate of the Lord's house (or in the Temple), and proclaim there this word..."

And what follows, chapters 7-10, are known as "The Temple Discourses." Jeremiah is called to go to the gate of the Temple, and utter the words God gives him.

This was probably during the Passover - a time when all the Hebrews were required to come to Jerusalem to worship the Lord. The population of the city swelled during the Passover - thick crowds filled the Temple.

And these messages were probably Jeremiah's first public prophecies. In fact, they made him more than a few enemies. God's judgments against the Temple put Jeremiah on the priest's "Most Wanted List." The hostility these messages caused eventually resulted in the priests of Anathoh plotting his assassination.

God tells Jeremiah to go the Temple gates, "and say, 'Hear the word of the Lord, all you of Judah who enter in at these gates to worship the Lord!'" Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: "Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place." At this point deliverance was not too late. If they changed their ways, they could remain in the land.

We'll discover later in the book that door will close.

He says in verse 4, "Do not trust in these lying words, saying, 'The temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord are these.'" The Jews were trusting in *the Temple*, not *the Lord of the Temple*.

They thought since the Temple was the only God-appointed place to worship Him, and since God wanted to be worshipped, He'd never allow harm to come to the Temple. Jerusalem was immune from judgment!

One of the reforms instituted by King Josiah was to cut down the pagan altars surrounding Jerusalem, and to centralize the worship of God in Jerusalem's Temple.

Josiah made wonderful and impressive renovations to the Temple. He required everyone to worship there.

But the people were so used to worshipping idols they could manipulate, *rather than God*, they quickly made an idol of the Temple. They viewed it as a good luck charm. It was God's Temple. He would never allow damage to His Temple. It gave them a false security.

They assumed Israel in the north was judged since they didn't have the Temple. But in the south, *"the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord are these."*

It's amazing how people will replace God with the things of God. They exalt a *symbol* over the *substance*.

The Hebrews did this with the brass serpent. It was made as an instrument of God's healing, but in 2 Kings 18:4 the Jews turned it into an idol and worshipped it.

People have done the same with Calvary's cross. Rather than trust the Man who died there to take away our sins, they rub and kiss and wear their crucifix as a good luck charm. They've turned a *symbol* into an *idol*.

Verse 5, “For if you thoroughly amend your ways and your doings, if you thoroughly execute judgment between a man and his neighbor, if you do not oppress the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place, or walk after other gods to your hurt, then I will cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers forever and ever.” “Behold, you trust in lying words that cannot profit. Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, burn incense to Baal, and walk after other gods whom you do not know, and 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’? 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.”

God is asking, *do you think I only see what you’re doing when you’re standing in My house?* He cares about what we do the rest of the week. You can’t rebel against God in every other corner of your life, then enter God’s house and think everything will be okay.

That’s like the hypocrite who raises hell six days a week, then comes to church on Sunday morning, and thinks his attendance will make up for his rebellion.

The Jews were saying since they were God's people, and they worshipped in His Temple, they could do as they liked - *steal, commit adultery, lie, serve other gods* - and they'd be immune from His judgment.

Their logic was ludicrous. *You think God chose and delivered you so you can do all these abominations?* God's favor should provoke repentance and allegiance.

It sounds like the Christian who says, "I'm saved so now it doesn't matter what I do." Paul addresses this in Romans 6:1, "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not!"

God saves us so we won't sin, not so we can keep at it. If you truly belong to God you'll want to please Him.

Remember in Luke 19:46 when Jesus drove the moneychangers from the Temple, He quoted verse 11 and coupled it with Isaiah 56:7. "My house is a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves."

It's interesting that Jesus like Jeremiah weeped over the city of Jerusalem. Jesus also prophesied of Jerusalem's invasion and the destruction of Temple.

In fact, numerous similarities exist between Jesus and Jeremiah... "both ministered just prior to fall of Jerusalem - both were a priest and a prophet - both were accused of treason - both never married - both addressed the corrupt

Temple practices - both spoke of the destruction of the Temple - both wept over Jerusalem's sin - both loved Israel deeply - both were forsaken by relatives and friends - both were rejected in their own hometown - both were tried, persecuted, and imprisoned - both were condemned by the priests of their day - both died at hands their own people.”

It's interesting, in Matthew 16 when Jesus took His disciples to Caesarea Philippi on retreat, He asked them, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”

And the disciples were aware of the public opinion.

Their answer sounds like the latest poll, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” It's interesting there must've been a strong resemblance between Jesus and Jeremiah.

Jesus and Jeremiah both had that rare combination of *toughness and tenderness*. They were strong enough to confront the establishment of their day - yet sensitive enough to God and to people to shed a tear.

Many of the Jewish rabbis have tried to ascribe Isaiah 53, the prophecy of Yahweh's suffering servant, to Jeremiah. They've called him “a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.” Of course, for many reasons we reject this notion. Isaiah 53 can only speak of Jesus.

But the ministries of both men were similar in many ways. It's little wonder folks saw Jeremiah in Jesus.

Verse 12, “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.” I've been to Shiloh. Today, it's in the West Bank in disputed territory - 18 miles north of Jerusalem.

But it's an important biblical site. The Tabernacle was in Shiloh for 350 years - almost as long as the Temple stood in Jerusalem. In the days of the Judges, Shiloh was to Israel what Jerusalem became after the Temple was built. People pilgrimaged to Shiloh to worship at the Tabernacle. *Yet they made the same mistake in Shiloh that they would later make in Jerusalem...*

The Spirit of God in the Tabernacle rested over the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark was a symbol of God's presence. Yet the Hebrew people trusted in *the symbol* more than *the Spirit*. When Israel went into battle with the Philistines they sent the Ark out to lead the charge.

Yet instead of making them invincible, the Ark was captured. When the High Priest Eli heard the news he fell off his stool, broke his neck, and died instantly. In 1050 BC, Shiloh was destroyed and Israel defeated.

Here's Jeremiah's point, the Ark didn't protect Shiloh from God's judgment - and neither will the Temple save Jerusalem. Holy things don't make a people holy. Holiness comes from a humble, broken heart.

Verse 13, "And now, because you have done all these works," says the Lord, "and I spoke to you, rising up early and speaking, but you did not hear, and I called you, but you did not answer, therefore I will do to the house which is called by My name, in which you trust, and to this place which I gave to you and your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh. And I will cast you out of My sight, as I have cast out all your brethren - the whole posterity of Ephraim." Ephraim was a nickname for the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

"Therefore do not pray for this people, nor lift up a cry or prayer for them, nor make intercession to Me; for I will not hear you." In other words, there's no sense praying for the people's deliverance until they repent.

Hey, if you refuse to come to Christ *you're on your own!* There's no since praying to God for a new job, or a car, or the rent, until you are a Christian - then God obligates Himself to meet your needs, but not before.

"Do you 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 dough, to make cakes for the queen of heaven; and they pour out drink

offerings to other gods, that they may provoke Me to anger.” This was appalling to God!

*You offend Him - then you assume He'll protect you?*

All of Jerusalem was worshipping idols. They'd turned into a family affair... *children gathered woods, dads made the fire, moms made the sacrificial cakes.*

And apparently, the “*queen of heaven*” was a favorite idol among the citizens of Jerusalem... She was *Ashtoreth* to the Canaanites, *Venus* to the Romans, *Aphrodite* to the Greeks, *Diana* to the Ephesians, *Isis* to the Egyptians, *Ishtar* to the Babylonians.

The *Queen of heaven cult* was a fixture in the paganism of the ancient world. Traces of this cult have trickled down today. Roman Catholicism assigns Mary the title, “*Queen of heaven.*” This exalts her far beyond what God intended. Mary was a good girl, not a queen.

Especially not “*queen of heaven,*” as if her influence extends to the heights heaven. That's idolatry!

Verse 19, “Do they provoke Me to anger?” says the Lord. “Do they not provoke themselves, to the shame of their own faces?” Therefore thus says the Lord God: “Behold, My anger and My fury will be poured out on this place - on man and on

beast, on the trees of the field and on the fruit of the ground. And it will burn and not be quenched.” God’s judgment will be severe.

“Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: “Add your burnt offerings to your sacrifices and eat meat.” If you offer your sacrifices hypocritically, just eat them yourself. If they’re not heartfelt, they don’t please God.

“For I did not speak to your fathers, or command them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices.

But this is what I commanded them, saying, ‘Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people. And walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well with you.’

The means by which God saved Israel from Egypt was the Passover - which did involve a sacrifice. But that sacrifice was a statement of obedience and trust in God - without which the sacrifice would’ve been meaningless. It was their faith that mattered to God.

God never took pleasure just in a barbecue aroma. Sacrifice and burnt offering were always intended to be expressions of the heart - of trust and commitment.

Each Sabbath in the Jewish synagogue there’s a reading from the Torah (*the Law of Moses*) and a corresponding passage from the Psalms or Prophets.

Whenever Leviticus 6-8 is read - the laws concerning burnt offerings - they're accompanied with this passage from Jeremiah. It keeps the Law of the sacrifices in the proper context of obedience and faith and trust in God.

That was how Israel started their journey. They were to *obey God's voice, be His people, walk in His ways...*

Verse 24, "Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but followed the counsels and the dictates of their evil hearts, and went backward and not forward.

Since the day that your fathers came out of the land of Egypt until this day, I have even sent to you all My servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending them. Yet they did not obey Me or incline their ear, but stiffened their neck. They did worse than their fathers.

"Therefore you shall speak all these words to them, but they will not obey you. You shall also call to them, but they will not answer you. So you shall say to them, 'This is a nation that does not obey the voice of the Lord their God nor receive correction. Truth has perished and has been cut off from their mouth.'

In Luke 20 Jesus tells the parable of a man who owned a vineyard and rented it out to vinedressers.

When it came time to collect rent the owner sent his servants. But they beat up the servants and sent them back empty-handed. The owner thought, "Surely

they'll honor and respect my son.” So he sent his son, but he received worse treatment. They murdered the owner's own heir, hoping to take the vineyard for themselves.

Jesus explained his story... the vinedressers were the Hebrew nation, the servants were God's prophets, the son was Jesus. That meant the Prophet Jeremiah was one of the prophets who God beat up - and we'll read later of the terrible persecution Jeremiah suffered.

Verse 29, “Cut off your hair and cast it away, and take up a lamentation on the desolate heights; for the Lord has rejected and forsaken the generation of His wrath.’ In other words, be ashamed. Repent. Mourn over your sin. Shaving the head was a symbol of grief.

“For the children of Judah have done evil in My sight,” says the Lord. “They have set their abominations in the house which is called by My name, to pollute it.” The Jews had set up idols in the Temple.

They couldn't have committed a greater blasphemy.

Verse 31, “And they have built the high places of Tophet, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, which I did not command, nor did it come into My heart.”

This too was despicable. The Valley of Hinnom is east of the Old City of Jerusalem. Today it's a beautiful park with an outdoor stage - a place for concerts.

But during the days of Jeremiah it wasn't the sweet sounds of music rising up from this valley, it was the screams and cries of babies in distress. This was the place where the Jews had set up altars to Molech.

*"The high places of Tophet"* was the site where the Jews offered child sacrifice to the Moabite god name Molech. *"Tophet"* means *"fireplace or incinerator."*

Molech had the head of an ox and the body of a human. He was made of brass, with a hollow torso.

His arms were outstretched. A fire was stoked inside the idol until it was red-hot, glowing hot. Children were placed in the idol's arms, while the priests of Molech beat their drums to drown out the baby's screams.

And there's little difference to what's happening in our country today. Since Row V Wade legalized abortion, 50 million babies have been sacrificed to the gods of pleasure and convenience. Many of them have been literally been burned by saline abortion. All the while pro-choice groups beat the drums and try to drown out the voices that would speak for the unborn.

Verse 32, “Therefore behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord, “when it will no more be called Tophet, or the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter; for they will bury in Tophet until there is no room. The corpses of this people will be food for the birds of the heaven and for the beasts of the earth.

And no one will frighten them away.”

This is an ominous warning. In the same place the citizens of Jerusalem sacrificed their babies to Molech their corpses will be piled high, and given to the turkey vultures and the wild beasts to be scavenged.

And there’ll be no one to shoo them away!

“Then I will cause to cease from the cities of Judah and from the streets of Jerusalem the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride. For the land shall be desolate.” In the wake of the Babylonian judgment the city will be void of joy, and happiness, and celebration.

There’ll be no weddings - *only funerals*.

A wake will be held for all Jerusalem.

Chapter 8, “At that time,” says the Lord, “they shall bring out the bones of the kings of Judah, and the bones of its princes, and the bones of the priests, and

the bones of the prophets, and the bones of the inhabitants of Jerusalem, out of their graves.

They shall spread them before the sun and the moon and all the host of heaven, which they have loved and which they have served and after which they have walked, which they have sought and which they have worshiped. They shall not be gathered nor buried; they shall be like refuse on the face of the earth.”

How ironic, the kings, princes, priest, prophets, citizens, all sold out their relationship with God and worshipped at the altars of sun and moon and stars.

God’s people gave themselves over to astrology.

But now their graves will be opened and their bones spread out before the false gods they once served.

*How much will the sun and stars do for them then?*

Realize in Jewish culture, the tampering or moving of a dead man’s bones is worth than death itself. Every man was entitled to a decent, undisturbed burial.

In 2010 a hospital in southern Israel wanted to expand their emergency room, but needed to move some bones from a graveyard. Orthodox Jews from Jerusalem started a protest - several were arrested.

Even today, Jews take desecrating a grave seriously.

Verse 3, “Then death shall be chosen rather than life by all the residue of those who remain of this evil family, who remain in all the places where I have driven them,” says the Lord of hosts.” God’s judgment of His people will be so long and severe, those who survive Jerusalem’s destruction will prefer death over life.

And this has been the case in Jewish history.

In 70 AD the Romans flattened Jerusalem, burned the Temple, and scattered the Jews around the world.

And for the last 1900 years the Jews have lived in dispersion. It’s been called “*The Diaspora.*” And death has followed the Jews everywhere they’ve lived. From Arabian nations, to Spain, to Germany, to Russia...

Today, the Arab League, as well as Iran, has pledged themselves to drive Israel into the sea. The Jews are still persecuted, and will be until Jesus returns.