

CHAPTER 32 Calamities Chase Chastisement.

Most of the world's population can not see God at work in nations and in human affairs simply because they do not see God at work in calamities. Recently the Pope made a statement about calamities like the earthquake and Tsunami in Japan, with the nuclear disaster, indicative of the thinking of "the world", "You will not find God in any violence or destruction." The Pope unfortunately has not read his Bible lately, and certainly not the book of Jeremiah. On the Word of God, and its truth, we stand; like Martin Luther said, "our conscience is captive to the Word of God". And just a little time and effort will show any reader with a grain of intellectual honesty, that God both brought calamity on Jerusalem and brings calamity today.

NOTE: This is a continuation of Bible Studies in Jeremiah, Advanced Studies in Jeremiah and Prophecy, and Jeremiah and Prophecy III. This PDF document has an independent message; however if you want to get that message in the context of the larger study of the book of Jeremiah with other Prophets, you should check out the above mentioned web pages of <http://biblecombibleman.com>, the main web site of SunGrist_Bible. You will note on the web page of <http://biblecombibleman.com/JeremiahAndProphecyIII.html>, that the intensity offered on the subject is increased. This is demanded by recent news in America, especially as related to the increased intensity of calamities since 911. News and weather channels are quick to say things, like about the Joplin tornado, the second worst in history in order not to alarm the American public; however, surely you have noticed that it has been just one calamity after another since 911, and that the intensity is increasing. The only real question is not whether God is sending these calamities or not, for He is according to the Bible; but the question is are they calamities of the first kind, where God is chastising His own people like in the book of Jeremiah, or calamities of the second kind that must increase in intensity, as a woman in travail with child, until the end at the Second Coming of Christ!

27-1: *God Himself Brought All the Calamity on Jerusalem.*

"Thus says the LORD of hosts {always a title for God stressing His nature as the God of all the nations}, the God of Israel: 'You have seen all the calamity that I have brought on Jerusalem and on all the cities of Judah; and behold, this day they are a desolation, and no one dwells in them.'" (Jeremiah 44:2)

1. Sorry Pope for a few Bible facts that interfere with your desired prejudices toward history, **GOD HIMSELF** destroyed Jerusalem and the cities of Jerusalem. What part of this Bible statement do you fail to understand, "You have seen all the calamity that I have brought on Jerusalem and on all the cities of Judah..." ?

2. Behold, this day, Jerusalem and Judah are a desolation with no residents.

If you do not see the pathos and catastrophe in these words from the book of Jeremiah, near the end of Jeremiah, then perhaps you will see it in the historical words from Josephus.

"...and such was the end of the nation of the Hebrews, as it hath been delivered down to us, it having twice gone beyond Euphrates; for the people of the ten tribes were carried out of Samaria by the Assyrians in the days of king Hoshea; after which the people of the two tribes that remained after Jerusalem was taken [were carried away] by Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon and Chaldea."

And hear the words of God Himself about the pouring out of His own fury and anger to destroy Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, making them desolate.

"So My fury and My anger were poured out and kindled in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem; and they are wasted and desolate, as it is this day." (Jeremiah 44:6)

3. Jeremiah chapter 44 is a good summary of all that happened to God's people of Jerusalem and Judah, a good summary of the whole book of Jeremiah, and at least here in the Word of God of chapter 44 we have a complete explanation of why it happened.

God Himself destroyed {granted through Babylon and His servant Nebuchadnezzar} Jerusalem, the temple, and the cities of Judah "BECAUSE OF THEIR WICKEDNESS WHICH THEY HAVE COMMITTED TO PROVOKE ME TO ANGER, IN THAT THEY WENT TO BURN INCENSE AND TO SERVE OTHER GODS WHOM THEY DID NOT KNOW, THEY NOR YOU NOR YOUR FATHERS."

There is God's own summary, through Jeremiah, of why God brought these calamities of complete destruction of Jerusalem and Judah:

(1). The wickedness of God's people provoked Him to anger;

(2). Specifically they burned incense in worship and service to other gods;

(3). Like Paul would say much later at Mar's Hill in Greece, and as recorded in the book of Acts, they were participating in the worship and service of UNKNOWN gods, the people of Jeremiah did not know them, and their forefathers did not know them.

27-2: Like in Jeremiah, today when you consider the current history of contemporary news, if you eliminate calamities, you also eliminate most of history and current events. Certainly you eliminate at least half of God at work in the world today if you eliminate calamities in favor of only the blessings of God!

Look at all the "acts of God" at work in the news today like the earthquake, Tsunami, and nuclear crisis in Japan; the wildfires in Texas and New Mexico, and the single storm that raged across 14 States spawning 240 tornadoes and killing and destroying. Just consider what this single storm did in North Carolina, a State because it is the home of Billy Graham and stronghold of the Bible belt, certainly a State where they consider themselves to be among God's people of today, any preacher or Pope or active church member would never, ever admit--although completely true--that God was at work in those calamities, trying to get the attention of His own people in the United States like He has been in the series of intense calamities since 911; and furthermore God, having previously chastised these same people, now is chasing them, like in Egypt after the destruction of Jerusalem, with calamities to complete the chastisement.

NOTE: What is being said is not only, clearly according to the Bible, does God work through tornadoes, hurricanes like in Katrina, and earthquakes--also in droughts and rains with flooding; but God is, by these means and some other means, working out today His discipline of His own people. In short, (1) God chastises today often; and (2) God uses "acts of God" and of nature to chase the chastisement with calamities. I think recently Governor Perry of Texas caught on when after the Possum Kingdom Lake fire destroyed thousands of acres, and homes, and millions of acres throughout Texas with a promise of much more with the worse drought in Texas and New Mexico of 70 years, the Governor responding with an urge for the people of Texas to pray.

27-3: The Calamities as you will see in Jeremiah 44 chased God's people down into Egypt, the very thing they were trying to escape after the destruction and desolation of Jerusalem. {With a thorough study and exegesis of some verses in chapter 44, we begin to see how God worked with His own people to chastise them, and therefore how God works today to chastise and discipline His own people.}

NOTE: First comes the verbal chastisement and warning, and then since "Calamities Chase Chastisement", the calamities follow to provide the discipline of God's own people.

How fickle God's people were then and now? In Jeremiah 42 the captains of the remaining army and others in the remaining remnant of Judah asked Jeremiah to pray to God for a blessing to go down to Egypt, saying over and over that they would hence do whatever God told them; and when after 10 days God gave them a negative answer (42:7), they determined to go anyway in spite of promised chastisement and calamities from God, in chapter 43 taking Jeremiah captive with them.

"Now it happened, when Jeremiah had stopped speaking to all the people all the words of the LORD their God, for which the LORD their God had sent him to them, all these words, that Azriah the son of Hoshaiah, Johanan the son of Kareah, and all the proud men spoke, saying to Jeremiah, 'You speak falsely! The LORD our God has not sent you to say, "Do not go to Egypt to dwell there.'" (Jeremiah 43:1,2)

NOTE: Today and then, self-denial is the route to go when God's people do not get the answers from God that they want and think they need!

"But Baruch the son of Neriah has set you against us, to deliver us into the hand of the Chaldeans, that they may put us to death or carry us away captive to Babylon. So Johanan the son of Kareah, all the captains of the forces took all the remnant of Judah, who had returned to dwell in the land of Egypt, from all nations where they had been driven--men, women, children, the king's daughters, and every person whom Nebuzaradan the captain of the guard had left with Gedaliah the son of Ahikam, the son of Shaphan, and Jeremiah the prophet, and Baruch, the son of Neriah. So they went to the land of Egypt, for they did not obey the voice of the LORD. And they went as far as Tahpanhes." (Jeremiah 43:3-7)

27-4: History and the Message of God come together in chapter 44 {in fact, we find predictive prophesy is this latest "word from God" (44;1) of exactly what is going to happen to the remaining Jews in the nation of Egypt}; as does the human nature of God's own people as the Jews in Egypt respond to God's Message. The answer of God's people in chapter 44 is divided into two parts, as you saw in the last study of Jeremiah, (1) Jeremiah 44:15-19, answer of the men and women whose wives were caught burning incense to other gods; and (2) Jeremiah 44:20-30, answer to all the Jews in Egypt.

Thus chapter 44 naturally divides itself into 3 sections for the purpose of more detailed Bible study and exegesis.

1. Jeremiah 44:1-14: A Summary of all the history and destruction in Judah and the promise of more for God's remnant in Egypt.

"Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: 'Behold, I will set My face against you for catastrophe and for cutting off all Judah.'" (44:11)

Note: You say that you have salvation because God said so in His Word the Bible, which by the way is true of course, without admitting like in the verse above that God sends calamities, is very inconsistent on your faith and belief in the Bible as both history and the Word of God!

2. Jeremiah 44:15-19: the men speak up for their wives that are burning incense to the Queen of heaven, and then the women speak.

"As for the word that you have spoken to us in the name of the LORD, we will not listen to you! But we will certainly do whatever has gone out of our own mouth, to burn incense to the queen of heaven and pour out drink offerings to her, as we have done, we and our fathers, our kings and our princes, in the cities of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem, For then we had plenty of food, were well-off, and saw no trouble." (Jeremiah 44:16,17)

Wow, what will be the answer of God to the excuse for idol worship: "then we had plenty of food, were well-off {sounds like the gospel of prosperity}, and saw no trouble {there was peace and security in the land, or at least, so they thought.

3. Jeremiah 44:20-30: God's predictive and immediate prophesy for all the Jews in Egypt.

"Behold, I will watch over them for adversity and not for good. And all the men of Judah who are in the land of Egypt shall be consumed by the sword and by famine, until there is an end to them." (Jeremiah 44:27)

AN END TO THEM! Have you ever heard or studied a message of Bible teaching where God watches over His own people "for adversity and not for good". Of course not, you say because there is no need for the discipline and chastisement of God's people today! Don't you wish. Where do you think this long string of intense calamities since 911 are coming from except from God?

27-5: Look at it this way: do you think this string of calamities since 911 could have happened without the blessings and direction of God. {Maybe "blessing" is not the proper word, as this intense series of calamities since 911 are a curse, to use the proper word in the Bible where the covenant of God for good (blessing) or bad (curse) is well established for a nation of God's own people.}

Recall how Benjamin Franklin said at the Continental Convention during laborious efforts to establish a new nation, "If a sparrow can not fall to the ground without the attention of God, it is certain that a new nation can not rise to greatness without His blessing. Have you listened to the news interviews in Joplin, Missouri after the devastating tornado that ripped out approximately one-third of the town, and before that the interviews in Birmingham, Alabama. One thing is obvious that people don't know what to say except to show the American frontier spirit that "we will rebuild", or "we in this community are resilient or tuff, and we will survive." Surely what God wants to hear is that as a nation we have humbled ourselves under the mighty hand of God, commenced serious prayers and seeking the face of God while turning from wicked ways and doings, that God's people in Jeremiah refused to do for over 200 years--especially from the wicked way of IDOLATRY. Thousands of Americans are beginning to suspect that God's people in America are doing something wrong; and for the life of them they can not figure it out since they go to church, or if not, are in the moral majority, and they live in a Bible belt community of many churches. Well, you see that is exactly what God's people in temple worship were saying the last years before the destruction of Jerusalem, and the rest of God's people that fled to Egypt, "the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD are these."

Call the many houses of God--by the way many of which are increasingly being destroyed in these calamities--call them a "den of thieves" like Jesus did or in Jeremiah 7:11, call them a "hideout for bad habits" which is the equivalent, or go to the very bottom line on the matter of IDOLATRY, You who like Paul wrote in Romans 2:22, "You who abhor idols, do you rob temples". The moral majority of that day, that is the Jewish people of the time of Christ and Paul who considered themselves to be the most religious of all people, and in many ways they were exactly that, did not look at THE MORE THAN LITERAL MEANING of the 10 commandments where they could murder without killing, and commit adultery without an overt act, and so on through the 10 commandments to the almost pinnacle of committing adultery by robbing temples.

Do you not see the similarity between what Jesus said and what Jeremiah previously said from which Jesus quoted about "den of thieves " and "a house of merchandizing"? And perhaps you are horrified to think that you active church members, including your leaders, are IDOLATERS in that you are robbing temples by using whatever house of God that you belong to for your personal use, comfort, and status rather than for real worship and prayer to the LORD God of the Universe, who is the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ! And it is more serious than that for dedicated Christians in that you have a greater understanding of the temple of God after the time and teachings of Christ, you can easily rob that temple by IDOLATRY of Jesus Christ, by mis-uses not for the glory of God. In short, calamities are coming from God, intensely and frequently, because church members are not serious to the point of supreme loyalty about God, Christ, and the Bible!