

The Jesus Trip, Worship Train-wreck

By: D. Karl Thomas

Jeremiah served as one of God's prophets through the rule of five kings of Judah (Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin and Zedekiah).

He ministered during the destruction of Jerusalem and their captivity. Contemporaries; Zephaniah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Daniel and Ezekiel.

2 Chronicles 35:25 *"The prophet Jeremiah composed funeral songs for Josiah, and to this day choirs still sing these sad songs about his death. These songs of sorrow have become a tradition and are recorded in The Book of Laments.*

Jeremiah 1:5-12 *The Lord gave me this message: "I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations."*

6 "O Sovereign Lord," I said, "I can't speak for you! I'm too young!"

7 The Lord replied, "Don't say, 'I'm too young,' for you must go wherever I send you and say whatever I tell you. 8 And don't be afraid of the people, for I will be with you and will protect you. I, the Lord, have spoken!" 9 Then the Lord reached out and touched my mouth and said, "Look, I have put my words in your mouth!

10 Today I appoint you to stand up against nations and kingdoms. Some you must uproot and tear down, destroy and overthrow. Others you must build up and plant."

11 Then the Lord said to me, "Look, Jeremiah! What do you see?" And I replied, "I see a branch from an almond tree."

12 And the Lord said, "That's right, and it means that I am watching, [c] and I will certainly carry out all my plans." — (I am watching over my word to perform it!)

Josiah legislates worship of God ... creates a place of mixture.

They do the temple and their other forms of idolatry.

A return to law keeping could never change the heart.

Self-improvement only leads to more sin ... pride, comparison, division, oppression.

Jeremiah 15:3-4 *"I will send four kinds of destroyers against them," says the Lord. "I will send the sword to kill, the dogs to drag away, the vultures to devour, and the wild animals to finish up what is left. Because of the wicked things Manasseh ... I will make my people an object of horror to all the kingdoms of the earth."*

Jeremiah 2:19 ***"Your wickedness will bring its own punishment.** Your turning from me will shame you. You will see what an evil, bitter thing it is to abandon the Lord your God and not to fear him. I, the Lord, the Lord of Heaven's Armies, have spoken!"*

Jeremiah 15:10, 15 *"Then I said, "What sorrow is mine, my mother. **Oh, that I had died at birth!** I am hated everywhere I go. ... Then I said, 'Lord, you know what's happening to me. Please step in and help me. Punish my persecutors! Please give me time; don't let me die young. It's for your sake that I am suffering."*

Jeremiah 15:18-21 *"Why is my pain unending and my wound grievous and incurable? **You are to me like a deceptive brook, like a spring that fails.** Therefore this is what the Lord says: 'If you repent, I will restore you that you may serve me; if you utter worthy, not worthless, words, you will be my spokesman.'"*

Jeremiah 19:14-15 "...he stopped in front of the Temple of the Lord. He said to the people there, "This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel, says: 'I will bring disaster upon this city and its surrounding towns as I promised, because you have stubbornly refused to listen to me.'"

Jeremiah 7:4 "But don't be fooled by those who promise you safety simply because the Lord's Temple is here. They chant, "The Lord's Temple is here! The Lord's Temple is here!"

They had elevated their practice of religion over a relationship with God.

Jeremiah 20:1-2 "Now Pashhur son of Immer, the priest in charge of the Temple of the Lord, heard what Jeremiah was prophesying. So he arrested Jeremiah the prophet and had him whipped and put in stocks at the Benjamin Gate of the Lord's Temple."

Jeremiah 20:8-9 "When I speak, the words burst out. 'Violence and destruction!' I shout. So these messages from the Lord have made me a household joke. But if I say I'll never mention the Lord or speak in his name, his word burns in my heart like a fire. It's like a fire in my bones! I am worn out trying to hold it in! I can't do it!"

Matthew 21:12-17 "Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out all the people buying and selling animals for sacrifice. He knocked over the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves. 13 He said to them, "The Scriptures declare, 'My Temple will be called a house of prayer,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves!"^[f] 14 **The blind and the lame came to him in the Temple, and he healed them. vs. 14 (Message) "Now there was room for the blind and crippled to get in. They came to Jesus and he healed them."**

15 The leading priests and the teachers of religious law saw these wonderful miracles and heard even the children in the Temple shouting, "Praise God for the Son of David."

But the leaders were indignant. 16 They asked Jesus, "Do you hear what these children are saying?"

"Yes," Jesus replied. "Haven't you ever read the Scriptures? For they say, 'You have taught children and infants to give you praise.'^[g] 17 Then he returned to Bethany, where he stayed overnight."

Jesus Comes Home And:

1. **Removes Hindrances** Discrimination, Tradition, Sacrifice
2. **Restores Purpose** House Of Prayer For Nations
3. **Makes Room For Healing** The Broken Can Come Without Shame And Experience His Love!
4. **Root Problems Get Exposed** Religious Devils Always Manifest When Liberty And Freedom Are In Expression
5. **Realm Of Grace Restored** "Hosanna to the Son of David!" Save us now Messiah!
Access to God's presence without sacrifice, fear or shame.

Jesus comes to His house and He sets things right.

He wants to do that corporately

He wants to do that individually

