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**BIBLE STUDY**

**Refuge Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

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**GLORY IN KNOWING THE LORD**

**Jeremiah 9:1-26**

***Jeremiah 9:1 "Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!"***

Jeremiah was a deeply spiritual man known as the weeping or mourning, prophet. His personal sorrow over the messages that he delivered caused him to weep openly. His body did not produce enough tears to be sufficient to take care of the grief he felt over Jerusalem and God's family. These were people Jeremiah had prophesied to. He was a type of Christ who was acquainted with their grief and felt close to their sorrow.

***Isaiah 53:3***

***3He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.***

***Jeremiah 9:2 "Oh that I had in the wilderness a lodging place of wayfaring men; that I might leave my people, and go from them! For they [be] all adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men."***

This is the LORD speaking of His people. He is tired of dealing with these sinful people. It is as if He is saying, Put them away from decent people. Put all the sinners together out in the desert away from those people they might influence. They are adulterers and treacherous men. They should not be in the mainstream of society.

***Jeremiah 9:3 "And they bend their tongues [like] their bow [for] lies: but they are not valiant for the truth upon the earth; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they know not me, saith the LORD."***

God has given up on changing them and says just let them lie to each other and cheat each other; put them away. This reminds me of what society does to criminals today. In a sense, at the end of the Gentile age, this is just what happens. Jesus locks the devil up for a thousand years, so he cannot deceive the people anymore.

***Revelation 20:2-3***

***2And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,***

***3And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.***

***Jeremiah 9:4 "Take ye heed every one of his neighbour, and trust ye not in any brother: for every brother will utterly supplant, and every neighbour will walk with slanders."***

It was not only a dangerous thing then to put your trust in relatives and friends, but it is dangerous now, as well. Mankind will let you down. The only One you can really trust is God. "Supplant", in the verse above, means to restrain, or keep from accomplishing something. Neighbors slander each other, and brothers are jealous and hold their brothers back, afraid they will get ahead.

***Proverbs 3:5 "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding."***

***Jeremiah 9:5 "And they will deceive every one his neighbour, and will not speak the truth: they have taught their tongue to speak lies, [and] weary themselves to commit iniquity."***

Verses 4 and 5, above, are both speaking of people who are not following after God. God's people should be trustworthy. This is speaking of a generation that is not interested in the principles God has taught and are living worldly lives. The world deceives to get ahead. They cheat, and steal, and lie to further their own cause. They are not interested in the golden rule. This is speaking of a people far away from God and His teachings.

***Jeremiah 9:6 "Thine habitation [is] in the midst of deceit; through deceit they refuse to know me, saith the LORD."***

They lived in an area where they were all sinners. It was a way of life to lie and cheat. These people were far from God. They were worshipping idols, because they would believe a lie before believing the Truth. It is a very dangerous thing to companion with those of unbelief. Whoever you are around on a regular basis, you will be like. Habitation is a place where you continually dwell.

***Jeremiah 9:7 "Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, I will melt them, and try them; for how shall I do for the daughter of my people?"***

"Melting" has to do with refining. It is well known, if you melt silver or gold, the trash comes to the top. The refiner skims the trash off, and then you have near pure metal. This is what this is saying here. The heat is applied to them to purge their sins away. All purging is done to help the one purged. God loved them so much, He would cause them to suffer a while to purify them.

***Jeremiah 9:8 "Their tongue [is as] an arrow shot out; it speaketh deceit: [one] speaketh peaceably to his neighbour with his mouth, but in heart he layeth his wait."***

We see from this, that these people have evil hearts, out of which comes deceitful words. We are what is in our heart. The tongue expresses the thoughts of the heart. A wicked tongue, then, means we have a wicked heart. In the verse above, the neighbor pretends to be a friend, but in his heart he hates. This is a two-faced person. He appears from the outside to be pure, but he is just covering his deceit. The tongue is a piercing weapon, when used against someone.

***Proverbs 26:23 "Burning lips and a wicked heart [are like] a potsherd covered with silver dross."***

***Jeremiah 9:9 "Shall I not visit them for these [things]? Saith the LORD: shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?"***

The world does not see these sins. The people are covering them up. God looks on the heart of man. A nation of people like this should not be called by God's name. They do not do the ways of God, so they are not representing Him on the earth.

***Jeremiah 9:10 "For the mountains will I take up a weeping and wailing, and for the habitations of the wilderness a lamentation, because they are burned up, so that none can pass through [them]; neither can [men] hear the voice of the cattle; both the fowl of the heavens and the beast are fled; they are gone."***

The punishment brought upon these people hurt God worse than anyone. He is like a parent who has had to punish a child severely, because of his sin. The parent grieves more than the child at the punishment. This punishment was so severe, there was nothing left.

***Jeremiah 9:11 "And I will make Jerusalem heaps, [and] a den of dragons; and I will make the cities of Judah desolate, without an inhabitant."***

Jeremiah is speaking this with his mouth, but we remember that the words in Jeremiah's mouth were put there by God. It is actually God speaking through the mouth of Jeremiah. This speaks of the desolation left in Jerusalem and all of Judah.

***Jeremiah 9:12 "Who [is] the wise man, that may understand this? and [who is he] to whom the mouth of the LORD hath spoken, that he may declare it, for what the land perisheth [and] is burned up like a wilderness, that none passeth through?"***

All of this was spoken by Jeremiah in time for the people to leave, before the trouble began. They had time to repent, and then leave, so they would not be caught up in the destruction. Those who loved God believed Jeremiah. They were the wise men that knew Jeremiah was telling the truth. The mouth of God spoke this to all, but the great majority did not heed the warning. They stayed for the land to be totally destroyed. It appears much of the damage came from fire.

***Jeremiah 9:13 "And the LORD saith, Because they have forsaken my law which I set before them, and have not obeyed my voice, neither walked therein;"***

***Jeremiah 9:14 "But have walked after the imagination of their own heart, and after Baalim, which their fathers taught them:"***

Over, and over again, God gave them the reason for bringing this destruction. The worst thing they had done, was to follow after false gods. Baalim, just happened to be one of the false gods. They had committed spiritual adultery. They had left their love for God and been unfaithful with these false gods.

***Jeremiah 9:15 "Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will feed them, [even] this people, with wormwood, and give them water of gall to drink."***

"Wormwood" just means bad water. With all of the killing and burning going on, you can see the water had to be bad. Not only in the land where the destruction occurred would the water be bad, but when you are captured and carried to a foreign land, the food and water seem a bitter dose to take.

***Jeremiah 9:16 "I will scatter them also among the heathen, whom neither they nor their fathers have known: and I will send a sword after them, till I have consumed them."***

At the time this was written, all the world, except the Hebrews, were heathen. The family of Israel were the only ones who had the law of God. He had not revealed Himself to the rest of the world at this time. They were sent into a strange land. They, nor their fathers, had been acquainted with these people. Those who do not believe in God will be destroyed.

***Jeremiah 9:17 "Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Consider ye, and call for the mourning women, that they may come; and send for cunning [women], that they may come:"***

There were people in this day {mostly women} who were paid mourners. This is speaking of having these professional mourners to mourn for the whole nation. It appears there will be so much mourning needed, that there will not be enough of this group to do the job. They will call all of the cunning women to come and help them mourn.

***Jeremiah 9:18 "And let them make haste, and take up a wailing for us, that our eyes may run down with tears, and our eyelids gush out with waters."***

The main purpose of the mourning women was to stir up the emotions of the people. They would wail and cry, until all the people took up the sorrow and began to cry, as well.

***Jeremiah 9:19 "For a voice of wailing is heard out of Zion, How are we spoiled! we are greatly confounded, because we have forsaken the land, because our dwellings have cast [us] out."***

Zion, here, could be speaking of Jerusalem. The people who are left standing, after the battle, have no homes to return to. This would be true mourning for their loss.

***Jeremiah 9:20 "Yet hear the word of the LORD, O ye women, and let your ear receive the word of his mouth, and teach your daughters wailing, and every one her neighbour lamentation."***

It appears this is a warning of how great the destruction will be. It is saying, grief will reach every family, so teach them all to mourn.

***Jeremiah 9:21 "For death is come up into our windows, [and] is entered into our palaces, to cut off the children from without, [and] the young men from the streets."***

The death toll from this destruction is not just the men as it is in most battles. This death reaches the children as well as the adults. It is not just at the battlefront, either. Many of the deaths occur in their homes. The mention of the palace means that even the children of the ruler are not safe.

***Jeremiah 9:22 "Speak, Thus saith the LORD, Even the carcases of men shall fall as dung upon the open field, and as the handful after the harvestman, and none shall gather [them]."***

This is speaking of the vast number, who die and are not buried. They will be just left in the field where they die, to decay and return to the earth.

***Jeremiah 9:23 "Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise [man] glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty [man] glory in his might, let not the rich [man] glory in his riches:"***

This just says that worldly wisdom, strength, or wealth will not save them from destruction. They will all die together.

***Jeremiah 9:24 "But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I [am] the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these [things] I delight, saith the LORD."***

There is only one help, and He is the LORD. If they heed the message sent to them by Jeremiah and do the things God has told them to do, they will be spared. God's nature is not to punish. His nature is lovingkindness, judgment, righteousness. Because He is just, He must bring this correction on this people. There will be a remnant saved even in this terrible time.

***Jeremiah 9:25 "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will punish all [them which are] circumcised with the uncircumcised;"***

Just because they were descended from Abraham and have been circumcised to prove it, will not save them. They have been living like the uncircumcised world, and they will be punished the same as them. This says, to me, just because you claim to be a Christian is not enough. You must live the Christian life. Christ must indwell you to the extent that your whole being, inside and out, is Christlike. To be Christlike, saves you.

***Jeremiah 9:26 "Egypt, and Judah, and Edom, and the children of Ammon, and Moab, and all [that are] in the utmost corners, that dwell in the wilderness: for all [these] nations [are] uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel [are] uncircumcised in the heart."***

To belong to God is not a flesh experience, it is a heart experience. All the heathen lands, mentioned above, were not even circumcised in the flesh. These Hebrews were circumcised in flesh only. They had not repented (had a change of heart), which is necessary to be saved. Salvation occurs in the heart, regardless of who you call yourself. Jew or Gentile, this is the way to heaven.

***Acts 2:38***

***38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.***

***Romans 10:9 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."***

***Romans 10:10 "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."***

**QUESTIONS**

1. What is Jeremiah saying in verse 1?
2. Why was the Lord so disappointed in His people?
3. Their tongues are like what?
4. What happens to the devil at the end of the Gentile age?
5. What does "supplant" mean, in verse 4?
6. What does habitation mean?
7. Describe a two-faced person.
8. Who does the punishment, that God sends upon them, hurt the worst?
9. Jeremiah speaks this with his mouth, but the message is from \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Who were the wise men of verse 12?
11. What does "wormwood" mean?
12. Who were the heathen?
13. Who were the mourners they called?
14. Why did they call the cunning women?
15. Why were they wailing from Zion?
16. What is meant by death is come upon our windows?
17. The carcases of men shall fall as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
18. What was the only thing to glory in?
19. What is the nature of God?
20. What must all do to be saved?