



The Book of JEREMIAH

Chapters 18 – 20

> Chapter 18 - “Return From Evil & Do Good!”

(v1-12) The Potter & Israel (A nation of good or evil?)

- Where does evil come from? Jesus said in Mark 7:14-23 - *When He had called all the multitude to Himself, He said to them, "Hear Me, everyone, and understand: There is nothing that enters a man from outside which can defile him; but the things which come out of him, those are the things that defile a man. If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear!"* When He had entered a house away from the crowd, His disciples asked Him concerning the parable. So He said to them, *"Are you thus without understanding also? Do you not perceive that whatever enters a man from outside cannot defile him, because it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated, thus purifying all foods?"* And He said, "What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man."

- Insight verse 10 - Exodus 19:3-6 - *And Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'* These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

- New Testament Christian exhortation - 1 Peter 2:9-12 - *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.*

(v13-17) “My people have forgotten Me” (Don’t forget! - 2 Peter 3)

(v18-23) Persecution & Prayer of Jeremiah (Today! - Matthew 5:10-16)

> Chapter 19 - “Why the Valley of Slaughter!”

(v1-9) No God + False Worship, + Human sacrifice = Judgment!

(TOPHET [TOE fet] - a place southeast of Jerusalem, in the Valley of Hinnom, where child sacrifices were offered and the dead bodies were buried or consumed (Isa 30:33; Jer 7:31-32; 19:6,11-14; Topheth, 2 Kings 23:10). Chemosh, a Moabite god (1 Kings 11:7,33; 2 Kings 23:13) and Molech, an Ammonite god (1 Kings 11:7; 2 Kings 23:10) were worshiped at Tophet through a practice despised by God-infant sacrifice (2 Kings 16:3; Jer 7:31; 19:5; 32:35). Two kings of Judah-Ahaz, or Jehoahaz (2 Kings 16:3) and Manasseh (2 Kings 21:6) - made their own sons "pass through the fire." Godly King Josiah stopped this horrible practice (2 Kings 23:10), possibly by dumping the garbage of Jerusalem at Tophet.

The prophet Isaiah used Tophet as a symbol of the death and destruction which God would use as judgment against the king of Assyria (Isa 30:33). Jeremiah proclaimed that God's judgment would fall upon the Judeans for sacrificing their infants to Baal (Jer 19:5-6). The burial of slaughtered Judeans at this place would be so great, said Jeremiah, that the name Tophet would be changed to "Valley of Slaughter" (Jer 7:31-32; 19:6). Jeremiah also announced that God would make Jerusalem itself a defiled place like Tophet because of the idolatry of the city (Jer 19:6,11-14.)
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(v10-15) Jeremiah proclaims God's judgment!

> Chapter 20 - "Jeremiah Persecuted!"

(v1-6) Persecution & False Prophets

(Coming attractions! – Revelation Ch. 11)

(v7-18) Jeremiah's Plea & Prayer