

THE PROPHET JEREMIAH

Beloved of the Lord:

One of the bravest, tenderest and most pathetic prophets in history was Jeremiah; prophet not only to God's earthly people but to all nations - see Jer. 1:9, 10. He lived during Judah's midnight hour, the reign of the last five Kings. There is a similarity to the fateful days of Jeremiah today, for it is the midnight hour for this world, when God's judgments will soon be poured on a sin-loving, Christ rejecting world. The appalling apostasy in the Christian profession; the increasing antagonism in the political world, with growing moral degeneration indicates this! We must face God about these failures! There is no escape! Read all of Jeremiah's prophecy and his Lamentations. Let us consider three things concerning -

1 - JEREMIAH'S MINISTRY - Note three characteristics -

- a - His Suffering Sympathy - (1) A sympathy for God such as few possessed, which is so needed today. (2) A grieving and loving sympathy for his people, which made him suffer with them.
Thus he entered into the life of Jehovah and the life of the people. He not only spoke FOR God, he felt with God. He also spoke not only to his people, he FELT with them, but never failed to identify himself with God in His judgment on the people.
- b - His Patient Perseverance - Pure love and devotion carried him through a disappointing ministry. Most prophets had a measure of success; Jeremiah had none. He was unheeded, scorned and humiliated; though hated, was bravely persistent, an example for us today! - See 1 Cor. 13:7
- c - His Complete Faithfulness - Depending on God's faithfulness (Lam. 3:23, 24), though he shrank from pronouncing God's fearful judgments (Jer. 1:5-19), yet he persevered with heroic faith to the end!

2 - JEREMIAH'S SITUATION - Note the solemn, tragic conditions he faced: -

- a - Jer. 2:8 - The spiritual breakdown of God's people began with the priests! Men who were to reveal God to the people; but failed! "They know me not" said God. (Read Mal. 2:1-10). This was followed by the failure of "pastors" (shepherds or rulers) and the ministry of false "prophets." A solemn lesson for the Christian profession today, failure to lead God's people according to HIS WORD! and for the nation!
- b - Jer. 2:19 - Further declension follows - "backsliding - wickedness - bitterness" and the lack of reverence for Jehovah Himself, and a forsaking of Jehovah!
- c - Jer. 2:35 - Spiritual and moral blindness increases the departure from God and His Word. SIN ceases to be acknowledged as such. The language is - "I am innocent - I have not sinned" - say God's people, even while actually doing wrong. This prevails today - the sins of immorality that God condemns, human beings seek to justify their actions as being right. Read Isa. 5:20.

LESSONS FOR TODAY

Whether in the sphere of Christian profession, the sphere of national politics and the sphere of moral responsibility, the wrong indulged in by leaders becomes the fashion of the people. When such degeneration sets in, the momentum increases. When people dishonor God by DENYING SIN, they degenerate into DEFYING GOD! The solemn words of 1 Pet. 4:17 should search our hearts - "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God; and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the Gospel of God." For saints - 2 Cor. 5:10 - For sinners - Rev. 20:11-15.

Faithfully Yours in Christ,

