

## Lesson 3: Jeremiah 7:1-11:17

**To class attendees:** Below, you will find some principles from our text that I would like you to help me finish and reflect on. There is also a table of contrasts to complete. If you cannot find the time to do all of these, then please pick the one(s) that most interest you. When you see a phrase that ends with "...", try to complete the thought based on your understanding of the immediate context. While consulting with the rest of Scripture is required to determine to what extent these principles may hold true today, what we are doing here is the first and (perhaps) most important step.

### I. False Worship (7:1-10:25)

#### A. Trusting in deceptive words at the temple (7:1-15)

1. "The temple of the LORD x3" (verse 4 and 2-11 context)

**Principle:** Uttering religious-sounding phrases (apparently as sort of a 'lucky charm') in a place historically related to the worship of the LORD is of little use if...

2. Example of Shiloh from earlier OT history (verses 12-15, also Josh 18:1, I Sam 1-4, Ps 78:60)

**Principle:** The LORD's use in the past of a particular 'spiritual' venue or group of people for His worship is no guarantee of His...

#### B. No true 'Shema' (7:21-28, also I Sam 15:22, Mt 7:24-27)

1. 'Shema', the word for 'to hear/listen' also means 'to obey'. In this text, the term is used 5 times and our English translations dance between its different nuances according to context. The context also suggests that historically in the OT, the LORD desired His people's overall obedience more than their sacrificing.
2. Judah's problem (according to this text):
3. Examples of this problem in surrounding verses:
  - Cakes for the queen (7:18)
  - Sons and daughters in the fire (7:31)

**Principle:** One's exposure to regular hearing of Scriptural truth is of little use if ...

#### C. Jeremiah's sense of grief and intense frustration concerning his countrymen (8:18-9:2)

#### D. Reasons for boasting: Human ability versus the characteristics of the LORD (9:23)

- E. Idols and the LORD: Contrasting objects of Judah's worship (10:1-16)
1. In the table below, please complete the contrasts drawn from verses 1-15:

Characteristics of Idols	Characteristics of the LORD
Created by man Foolish and worthless Will perish	Creator of all

2. Jacob and his Maker (16):  
The 4 lines of this verse are related. Lines 2 and 4 are somewhat parallel or synonymous in that they describe the LORD's greatness. Lines 1 and 3 are also parallel in that they describe the relationship between Israel and the LORD. Note that Jacob = Israel, and portion = inheritance. But there is a 'twist' in these 2 lines. Can you tell what it is?

"Not like these is He who is the portion of Jacob"  
 "He is the one who formed all things"  
 "Israel is the tribe of His inheritance"  
 "The LORD of Hosts is His name"

**Principle:** The LORD and His people are naturally meant for ....  
and in this divinely-appointed relationship, there is no reason nor use for ...

## II. The Curse of the Covenant (11:1-17)

- A. Background information from Book of Deuteronomy as Israelites prepare to enter the promised Land (approx. 800 years prior to Jeremiah's time):
  1. Promised consequences of covenant faithfulness (28:1-14)
  2. Promised consequences of covenant disloyalty (28:15-68)
  3. Song of Moses: The LORD predicts varying phases of Israel's future covenant loyalty (32:1-43)
- B. The enforcing of the curse in the days of Jeremiah (11:1-8)

**Closing thought:** Some of us may be asking, "Unlike the LORD's stern rebuke of Judah in Jeremiah's day, doesn't Jesus have only good thoughts toward His church today ?!"

Perhaps the most balanced indication of His approach may be found in His messages to the 7 historic churches addressed in Rev 2:1-3:22, assuming their condition is somewhat emblematic of issues found among His people throughout the church age. If this is of interest to anyone, please take a look.