**Jeremiah 5:1-18**

***“When A Nation Rejects God’s Word”***

Introduction:

1. America is much like Judah...we are living in a ‘post-Christian’ era.

 We are turning more and more secular. We have rejected God’s Word.

2. We are being destroyed. We are not being destroyed from without, but we are decaying

 from within.

3. What happens when a nation (that was once enlightened) rejects God’s Word?

4. In Jeremiah 5:1-18 we discover what happens when a nation rejects God’s Word:

What happens when a nation (that was once enlightened) rejects God’s Word?

**I. THE RELATIONSHIP TO GOD’S WORD 5:1-9**

Before we look at ch. 5...what stops the judgment of God?

***It takes more righteous people!!!*** *The search for those who do justice and seeks truth:* There are some

 godly…Josiah, Baruch, Zephaniah, Jeremiah, but the exceptions were not significant.

 ***A. The Poor 2-4***

We live in a nation of ‘poor’ people. They are not materially poor, but spiritually.

 *Characteristics:*

**1. Insincere 2**

 \* *They say the right words, but live as though He does not exist.*

**\***They used a binding oath: *As the Lord liveth.* God didn’t affect the way they

 lived.

**2. Indecisive 3a**

 *“O Lord, are not thine eyes upon the truth...”*

 *\**Life in Judah was based on ‘relative truth’, there practically was no ‘absolute

 truth’.

\*In America, God wants to see ‘*the truth’* and not our version of it. The world

 hates absolutes. We have no direction!

**3. Insensitive 3b**

 \*Discipline is enacted, but it does not produce the intended result.

 \**They refused…They have made their faces harder than a rock. They refuse to*

 *return.*

\*Hundreds of times God gives American ‘windows’ of opportunity…with every

 natural disaster…shooting…9/11…Books (*Left Behind, Prayer of Jabez, Purpose*

 *Driven Life)* each made the best-sellers list.

**4. Infidels 4a**

 *“They are foolish”*

 *\**The fool has said in his heart, *“No God”.*

 *\**The average American is a practical atheist.

**5. Ignorant 4b**

 \**They did not know God’s way or God’s word.*

\*These were literally poor, they could not read.

 \*As a nation, we do not know the way of God or the Word of God.

***B. The Privileged 5,6***

**1. Enlightened 5a**

 \**They have known the way of the Lord and the word of the Lord.*

 *\**We have many of those in America.

**2. Escaped 5b**

 **\****Broken the yoke…busted the bonds…****Escaped!***

 \*They escaped from the way of the Lord and the word of the Lord.

 *\**We look like the world, talk like the world, act like the world.

**3. Enslaved 6a**

 **\***Here each beast represents Babylon…*lion, wolf, leopard.*

 \*We are being torn to pieces as a society. It isn’t safe. Victims have little rights.

 \*200 police die, and little is said. Over 4000 shootings are reported in Chicago.

**4. Engulfed 6b**

 **\****Engulfed by sin and backsliding…*

 \*We become a product of our own choices.

\*We’ve left God out and chosen sin.

 ***C. The Precious 7a***

 ***If you want to know the direction of a nation, look at its children.***

**1. Inexcusable** *“How shall I pardon this?!”*

\*I wonder what God would say about the millions of abortions in America?

 \*I wonder if God would say this to the parents of America?

 \*We give them everything they want, but very little of what they need. They need

 discipline, guidance, direction, love, time, your attention. **We are too busy.**

 **We are too pressure packed for God. It’s o.k. to say ‘no’.**

**2. Infidelity** *“Thy children have forsaken Me!”*

 \*We’re not passing Jesus on.

 \*Children are tired of religions, rules and ritual. They want reality and a living

 relationship. **We’ve failed!**

**3. Inadequacy** *“Sworn by them that are no gods!”*

\*There is a God-shaped emptiness on the inside of everyone, and we will fill it with

something.

 \*That emptiness is being filled with alcohol, drugs, sex, popularity, things, etc.

 \*That is why the young people of today are so empty. Their gods never satisfy.

 **They can’t!** That is why suicide is on the rise.

 ***D. The Populous 7b–9***

**1. Ungrateful 7** *“I fed them to the full”*

\*Everything they would have ever wanted was found in Him.

 \*What a picture of America. They were *unfaithful…committed adultery…chased*

 *scores of gods.* That is how we repaid God for His kindness.

**2. Unbridled 8**

 **\****Lusty horses…neighing after his neighbor’s wife.*

 *\**They have everything. **Infidelity is killing the home!**

 **3. Undeniable 9**

 *\*Shall I not punish you for these things?*

\*Can we as a nation not pay?

**II. THE REJECTION OF GOD’S WORD 5:10-13**

 ***A. The Results 10,11***

**1. Their Destruction 10** *For they are not the Lord’s.*

 **2. Their Dealings 11** *They have dealt very treacherously with Me.*

 ***B. The Reasons 12,13***

**1. God Is A Nonentity 12**

 **\****They have denied the Lord.*

 *\*He doesn’t exist.* He will do nothing. Misfortune will not come upon us.

 **2. God’s Word Is Not Authoritative 13**

 **\***The people rejected the validity of God’s Word.

 \*They claimed the spirit of the prophet was only wind.

 \**Thy word is not in them…*They denied the inspiration of the message of God!

 \*These are so true of America!

**III. THE RELIABILITY OF GOD’S WORD 5:14-18**

1. ***God’s Word Is Authoritative***
2. Note: *Thus saith the Lord…saith the Lord (15, 18)…my words*
3. *I will make my words in your mouth…*not a wind, but ***fire!*** When this prophet spoke, God was speaking! **This is the Word of God!**

 ***B. God’s Word Is Alive***

 *“I will...it shall” “I will bring a nation...”* **He did!**

***C. God’s Word Is Active 17***

**1.** *“They shall...”*

**2.** He was going to use a pagan nation to accomplish His purposes. God’s Word

 is active, using people to accomplish His purpose.

***D. God’s Word Is Able 18*** *the Lord God of hosts*

**1.** Behind it all is the LORD…*Jehovah.*

**2.** God has power over all created intelligence.

 **3.** God’s Word is never to be trifled with. God takes it seriously

***America Is Under Judgment...***

***What will stop the judgment of God?***

***MORE RIGHTEOUS PEOPLE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO STOP THE JUDGMENT OF GOD??!***