Jeremiah 7:16-28

*“Truth Decay”*

Introduction:

1. Truth in America has decayed...

2. That was the problem in Jeremiah’s day in 7:16-28 (v. 28):

What happens when a people or nation abandons truth?

**I. THE REASONS FOR TRUTH DECAY 7:21-28**

*“Truth”* ***Absolute Truth is based on divine revelation.*** Obedience becomes a key.

 (24,26,28a)

 ***A. Disobedience Is Portrayed 21***

**1.** The Israelite went to worship God, where burnt offerings were usually offered by

 Household.

**2.** *Go ahead add your burnt offerings to your other sacrifices and eat the meat*

 *yourselves.*

 *\**That was a shocking thing for God to say. The burnt offering was a crucial sacrifice.

 It was Israel’s highest bid for atonement. It was his best bet for salvation from sin.

 \*The burnt offering was not to be eaten at all. **It was supposed to be wholly**

 **devoted to the Lord!**

\**“Save the meat and make yourself a barbeque”.* It showed an insensitivity to

 spiritual things and the way of salvation was taken lightly.

 ***B. Disobedience Is Practiced 22,23***

**1.** From the beginning it was relationship and not religion or ritual.

 **2.** God wants obedience as well as ritual or ceremony*.*

**3.** It was not wrong for them to sacrifice, **but their sacrifices were meaningless.**

 **They were not pursuing holiness.**

 \*Jeremiah gives them an illustration.

 \*When God called Israel out of Egypt, He did not give them rules and regulations

 for sacrifices…**He gave them the 10 commandments.** Obedience was at the

 heart.

  **\***God belonged to His people and His people belonged to Him.

 **4.** God becomes personal in v. 23…*My voice…your God.* Absolute obedience is

 stressed…*obey all…that it may be well!*

***C. Disobedience Is Pursued 24***

*Yet they did not obey…*

1. If you do not follow God and His ways you will follow your ways.
2. *They walked in the councils and in the imagination of their evil hearts.* You will go backward and not forward!

***D. Disobedience Is Provoked 25***

**1.** God’s Word (Truth) is clear through the prophets. *Daily rising up early and sending*

 *them.*

**2.** God’s servants and prophets represented God; to disobey them was to disobey Him.

 ***E. Disobedience Is Progressive*** *(like gangrene*) ***26***

 *‘Stiffened their necks” “They did worse than their fathers”*

***F. Disobedience Is Patterned 27***

**1.** Show me what someone has done and I’ll show you what they will do.

 **2.** Jeremiah had a thankless job. It is possible to take God’s Word for granted.

 ***G. Disobedience Is Punished 28***

**1.** *Truth is perished.* There is a form of Absolute Truth.

 **2.** The servants and prophets speak and write God’s word. It is man’s responsibility

 to respond. Here, God’s Word is ignored!

What happens when a people or nation abandons truth*?*

**II. THE RESULTS OF TRUTH DECAY 7:16-20**

 ***A. The Futility Of Faithfulness 16***

**1**. God knew the people of Israel would neither listen nor repent.

 **2**. God knew He would send judgment. He could not pray against the purposes of

 God.

1. It was for Jeremiah’s time not ours! **There was no way for them to be purified**

**without passing through fire!** People in the bondage of sin…only God can rescue them. **He allows people to hit rock bottom!**

1. No sinner is beyond the reach of God’s grace…but, there may come a time when He will no longer strive with them or a nation.

***B. The Failure Of The Family 17,18***

**1.** Why are we so far gone? It was because of the collapse of family values. The

 people of God were no longer worshiping God in their homes*.*

**2.** It seemed to be a model family. It almost sounds like the Cleavers (to those older:

 Leave It To Beaver) having a cook out. Dad builds the fire just the way he always

 builds it. Mom is cooking…mixes the batter…makes cakes in the form of a

 woman. *Queen of Heaven…drink offering to other gods!*

 **3.** Every weekend these families spend quality time together. They draw closer

 together. **They are moving farther from God…***Queen of heaven…Assyrian*

 *goddess Anat…Canaanite goddess Asherah…Ishtar* from where we get our word

 Easter.

1. Without Truth we see this in the American family. We get together, but where is God? What is sad…mothers are leading the way in false worship!

 ***C. The Flourishing Of Feminism 18,19***

**1.** We have truth decay in the same place. Goddess worship is all around us.

 \*Boys are being feminized.

 \*We have the veneration of Mother Earth. There is a rise in witchcraft. With

 New Age comes the rise of ancient goddesses.

 \*Barbie is the goddess of the plastic age. There is unrealistic feminine beauty

 with an overemphasis on the external. There is an immoral attachment to

 material things.

 \*There is goddess worship wherever super models are found…tv, billboards, etc.

 \*The feminist movement is to the point of removing Christ and Yahweh.

 **2.** The frightening thing: False goddesses always abuse their worshipers. Our nation

 is paying a high price for goddess worship: Broken relationships…the decline of

 marriage as we know it…schisms in the church over the role of women in the

 church…eating disorders…violence against women…perversion of male/female

 relationships…pornography. Then the evil of abortion (7:30-8:3) infanticide…

 the right to choose…**someone else must die to keep me happy!**

 ***D. The Floundering Of Faith***

**1.** Families no longer pray together or stay together.

**2.** Families are made to worship together. They must worship.

  **\***A family may worship a living God. If not, they may worship their cell, video

 games, computer, texting, Facebook, Harley Davidson motorcycle, hunting,

 the Pittsburgh Steelers, junk food, music or anger, violence or deception.

 **3.** A family may worship a thousand gods or goddesses…**but it must worship!**

 ***That is why it is absolutely necessary for us to worship God in our homes!!!***

**4.** Revival starts in the hidden life of the home. **It starts where you live!**

 ***E. The Fury Of The Father 20***

**1.** You cannot reject God’s truth and not pay.

 **2.** Ignore the traffic signs and you will pay sooner or later, but you will pay!

 **3. Has the fury of God already begun to be poured out on America?**

***“Truth Is Perished...”***