**Jeremiah 8:4-17**

***“Why Are We Where We Are?”***

Introduction:

1. America has been described as a Post-Christian culture.

2. Why are we where we are? How did we get to the slippery downward slope?

3. Jeremiah was living in a Post-God era. How did Judah get where they were?

4. In Jeremiah 8:4-17 we find some of the answers:

 Why are we where we are? How did we get here?

Why are we where we are? How did we get here?

**I. INDIFFERENCE TO THE WORSHIP OF GOD 8:4-6**

God asks a series of questions.

 ***A. Interrogation From God 4-5a***

They should do that which is right and normal…the natural thing to do:

1. *Shall they fall and not rise?*

 \*A child falls and gets up.

 \*An athlete falls and gets up.

 \*Adults fall on the ice and get up.

 Israel falls into sin. She falls down in her walk and worship. **She stays there!**

1. *Shall he turn away and not return?*

 *\**Home…that’s what you naturally, normally come back to.

 *\**If you go for groceries…you come home.

 *\**If you go to a football game or basketball game…you come home.

 Judah did not return. It is not that she couldn’t…**she won’t return!**

1. *Why is this people of Jerusalem sliding backward, perpetual backsliding?*

 \*She is never making progress.

 \*She is never moving forward.

 **What a picture of the United States!**

 ***B. Investigation By God 5b-6***

 *They Turned, but did not Return*

1. *They hold fast to deceit 5b* They hold to lies, falsehood, to that which is not real. They embrace the artificial!
2. *They refused to return…*It’s not that they can’t, they won’t. Holding fast to the false, the artificial Americans refuse to return to God.
3. *I have listened and heard…they have spoken what isn’t right.*
4. *No man repented.* No one turned around from his wicked ways!
5. *What have I done?* In their sight they are right. They are the standard of right and wrong!
6. *Everyone turned (not to God) to his own course.*Americans turn to their course: golf course…race course…business course…**It’s his own!** *Like a horse charging to battle…*

 blinders were put on the war horses so they would not retreat.

Why are we where we are? How did we get here?

**II. IGNORANCE OF THE WORD OF GOD 8:7-12**

 ***A. An Illustration Of Enlightenment 7***

**1.** All of God’s creation knows where they are going but mankind. The stork…the turtle

 digs into the mud to survive the winter. The bear hibernates. Geese fly south and not

 west. The Arctic Tern fly from the Arctic to the Antarctic each year and will fly over

 22,000 miles in a lifetime. Swallows return to Capistrano.

 **2.** *But my people know not the law of the Lord*

 \*The Word of God is all we need for the journey.

 \*Without it we are lost. Yet, only 1 in 5 evangelicals read the Bible every day.

 \*Jeremiah attacks the biblical illiteracy of his day as unnatural. Birds know God’s

 requirement for them, but His people don’t.

 \***Put the Word of God into practice!** It is the kind of knowledge that becomes such a

 part of us that the Word governs everything we do and think!

***B. An Indictment Against Enlightenment 8-12***

The people were willful in their disobedience and deliberate in their ignorance. The spiritual

 Leadership had failed.

***The pulpits in America are guilty of withholding God’s Word!***

1. **The Pride 8a** The scribes say, *“We are wise” “The Law is with us.”* Whenever anyone

 boasts how wise they are…it is a sure thing they are fools. They were scholars. They

 were experts in the Law.

**2. The Prejudice 8b** *“Vain”* They wrote with lying pens. They were tampering with

 the Word of God. They were involved in a cover up of biblical truth.

**3. The Problem 9** *“They have rejected the Word of God and what wisdom is in them”*

 *\**The problem isn’t the Word of God. The problem is they reject it!

 \*They wrongly divide the Word. The Bible is clear about many things: salvation…

 morality…marriage…they use their wisdom to ordain homosexuals. They destroy

 marriage. Salvation may not be just through Jesus. Jehovah and Allah are the same god!

**4. The Profit 10** *“Covetousness”*

 *\**They are in it for the money! *Covetousness…*It’s a good way to make a living.

 \**Everyone practices deceit.* The Word is no longer our standard for faith and practice.

 \*The scribes were the original false televangelists! It’s about money and glory! It’s a

 show!

 \****Resist the temptation to seek the flattery of men rather than the approval of God.***

**5. The Peace 11-12** *“Peace, peace, where there is no peace”*

 *\**One reason they wrongly divided the Word of Truth is they did not take God seriously.

 \*We trivialize the holiness of God. We end up with a trivial view of sin. We trivialize

 the majesty of God, so end up with a trivial grasp of His Word. We trivialize the

 judgment of God, so end up with a trivial appreciation of the atonement of Christ. **Our**

 **God is too trivial!**

 **\***The sad reality is there is no peace for those who rebel against God. What happens to

 them when they do not return? (12b-13)

Why are we where we are? How did we get here?

**III. INSENSITIVITY TO THE WRATH OF GOD 8:13-17**

There is a God of wrath! *In a time of judgment, they shall be cast down.*

 ***A. The Consequences 13***

**1.** To bypass God’s mercy and grace is to face His judgment.

 **2.** This is true as a nation or as an individual.

***B. The Conclusion 14***

**1. The Result** *All attempts to save themselves will fail.*

**2. The Reason** *“We have sinned against the Lord”*

***C. The Calamity 15-17***

**1.** The people of Jerusalem put all their hope in a message of peace without yielding to the

 One who could give them peace.

 **2.** *The army from the north swooped down and destroys them all…we hoped for peace but no*

 *good has come.*

 **3**. *The whole land will tremble 16*

 \*The invaders will devour the land.

 It is easy to imagine that many people will say the same on the day of judgment: *We*

 *hoped for peace. ‘My pastor told me there wouldn’t be any Hell.’ ‘My spiritual advisor*

 *said that God would accept me as long as I did my best.”*

**4**.There is no peace and judgment cannot be avoided. 17

 \*The snake bite of sin has affected us all. Only Jesus Christ can take the sting of death.

 \*Jesus provided the antidote for the snake bite of sin: *As Moses lifted up the serpent in*

 *wilderness even so must the Son of Man be lifted up” “Whosoever believes in Him*

 *should not perish but have everlasting life”.* John 3:14,15

***“LOOK AND LIVE!!!”***