**Jeremiah 23:9-40**

***“Absolute Truth In A Relative World”***

Introduction:

1. What if we continue along the path of relativism and we abandon God’s Word?

2. Jeremiah 23:9-40 Jeremiah presents the Word of God as absolute truth. False ‘prophets’

 spoke relative truth (which is not truth at all). Jeremiah addresses relativism.

There is no absolute truth: What if we continue along this path of relativism?

**I. THE CONDEMNATION OF RELATIVISM 23:9-12**

 ***A. The Brokenness 9***

**1.** *My heart is broken* because people who should have known better have rejected

 God’s Word and embraced relativism.

 **2.** *All my bones tremble…*It filled him with sadness. I see churches who once held

 Word of God as truth have departed from the truth.

 **3.** The reason: *Because of the Lord, and words of His holiness.*

 ***B. The Burden 10***

**1.** Leave absolute truth and there is no standard for sin, especially sexual sin.

 **2.** Given the popularity of the Canaanite fertility cults, they worshipped other

 gods which involved sexual sin.

 **3.** *The land mourns because of the curse…Blessing is dried up…Their course is evil...*

 *Their might is not right!!*

 ***C.* *The Blast 11***

**1.** *For the prophets and the priests are profane.*

**2.** *In my house…*Liberal preachers are some of the key proponents of relativism.

 **3.** The Bible is God’s Word and Jesus being God is the only way to God.

 ***D. The Byproduct 12***

**1.** *Their way shall be slippery…driven on and fall.*

**2.** *I will bring calamity on them.*

**3.** You cannot ignore God’s Word and not lose. You will lose in this life and in the

 life to come.

**II. THE CONTAMINATION OF RELATIVISM 23:13-15**

 ***A. The Lessons From The Past 13***

**1.** The prophets of the northern kingdom were devoted to Baal.

 **2.** These are worse. Did they learn nothing from Elijah and the priests of Baal?

  ***B. The Lessons For The Present 14-1***

**1. Softness On Sin**

 **2. Softness On Sexuality…***Sodom and Gomorrah* was known for homosexuality

 and sex when they wanted it. Sex outside of marriage is normal, natural and accepted.

 *They strengthened their hand of evil doers…*

  **3. Silent About God’s Wrath** Pay day someday

 \*God is not angry with sinners, just disappointed. Once they denied the sinfulness

 of sin, it makes perfect sense to deny God’s wrath.

 \**A God without wrath brought men with sin into a kingdom without judgment*

 *through the ministration of Christ without a cross. H. Richard Niebour*

 *\**If you do not deal with sin you never need a Savior!

**III. THE CHARACTERISTICS OF RELATIVISM 23:16-22**

This deals with the failures of false prophets.

 ***A. The Source Of Their Message 16***

**1.** That is the key: Where did you get your message? v. 26 *From their own minds*

**2.** *A vision of their own heart and not out of the mouth of God v. 16*

It originated within them. *They make you empty.*

**3.** They say what they think and say, *God has spoken!*

***B. The Substance Of Their Message 17***

**1.** They say what everyone wants to hear. *You shall have peace.*

**2.** There is no sin, so there are no consequences for sin. v. 17

 ***C. The Standard Of Their Message 18-20***

**1. His word** is the issue and not their opinions. **18**

  **\***They had not gone to the fountain head of wisdom for their message.

 \*God has spoken. God has revealed.

 **2. His warning 19, 20**

 **\***Fulfilled prophesy is an indication of truth. 19, 20

 \*When judgment comes, then they will know!

 ***D. The Sadness Of Their Message 21-22***

**1.** It is false and has no authority behind it. 21 *I am not behind them.*

**2.** They stood in the road of repentance and revival. 22

 **3.** Ask the 21st century: What are the results of their message? Broken homes…

 Broken lives…Emptiness…Lack of purpose or direction…

**IV. THE COMPARISON OF RELATIVISM 23:23-32**

God is not easy to avoid!!

 ***A. The Greatness Of God 23,24***

**1.** God is both imminent and transcendent.

 **2.** God is omniscient and omnipresent.

 \**Can any hide himself in secret places that I cannot see?*

 *\*Do I not fill heaven and earth?* God can be known…but to only a limited degree.

 ***B. The Grief Of God 25-27***

**1.** There is a strong contrast between dreams and God’s Word.

 **2.** Relativism is deceit from their own hearts. 26

 **3.** Dreams which becomes truth by repetition…*they have forgotten my name for*

 *Baal.* Evolution…Freud…Darwin…Marx…recently Global Warming…27

 ***C. The Goodness Of God 28-29***

**1.** There is a comparison between chaff and wheat.

 **2.** *Is not my word like…fire…a hammer??*

 ***D. The Guilt Before God 30-32***

Three classes of false prophets is addressed:

**1. God’s Word Is Stolen 30** It was used for their own purposes.

 **2. God’s Word Is Spoiled 31** *He saith…*

 *\**These pretend divine authority by using God’s word.

 \*These take God’s word out of context.

 **3. God’s Word Is Spent 32** *Yet I sent them not nor commanded them…They*

 *shall not profit my people.*

**V. THE CRUX OF RELATIVISM 23:33-40**

 ***A. The Belittling Of God’s Word 33-34***

**1.** *Burden…oracle…*In the Hebrew there is a play on the word *oracle* or *burden (kjv)*

 *Massa* had a primary and secondary meaning. In the first instance *massa* comes from

 the simple verb *nasa (to lift, to lift up)* with the noun denoting burden in the physical

 sense. By usage the word came to mean that which was placed as a burden on the

 heart of the prophet, having already seen on the heart of God. Thus referred to a

 threatening prediction or oracle.

 **2.** Jeremiah indicates that the people, the priests and the prophets had begun to use this

 important word mockingly: *What is the oracle now? What is the heavy word from*

 *Lord?*

**3.** *You are!* He would unburden Himself on them. 34

 ***B. The Burden To God’s Word 35-37***

**1.** As a burden…they were bidden. 36

 **2.** *You have perverted the words.* They took the standard and changed it!

 **3.** Punishment would follow by the standard they rejected. 37 *What the Lord hath*

 *spoken.*

 ***C. The Berating From God’s Word 38-40***

The penalty for ignoring God’s admonition: *the oracle of the Lord. I will forsake you. I will*

 *bring everlasting reproach…v. 40*

***Pay Day Someday!***

***You cannot ignore God’s Word and not pay!***