**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!***