



I FEEL YOUR PAIN

Studies in Jeremiah & Lamentations

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Growing in Spirit & Truth

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The Geographical Solution

Introduction to Jeremiah 41-46

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

In support group work the geographical solution is the one that says a change of scenery will solve all our problems. However, this doesn’t solve the biggest problem, which is us; no matter where we go we’re still there. This was the problem the Jews had after the fall of Jerusalem in this week’s study; they wanted to get away from all the problems in Jerusalem where the Babylonians were and they thought that going down to Egypt would solve this. The first problem they encountered was that of Ishmael, a descendent of David who had allied himself with the Ammonites. He assassinated Babylon’s appointed governor, Gedaliah, then killed seventy Jews and took Jerusalem’s inhabitants into captivity. Johanan rescued them from Ishmael, but in the midst of this chaos they

decided to run in fear to Egypt. However, they decided to ask God if this was best; but when He said no through Jeremiah, they refused God’s guidance and went anyway. Their problem was not Babylon or Ishmael; rather it was their lack of trust in God. He would have taken care of them in Judah, but they decided to run. Once the decision was made God promised judgment on them as He had on the Jews in Judah who had disobeyed Him. They would not return to Judah. Once they were in Egypt God promised that Babylon would defeat Egypt so that all they feared would follow them there. Since they were there, their biggest problem—their selves—was still there, too. While they were in Egypt they determined that they would continue their idolatry, burning incense to the “queen



Our hearts should break with God’s over our sin.

of heaven”, saying that when they had done that in Jerusalem in Manasseh’s reign, everything was good. God’s answer was that their idolatry was the cause of their earlier problems. They would receive the consequences of it when Egypt, along with all the Jews who were present, was defeated by Babylon. This section also records that Baruch, Jeremiah’s assistant, was grieved over his lost dreams. God told him to be glad he would at least escape with his life. Because he had trusted God he didn’t need a geographical solution.

Daily Study Questions for Jeremiah 41-46

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to www.celebrationnet.com, small groups, abf)

1. Look at Jer 41:1-10. What three evil things did Ishmael do (v2-3, 4-7, 10)? Who was he in league with (v10; see 40:14)?	
2. In 41:11-18 who saved the day (v11-12) and what happened (v13-16)? What did they decide to do (v17) and why (v18)?	
3. From 42:1-6 what did Johanan ask of Jeremiah (v1-3) and what did they promise (v5-6)? How did Jeremiah respond (v4)? Were they being honest?	

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Jeremiah 41-46 Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. Using Jer 42:7-22 what did God tell Johanan's group (v9-12, 13-17)? What did He promise if they went down to Egypt (v18-22)?

5. Based on 43:1-7 how did the Jews react to God's message (v2) and who did they blame (v3)? What did they do (v4-7)?

6. In 43:8-13 what did God instruct Jeremiah to do (v8-9) and what did this mean (v10-11)? What else would God do (v12-13)? Why?

7. According to 44:1-14 what were the Jews doing in Egypt (v7-8) and why was this insane (v1-6, 9-10)? What would happen to them (v11-14)?

8. From 44:15-30 what was the attitude of the Jews (v15-16) and why (v17-19)? What was Jeremiah's answer (v20-23) and what would happen (v24-30)? What does this teach us?

9. Based on 45:1-5 how did Baruch feel (v2-3)? What was God's twofold answer (v4, 5) and how was this a good answer for Baruch?

10. Looking at 46:1-26 where would God defeat Egypt (v1-2, 13)? How would they feel (v5-6, 11-12, 15-16) and how would others react (v17)?

11. Read 47:27-28. What would God do for Judah (Jacob) while He was punishing the nations (v27, 28)? How should this make them feel (v27)?

Scripture to Remember

"O Jacob My servant, do not fear", declares the Lord, 'For I am with you...but I shall correct you properly and by no means leave you unpunished'".

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

We're on the web

www.thehospitalchurch.com

Life Group Questions—It's All About Jesus, Christ In You (Col 2:1-5)

(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. What are some of the various messages we get from the world today about the meaning of our lives—where we came from, why we're here, and where we're going?
2. Read Col 2:8-10. Discuss how we get "taken captive by empty deception" today.
3. Why do you think that the materialism philosophy is so enticing and powerful? How does this get expressed in many church settings?
4. Talk about some ways to overcome the current world viewpoints about marriage today (try it out first, if it doesn't work throw it away) with those you are close to.
5. Why do people so easily believe things that are supposed to be the "secret" to the meaning of life? Share about one of those that you bought into, and why you did.
6. How do we keep from buying into these false philosophies and non-Christian Christian traditions (name a few)? Get practical.
7. Bring up anything else important to you from Sunday's message if there is time.