

Tuesday, October 8

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Jeremiah 10:1 - 11:23

10 **1** Hear the word that the LORD speaks to you, O Israel! **2** This is what the LORD says: “Do not act like the other nations, who try to read their future in the stars. Do not be afraid of their predictions, even though other nations are terrified by them. **3** Their ways are futile and foolish. They cut down a tree, and a craftsman carves an idol. **4** They decorate it with gold and silver and then fasten it securely with hammer and nails so it won’t fall over. **5** Their gods are like helpless scarecrows in a cucumber field! They cannot speak, and they need to be carried because they cannot walk. Do not be afraid of such gods, for they can neither harm you nor do you any good.” **6** LORD, there is no one like you! For you are great, and your name is full of power. **7** Who would not fear you, O King of nations? That title belongs to you alone! Among all the wise people of the earth and in all the kingdoms of the world, there is no one like you. **8** People who worship idols are stupid and foolish. The things they worship are made of wood! **9** They bring beaten sheets of silver from Tarshish and gold from Uphaz, and they give these materials to skillful craftsmen who make their idols. Then they dress these gods in royal blue and purple robes made by expert tailors. **10** But the LORD is the only true God. He is the living God and the everlasting King! The whole earth trembles at his anger. The nations cannot stand up to his wrath. **11** Say this to those who worship other gods: “Your so-called gods, who did not make the heavens and earth, will vanish from the earth and from under the heavens.” **12** But the LORD made the earth by his power, and he preserves it by his wisdom. With his own understanding he stretched out the heavens. **13** When he speaks in the thunder, the heavens roar with rain. He causes the clouds to rise over the earth. He sends the lightning with the rain and releases the wind from his storehouses. **14** The whole human race is foolish and has no knowledge! The craftsmen are disgraced by the idols they make, for their carefully shaped works are a fraud. These idols have no breath or power. **15** Idols are worthless; they are ridiculous lies! On the day of reckoning they will all be destroyed. **16** But the God of Israel is no idol! He is the Creator of everything that exists, including Israel, his own special possession. The LORD of Heaven’s Armies is his name! **17** Pack your bags and prepare to leave; the siege is about to begin. **18** For this is what the LORD says: “Suddenly, I will fling out all you who live in this land. I will pour great troubles upon you, and at last you will feel my anger.” **19** My wound is severe, and my grief is great. My sickness is incurable, but I must bear it. **20** My home is gone, and no one is left to help me rebuild it. My children have been taken away, and I will never see

them again. **21** The shepherds of my people have lost their senses. They no longer seek wisdom from the LORD . Therefore, they fail completely, and their flocks are scattered. **22** Listen! Hear the terrifying roar of great armies as they roll down from the north. The towns of Judah will be destroyed and become a haunt for jackals. **23** I know, LORD, that our lives are not our own. We are not able to plan our own course. **24** So correct me, LORD, but please be gentle. Do not correct me in anger, for I would die. **25** Pour out your wrath on the nations that refuse to acknowledge you— on the peoples that do not call upon your name. For they have devoured your people Israel ; they have devoured and consumed them, making the land a desolate wilderness.

11 **1** The LORD gave another message to Jeremiah. He said, **2** “Remind the people of Judah and Jerusalem about the terms of my covenant with them. **3** Say to them, ‘This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Cursed is anyone who does not obey the terms of my covenant! **4** For I said to your ancestors when I brought them out of the iron-smelting furnace of Egypt, “If you obey me and do whatever I command you, then you will be my people, and I will be your God.” **5** I said this so I could keep my promise to your ancestors to give you a land flowing with milk and honey—the land you live in today.” Then I replied, “Amen, LORD ! May it be so.” **6** Then the LORD said, “Broadcast this message in the streets of Jerusalem. Go from town to town throughout the land and say, ‘Remember the ancient covenant, and do everything it requires. **7** For I solemnly warned your ancestors when I brought them out of Egypt, “Obey me!” I have repeated this warning over and over to this day, **8** but your ancestors did not listen or even pay attention. Instead, they stubbornly followed their own evil desires. And because they refused to obey, I brought upon them all the curses described in this covenant.” **9** Again the LORD spoke to me and said, “I have discovered a conspiracy against me among the people of Judah and Jerusalem. **10** They have returned to the sins of their ancestors. They have refused to listen to me and are worshiping other gods. Israel and Judah have both broken the covenant I made with their ancestors. **11** Therefore, this is what the LORD says: I am going to bring calamity upon them, and they will not escape. Though they beg for mercy, I will not listen to their cries. **12** Then the people of Judah and Jerusalem will pray to their idols and burn incense before them. But the idols will not save them when disaster strikes! **13** Look now, people of Judah; you have as many gods as you have towns. You have as many altars of shame—altars for burning incense to your god Baal—as there are streets in Jerusalem. **14** “Pray no more for these people, Jeremiah. Do not weep or pray for them, for I will not listen to them when they cry out to me in distress. **15** “What right do my beloved people have to come to my Temple, when they have done so many immoral things? Can their vows and sacrifices prevent their destruction? They actually rejoice in doing evil! **16** I, the LORD, once

called them a thriving olive tree, beautiful to see and full of good fruit. But now I have sent the fury of their enemies to burn them with fire, leaving them charred and broken. **17** “I, the LORD of Heaven’s Armies, who planted this olive tree, have ordered it destroyed. For the people of Israel and Judah have done evil, arousing my anger by burning incense to Baal.” **18** Then the LORD told me about the plots my enemies were making against me. **19** I was like a lamb being led to the slaughter. I had no idea that they were planning to kill me! “Let’s destroy this man and all his words,” they said. “Let’s cut him down, so his name will be forgotten forever.” **20** O LORD of Heaven’s Armies, you make righteous judgments, and you examine the deepest thoughts and secrets. Let me see your vengeance against them, for I have committed my cause to you. **21** This is what the LORD says about the men of Anathoth who wanted me dead. They had said, “We will kill you if you do not stop prophesying in the LORD ’s name.” **22** So this is what the LORD of Heaven’s Armies says about them: “I will punish them! Their young men will die in battle, and their boys and girls will starve to death. **23** Not one of these plotters from Anathoth will survive, for I will bring disaster upon them when their time of punishment comes.”

Colossians 3:18 - 4:18

3 18 Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting for those who belong to the Lord. **19** Husbands, love your wives and never treat them harshly. **20** Children, always obey your parents, for this pleases the Lord. **21** Fathers, do not aggravate your children, or they will become discouraged. **22** Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything you do. Try to please them all the time, not just when they are watching you. Serve them sincerely because of your reverent fear of the Lord. **23** Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. **24** Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ. **25** But if you do what is wrong, you will be paid back for the wrong you have done. For God has no favorites.

4 1 Masters, be just and fair to your slaves. Remember that you also have a Master—in heaven. **2** Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart. **3** Pray for us, too, that God will give us many opportunities to speak about his mysterious plan concerning Christ. That is why I am here in chains. **4** Pray that I will proclaim this message as clearly as I should. **5** Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. **6** Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone. **7** Tychicus will give you a full report about how I am getting along. He is a beloved brother and faithful helper who serves with me in the Lord’s work. **8** I have sent him to

you for this very purpose—to let you know how we are doing and to encourage you. **9** I am also sending Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, one of your own people. He and Tychicus will tell you everything that's happening here. **10** Aristarchus, who is in prison with me, sends you his greetings, and so does Mark, Barnabas's cousin. As you were instructed before, make Mark welcome if he comes your way. **11** Jesus (the one we call Justus) also sends his greetings. These are the only Jewish believers among my co-workers; they are working with me here for the Kingdom of God. And what a comfort they have been! **12** Epaphras, a member of your own fellowship and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends you his greetings. He always prays earnestly for you, asking God to make you strong and perfect, fully confident that you are following the whole will of God. **13** I can assure you that he prays hard for you and also for the believers in Laodicea and Hierapolis. **14** Luke, the beloved doctor, sends his greetings, and so does Demas. **15** Please give my greetings to our brothers and sisters at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church that meets in her house. **16** After you have read this letter, pass it on to the church at Laodicea so they can read it, too. And you should read the letter I wrote to them. **17** And say to Archippus, "Be sure to carry out the ministry the Lord gave you." **18** HERE IS MY GREETING IN MY OWN HANDWRITING—PAUL. Remember my chains. May God's grace be with you.

Psalm 78:56 - 72

78 56 But they kept testing and rebelling against God Most High. They did not obey his laws. **57** They turned back and were as faithless as their parents. They were as undependable as a crooked bow. **58** They angered God by building shrines to other gods; they made him jealous with their idols. **59** When God heard them, he was very angry, and he completely rejected Israel. **60** Then he abandoned his dwelling at Shiloh, the Tabernacle where he had lived among the people. **61** He allowed the Ark of his might to be captured; he surrendered his glory into enemy hands. **62** He gave his people over to be butchered by the sword, because he was so angry with his own people—his special possession. **63** Their young men were killed by fire; their young women died before singing their wedding songs. **64** Their priests were slaughtered, and their widows could not mourn their deaths. **65** Then the Lord rose up as though waking from sleep, like a warrior aroused from a drunken stupor. **66** He routed his enemies and sent them to eternal shame. **67** But he rejected Joseph's descendants; he did not choose the tribe of Ephraim. **68** He chose instead the tribe of Judah, and Mount Zion, which he loved. **69** There he built his sanctuary as high as the heavens, as solid and enduring as the earth. **70** He chose his servant David, calling him from the sheep pens. **71** He took David from

tending the ewes and lambs and made him the shepherd of Jacob's descendants— God's own people, Israel. **72** He cared for them with a true heart and led them with skillful hands.

Proverbs 24:28 - 29

24 28 Don't testify against your neighbors without cause; don't lie about them. **29** And don't say, "Now I can pay them back for what they've done to me! I'll get even with them!"