

Saturday, October 12

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Jeremiah 19:1 - 21:14

19 **1** This is what the LORD said to me: “Go and buy a clay jar. Then ask some of the leaders of the people and of the priests to follow you. **2** Go out through the Gate of Broken Pots to the garbage dump in the valley of Ben-Hinnom, and give them this message. **3** Say to them, ‘Listen to this message from the LORD, you kings of Judah and citizens of Jerusalem! This is what the LORD of Heaven’s Armies, the God of Israel, says: I will bring a terrible disaster on this place, and the ears of those who hear about it will ring! **4** “For Israel has forsaken me and turned this valley into a place of wickedness. The people burn incense to foreign gods—idols never before acknowledged by this generation, by their ancestors, or by the kings of Judah. And they have filled this place with the blood of innocent children. **5** They have built pagan shrines to Baal, and there they burn their sons as sacrifices to Baal. I have never commanded such a horrible deed; it never even crossed my mind to command such a thing! **6** So beware, for the time is coming, says the LORD, when this garbage dump will no longer be called Topheth or the valley of Ben-Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter. **7** “For I will upset the careful plans of Judah and Jerusalem. I will allow the people to be slaughtered by invading armies, and I will leave their dead bodies as food for the vultures and wild animals. **8** I will reduce Jerusalem to ruins, making it a monument to their stupidity. All who pass by will be astonished and will gasp at the destruction they see there. **9** I will see to it that your enemies lay siege to the city until all the food is gone. Then those trapped inside will eat their own sons and daughters and friends. They will be driven to utter despair.’ **10** “As these men watch you, Jeremiah, smash the jar you brought. **11** Then say to them, ‘This is what the LORD of Heaven’s Armies says: As this jar lies shattered, so I will shatter the people of Judah and Jerusalem beyond all hope of repair. They will bury the bodies here in Topheth, the garbage dump, until there is no more room for them. **12** This is what I will do to this place and its people, says the LORD . I will cause this city to become defiled like Topheth. **13** Yes, all the houses in Jerusalem, including the palace of Judah’s kings, will become like Topheth—all the houses where you burned incense on the rooftops to your star gods, and where liquid offerings were poured out to your idols.”’ **14** Then Jeremiah returned from Topheth, the garbage dump where he had delivered this message, and he stopped in front of the Temple of the LORD . He said to the people there, **15** “This is what the LORD of Heaven’s Armies, the God of Israel, says: ‘I will bring disaster upon this city and its surrounding towns as I promised, because you have stubbornly refused to listen to me.’”

20 **1** Now Pashhur son of Immer, the priest in charge of the Temple of the LORD, heard what Jeremiah was prophesying. **2** So he arrested Jeremiah the prophet and had him whipped and put in stocks at the Benjamin Gate of the LORD 's Temple. **3** The next day, when Pashhur finally released him, Jeremiah said, "Pashhur, the LORD has changed your name. From now on you are to be called 'The Man Who Lives in Terror.' **4** For this is what the LORD says: 'I will send terror upon you and all your friends, and you will watch as they are slaughtered by the swords of the enemy. I will hand the people of Judah over to the king of Babylon. He will take them captive to Babylon or run them through with the sword. **5** And I will let your enemies plunder Jerusalem. All the famed treasures of the city—the precious jewels and gold and silver of your kings—will be carried off to Babylon. **6** As for you, Pashhur, you and all your household will go as captives to Babylon. There you will die and be buried, you and all your friends to whom you prophesied that everything would be all right.'" **7** O LORD, you misled me, and I allowed myself to be misled. You are stronger than I am, and you overpowered me. Now I am mocked every day; everyone laughs at me. **8** When I speak, the words burst out. "Violence and destruction!" I shout. So these messages from the LORD have made me a household joke. **9** But if I say I'll never mention the LORD or speak in his name, his word burns in my heart like a fire. It's like a fire in my bones! I am worn out trying to hold it in! I can't do it! **10** I have heard the many rumors about me. They call me "The Man Who Lives in Terror." They threaten, "If you say anything, we will report it." Even my old friends are watching me, waiting for a fatal slip. "He will trap himself," they say, "and then we will get our revenge on him." **11** But the LORD stands beside me like a great warrior. Before him my persecutors will stumble. They cannot defeat me. They will fail and be thoroughly humiliated. Their dishonor will never be forgotten. **12** O LORD of Heaven's Armies, you test those who are righteous, and you examine the deepest thoughts and secrets. Let me see your vengeance against them, for I have committed my cause to you. **13** Sing to the LORD ! Praise the LORD ! For though I was poor and needy, he rescued me from my oppressors. **14** Yet I curse the day I was born! May no one celebrate the day of my birth. **15** I curse the messenger who told my father, "Good news—you have a son!" **16** Let him be destroyed like the cities of old that the LORD overthrew without mercy. Terrify him all day long with battle shouts, **17** because he did not kill me at birth. Oh, that I had died in my mother's womb, that her body had been my grave! **18** Why was I ever born? My entire life has been filled with trouble, sorrow, and shame.

21 **1** The LORD spoke through Jeremiah when King Zedekiah sent Pashhur son of Malkijah and Zephaniah son of Maaseiah, the priest, to speak with him. They begged Jeremiah, **2** "Please speak to the LORD for us and ask him to help us. King Nebuchadnezzar of

Babylon is attacking Judah. Perhaps the LORD will be gracious and do a mighty miracle as he has done in the past. Perhaps he will force Nebuchadnezzar to withdraw his armies.” **3** Jeremiah replied, “Go back to King Zedekiah and tell him, **4** ‘This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I will make your weapons useless against the king of Babylon and the Babylonians who are outside your walls attacking you. In fact, I will bring your enemies right into the heart of this city. **5** I myself will fight against you with a strong hand and a powerful arm, for I am very angry. You have made me furious! **6** I will send a terrible plague upon this city, and both people and animals will die. **7** And after all that, says the LORD, I will hand over King Zedekiah, his staff, and everyone else in the city who survives the disease, war, and famine. I will hand them over to King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon and to their other enemies. He will slaughter them and show them no mercy, pity, or compassion.’ **8** “Tell all the people, ‘This is what the LORD says: Take your choice of life or death! **9** Everyone who stays in Jerusalem will die from war, famine, or disease, but those who go out and surrender to the Babylonians will live. Their reward will be life! **10** For I have decided to bring disaster and not good upon this city, says the LORD . It will be handed over to the king of Babylon, and he will reduce it to ashes.’ **11** “Say to the royal family of Judah, ‘Listen to this message from the LORD ! **12** This is what the LORD says to the dynasty of David: “Give justice each morning to the people you judge! Help those who have been robbed; rescue them from their oppressors. Otherwise, my anger will burn like an unquenchable fire because of all your sins. **13** I will personally fight against the people in Jerusalem, that mighty fortress— the people who boast, “No one can touch us here. No one can break in here.” **14** And I myself will punish you for your sinfulness, says the LORD . I will light a fire in your forests that will burn up everything around you.”

1 Thessalonians 5:4 - 28

5 4 But you aren't in the dark about these things, dear brothers and sisters, and you won't be surprised when the day of the Lord comes like a thief. **5** For you are all children of the light and of the day; we don't belong to darkness and night. **6** So be on your guard, not asleep like the others. Stay alert and be clearheaded. **7** Night is the time when people sleep and drinkers get drunk. **8** But let us who live in the light be clearheaded, protected by the armor of faith and love, and wearing as our helmet the confidence of our salvation. **9** For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, not to pour out his anger on us. **10** Christ died for us so that, whether we are dead or alive when he returns, we can live with him forever. **11** So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing. **12** Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are your leaders in the Lord's work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual

guidance. **13** Show them great respect and wholehearted love because of their work. And live peacefully with each other. **14** Brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are lazy. Encourage those who are timid. Take tender care of those who are weak. Be patient with everyone. **15** See that no one pays back evil for evil, but always try to do good to each other and to all people. **16** Always be joyful. **17** Never stop praying. **18** Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. **19** Do not stifle the Holy Spirit. **20** Do not scoff at prophecies, **21** but test everything that is said. Hold on to what is good. **22** Stay away from every kind of evil. **23** Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. **24** God will make this happen, for he who calls you is faithful. **25** Dear brothers and sisters, pray for us. **26** Greet all the brothers and sisters with a sacred kiss. **27** I command you in the name of the Lord to read this letter to all the brothers and sisters. **28** May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Psalm 82:1 - 8

82 1 God presides over heaven's court; he pronounces judgment on the heavenly beings: **2** "How long will you hand down unjust decisions by favoring the wicked?" Interlude **3** "Give justice to the poor and the orphan; uphold the rights of the oppressed and the destitute. **4** Rescue the poor and helpless; deliver them from the grasp of evil people. **5** But these oppressors know nothing; they are so ignorant! They wander about in darkness, while the whole world is shaken to the core. **6** I say, 'You are gods; you are all children of the Most High. **7** But you will die like mere mortals and fall like every other ruler.'" **8** Rise up, O God, and judge the earth, for all the nations belong to you.

Proverbs 25:9 - 10

25 9 When arguing with your neighbor, don't betray another person's secret. **10** Others may accuse you of gossip, and you will never regain your good reputation.