

July 29

Jeremiah 10-12

### 10 Contrast : Wooden idols - God of the Universe

While Jeremiah's message is a somber one, he shows some humor here with some great word pictures. A scarecrow in a melon patch- that's how alive and powerful are the idol gods of the people. They have to be nailed down for stability, and can only move if carried.

I enjoy making stuff out of wood. There's a certain feeling of satisfaction looking at something you designed and crafted. Years ago I was a carpenter, but now I sometimes use my skills to make things that are more fun and creative, like wooden box drums, or treasure chests for my grandkids. Fun things, but really pretty worthless. I can imagine these ancient craftsmen taking great pride in the design of the idols they made. After all, people would actually worship them! They are useless and harmless, not to be feared.

God is unlike anything man can create or even imagine. He is King and his name is mighty in power. He is the great creator of the universe who reveals his power through the forces of nature. As Paul said in his doxology in Romans "for from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever." 11:36

The danger of these ancient idols or any object man worships is the deception and the destruction they bring. Images of any kind are a fraud. They turn us away from the Lord. He alone is worthy!

Chapter 11 reminds us of the covenant agreed to by the nation as they left Egypt centuries before. Breaking that covenant had built in curses that will soon come to pass. The people had become so obstinate in their idolatry and worship of Baal that once again Jeremiah was not even allowed to pray for their rescue from the impending invasion.

The men of his town had enough of Jeremiah's preaching, told him to stop, and were making plans to kill him. As a result of their scheme, God promised total destruction of every person from their town, Anathoth. You will notice here that Jeremiah says he was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. This is another picture of him being similar to Christ in his character.

Chapter 12 is a conversation Jeremiah has with the Lord. He's been given this message of judgment coming, but for now the wicked continue to prosper. This reminds me of Jonah as he waited for God to overthrow Ninevah. God answers with words of assurance that his prophesy will come to pass. Jeremiah by now is getting tired of bringing his warnings and it's like he's saying "let's just get this over with!" By the time of this prophesy, Josiah was probably dead and his successors are putting more pressure on Jeremiah to stop speaking out. The comparison of racing with men to running with horses conveys the idea that it is only going to get tougher for Jeremiah. First it was family and hometown folks who persecuted him. In the future he will have his king and nation against him.

The last part of 12 goes on to tell of the fate of the neighboring nations that take advantage of the destruction of Judah. They also will be carried off into exile but will not

return. Here the Lord promises that he will return his people to their land if they once again give allegiance to his name.

Many times in scripture we have different accounts of those who struggled with God's time table. Think of David; "Lord, how long?" or others who must have questioned God's timing. God will indeed keep his promises, but it's on his schedule and not ours. Remember, Joseph had to wait for years. I get impatient standing by the microwave. His answer is always "Be patient. Wait. I will fulfill my word."

Maybe you are frustrated, and the Lord doesn't seem to be coming through for you as you expected. Trust him. Be patient, and wait for him. He is Lord.

God bless you as you wait on him today.