

/We will now begin the fifth lecture on Jeremiah. /Today, we will begin with Jeremiah chapter 3. /The title of chapter 3 is, "Israel's Adulteries."

/We will look at the main points. /First, the Lord tells the adulterous Israel to return to him. /Verses 1-5. /Second, Judah does not return even after seeing the destruction of Israel. /Verses 6-10.

/Third, God tells northern Israel to return. /Verses 11-18. /Fourth, God leaves and mourning comes. /Verses 19-22a. /Fifth, Israel repents. /Verses 22b-25.

/Read verse 1. /"If a man divorces his wife and she leaves him and marries another man, should he return to her again? Would not the land be completely defiled? But you have lived as a prostitute with many lovers-- would you now return to me?" declares the LORD.

/God alluded to humanly acts to rebuke the sins of Israel. /God said that a man divorced his wife and she left him and married another man, and then she returned to her first husband. /Then the man would not accept the woman.

/If the man were to accept the woman, the land would be completely defiled. /However, Israel left God, her husband, and served idols, but when Israel repented and returned, God would accept them again. /This teaches that God's love and tolerance is infinite.

/Verse 2. /"Look up to the barren heights and see. Is there any place where you have not been ravished? By the roadside you sat waiting for lovers, sat like a nomad in the desert. You have defiled the land with your prostitution and wickedness.

/It says, "Look up to the barren heights and see." /The barren heights are bare mountains. /They are red mountains. /However, the people of Israel served idols under flourishing trees and served idols also on bare mountains.

/The people of Israel served idols wherever they were. /They were enthusiastic about serving idols. /They defiled the land with their prostitution and wickedness, like nomads. /Prostitution indicates idolatry of the Israelites. /Wickedness indicates abandonment of God. /James 4:4

/Verse 3. /Therefore the showers have been withheld, and no spring rains have fallen. Yet you have the brazen look of a prostitute; you refuse to blush with shame.

/Israel acted in wickedness and rain showers were withheld from them. /The showers are abundant rain that make the ground fertile. /The "spring rains" are rain that fall during the fruiting season. /Israel sinned, and as a result, God stopped the rains from falling on them.

/They became brazen and shameless like prostitutes. /Their consciences became numb. /They did not know that their shameful acts were shameful.

/Verses 4-5. /Have you not just called to me: 'My Father, my friend from my youth, will you always be angry? Will your wrath continue forever?' This is how you talk, but you do all the evil you can."

/Israel was punished and encountered hardships, and they returned and cried out to God. / They said, "My Father, my friend from my youth." /God loved the people of Israel in their youth.

/This means that God loved Israel from the days of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. /Believers must remember the first love when they receive hardships and punishments. /We must cry out to God who saved us from our hardships. /God's wrath does not continue forever. /God shows mercy even in times of his wrath.

/Verses 6-8. /During the reign of King Josiah, the LORD said to me, "Have you seen what faithless Israel has done? She has gone up on every high hill and under every spreading tree and has committed adultery there. I thought that after she had done all this she would return to me but she did not, and her unfaithful sister Judah saw it. I gave faithless Israel her certificate of divorce and sent her away because of all her adulteries. Yet I saw that her unfaithful sister Judah had no fear; she also went out and committed adultery.

/Northern Israel defied God and served idols in different places. /Then God sent prophets to encourage them to return to him. /However, they did not return to God.

/Therefore, God punished them and Israel was completely destroyed. /Northern Israel was destroyed in the ninth year of reign of King Hoshea. /2 Kings 18:10 /That year was the year 721 BC. /Here it also says, "I gave faithless Israel her certificate of divorce." /This means that God let northern Israel be completely destroyed.

/Verses 9-10. /Because Israel's immorality mattered so little to her, she defiled the land and committed adultery with stone and wood. In spite of all this, her unfaithful sister Judah did not return to me with all her heart, but only in pretense," declares the LORD.

/Southern Judah saw that northern Israel sinned and was destroyed, and yet, they still followed the ways of sin. /Southern Judah saw that Israel was destroyed for idolatry, and still, they served idols. /They lied. /They rebelled.

/The people of Judah continued to serve idols. /We must not be like the people of Judah and Israel and chase after the world. /When we see others fall as a result of their sins, we must use them as a mirror. /We must repent and stand upright.

/Verses 11-12. /The LORD said to me, "Faithless Israel is more righteous than unfaithful Judah. Go, proclaim this message toward the north: "'Return, faithless Israel,' declares the LORD, 'I will frown on you no longer, for I am merciful,' declares the LORD, 'I will not be angry forever.

/God said that the already destroyed Israel was more faithful than Judah, who was not yet destroyed. /This was because the people of Israel repented as a result of God's punishment. /However, Judah continued to sin. /The people of Judah did not listen and they did not repent.

/Verse 13. /Only acknowledge your guilt-- you have rebelled against the LORD your God, you have scattered your favors to foreign gods under every spreading tree, and have not obeyed me," declares the LORD.

/God told them to sincerely repent and return to him. /God tells them to return also in verse 14. /God is the believers' husband, and believers are his bride. /Matthew 25:1

/Verse 15. /Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding.

/God said that he would give them shepherds after his own heart. /This means that God would give them a leader of faith. /Then the faith of Israel would be restored.

/Verse 16. /In those days, when your numbers have increased greatly in the land," declares the LORD, "men will no longer say, 'The ark of the covenant of the LORD.' It will never enter their minds or be remembered; it will not be missed, nor will another one be made.

/God said that people will no longer speak of the "ark of the covenant of the LORD." /This means that the people would never again worship God with the Old Testament ways. /Today in the New Testament times, there is no need to speak of the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord.

/Now, there is no need to offer sacrifices of cow and sheep to God. /Now, we must worship God in spirit and in truth, with faith in Jesus. /John 4:24

/Verse 17. /At that time they will call Jerusalem The Throne of the LORD, and all nations will gather in Jerusalem to honor the name of the LORD. No longer will they follow the stubbornness of their evil hearts.

/It says, "At that time they will call Jerusalem The Throne of the LORD." /This refers to the kingdom of heaven and the church. /This means that now, all nations will repent and return through faith in Jesus. /Their evil hearts will now return to God.

/Verse 18. /In those days the house of Judah will join the house of Israel, and together they will come from a northern land to the land I gave your forefathers as an inheritance.

/Northern Israel and southern Judah were enemies. /Yet, they would later come together as brothers and find peace. /God's kingdom of peace would be accomplished. /In the New Testament, all peoples would become one through faith in Jesus. /All peoples would

serve God.

/Verses 19-20. /"I myself said, "How gladly would I treat you like sons and give you a desirable land, the most beautiful inheritance of any nation.' I thought you would call me 'Father' and not turn away from following me. But like a woman unfaithful to her husband, so you have been unfaithful to me, O house of Israel," declares the LORD.

/God would take the restored Israel as his children, and God would love them. /God said that he would give them the most beautiful inheritance of any nation. /Today, we believers must worship God in spirit and in truth, then God will make us stand out. /He will also allow us to live in the eternal paradise.

/Verses 21-22. /A cry is heard on the barren heights, the weeping and pleading of the people of Israel, because they have perverted their ways and have forgotten the LORD their God. "Return, faithless people; I will cure you of backsliding." "Yes, we will come to you, for you are the LORD our God.

/Our Lord would forgive the Israelites if they were penitent and if they returned. /Verse 22 prophesies that the Israelites would repent and return to God.

/Verse 23. /Surely the [idolatrous] commotion on the hills and mountains is a deception; surely in the LORD our God is the salvation of Israel.

/Here, the hills and mountains refer to the small powers of the world and the great powers of the world. /However, the Israelites will realize that reliance on such powers is all useless. /They worshiped idols, but all of it will be worth nothing.

/Those things cannot save us. /They will bring us shame instead. /Salvation comes from God alone.

/Verse 25. /Let us lie down in our shame, and let our disgrace cover us. We have sinned against the LORD our God, both we and our fathers; from our youth till this day we have not obeyed the LORD our God."

/We will be shamed if we sin. /Idolatry leads to shame. /However, we will be complimented when we return to God. We will receive glory. /God will lift us up if we repent and return to him.

/What must we do to truly repent and return to God? /In order to return to God, we must first, get rid of all evil acts. Second, we must get rid of all greed. /Third, we must get rid of reliance on the things of the world.

/The people of Israel needed to repent of following Egypt, Assyria, and Babylon. /Today, we must repent of relying on the things of the world. /Then, we must return to God in all sincerity and we must seek the Lord.

/Then, God will forgive us and will accept us. /Here, we will conclude the third lecture.

/We will continue with the lecture on chapter 4. /The title of chapter 4 is, "The Old Land." /First, return to the Lord. /Verses 1-2. /Second, break up the old land. /Verses 3-4. /Third, burn and throw out the thorns. /Verses 5-18.

/Fourth, Jeremiah hears the warnings of battle in his heart. /Verses 19-22. /Fifth, all the land will be ruined, but it will not be completely destroyed. /Verses 23-31.

/Read verses 1-2. /"If you will return, O Israel, return to me," declares the LORD. "If you put your detestable idols out of my sight and no longer go astray, and if in a truthful, just and righteous way you swear, 'As surely as the LORD lives,' then the nations will be blessed by him and in him they will glory."

/God told the believers to return to him. /This is because the people of Israel served God, but their hearts were far from him. /Isaiah 29:13 /Those whose hearts are far from God must return to God.

/They can only have life if they return to God. /They can find joy through God in God's kingdom. /What must believers do to return to God? /First, they must throw out all detestable idols from God's sight. /Verse 1.

/The most detestable idols in God's sight is idolatry. /God is jealous when believers serve idols. /Exodus 20:4-5 /Second, they must not be shaken. /They must trust in God with all they have.

/If they do not rely on God, their hearts will become shaken and become afraid. /They will begin to doubt. /Then they will not be able to follow God. /1 Kings 18:21 /James 1:6-8 /Joshua 24:15

/Believers must believe in God's Word and believe that it will all happen as it says in the Bible. /God's promises will surely come true. /2 Corinthians 1:18-20 /They must not doubt. /They must not test God.

/Third, in order to return to God, believers must be truthful, just, and righteous. /Truthfulness is the truth. /It refers to truth that does not include hypocrisy and lies. /Believers must have faith that does not have lies, and must act according to the good conscience.

/Truthfulness is to keep one's faithfulness. It is to be loyal. /Our Jesus told us to keep justice, mercy, and faithfulness. /Matthew 23:23 /We must repent of the times when we were not obedient according to the truth.

/Next, what does it mean to be just? /It means to judge everything justly. /It means to judge everything correctly. /Also, we must believe that everything that God allows to happen to us is all right. /We must believe in God's sovereignty. /Psalm 51:4

/God is a just God. /Next, even if others do not act justly towards us, we must not complain or resent them. /We must have faith like that of Joseph.

/We must not complain or resent them. /Next, what does it mean to be righteous? /It means to be upright. /It means to be upright before God and others. /We must be upright. /Matthew 6:33

/Righteousness is more precious than all the world. /God demands righteousness. /We must put away unrighteousness. /Verse 2 says, “you swear, ‘As surely as the LORD lives.’” /This means that believers must rely on God alone.

/God alone is life for the believers. /It also says, “the nations will be blessed by him.” /Believers must surely return to God, rely on the living God, and live according to his will.

/Then God’s works will see its light. /Then all the world will find joy in the light and come to the light. /People of foreign lands will see the light and be saved. /It says, “in him they will glory.”

/When believers live in faith, people of foreign lands will repent and serve God. /When believers do not live in faith, people of foreign lands will curse believers and curse God. /Romans 2:24

/Verse 3. /This is what the LORD says to the men of Judah and to Jerusalem: "Break up your unplowed ground and do not sow among thorns.

/The “unplowed ground” is firm and thorny, and is rough land where seed cannot be sown. /Grain cannot be harvested in that land. /This symbolizes the wickedness and stubbornness of our hearts. /This means that our hearts are not gentle.

/Therefore, we must be gentle and humble, repent and return to God. /James 1:21 /Our hardened hearts cut us off from life in God. /Ephesians 4:18 /There is life when we are gentle.

/New buds sprout from tender tree branches. /We must receive God’s Word with gentle spirits. /Second, it says, “do not sow among thorns.” /We must not sow among thorns.

/Even if we were to sow among thorns, the nutrients would all fall through the thorns. /Matthew 13:22 /The thorns also symbolize the ugly and wicked greed that is in our hearts. /It is the heart that torments others.

/We become thorns and prick others. /We hurt others. /We cannot receive God in such situations.

/Verse 4. /Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, circumcise your hearts, you men of Judah

and people of Jerusalem, or my wrath will break out and burn like fire because of the evil you have done-- burn with no one to quench it.

/It says to circumcise yourselves. /Circumcision began in Abraham's time. /Genesis 17:9-10 /Circumcision is to first, remove greed. /Second, it is to belong to God. /Third, it means to participate in God's covenant.

/Fourth, it is a sign that one is God's subject. /Therefore, we must circumcise our hearts. /We must remove greed from our hearts. /We are also God's subjects. /We are God's possessions.

/Therefore, we must live for God. /We must circumcise our hearts. /Today, in the New Testament times, we do not perform circumcision. /The holy ceremonies of the Old Testament were circumcision and the Passover. /In the New Testament, they were baptism and communion.

/There is no need for circumcision today. /However, we must circumcise our hearts. /Ezekiel 44:9 /Jeremiah 9:26 /Acts 7:51 /Circumcision of the heart is more important than physical circumcision. /Deuteronomy 10:16

/We all participate in God's covenant. /Romans 2:25-29 /Philippians 3:2, 3 /If we do not go forward with such faith, God will punish us. /God will burn with wrath.

/Therefore, we must break up the unplowed ground as it says in these verses. /We must remove the thorns. /Then we must circumcise our hearts. /Then we must be people who belong to God. /Then we must become fertile land and bear good fruit of our faith.

/Verse 5. /"Announce in Judah and proclaim in Jerusalem and say: 'Sound the trumpet throughout the land!' Cry aloud and say: 'Gather together! Let us flee to the fortified cities!'

/Judah and Jerusalem sinned but did not repent. /Therefore, the trumpet of the enemies' armies will invade them. /Then the enemies will seize Judah.

/The foreign enemies will violently and brutally destroy Judah. /Judgment on Judah will be as great as their sins.

/Verses 8-9. /So put on sackcloth, lament and wail, for the fierce anger of the LORD has not turned away from us. "In that day," declares the LORD, "the king and the officials will lose heart, the priests will be horrified, and the prophets will be appalled."

/The people of Judah will lament and wail because their enemies will invade them. /Their disaster will be too great. /Disaster will suddenly come upon them. /Therefore, the king and the officials will lose heart.

/The priests will be horrified and the prophets will be appalled. /This is because they

heard God's warnings, yet, did not repent. /If we believers do not lament of our sins, we will receive God's punishment. /We will instead lament when we receive God's judgment. /We will continue the lecture with verse 10.

/Verse 10. /Then I said, "Ah, Sovereign LORD, how completely you have deceived this people and Jerusalem by saying, 'You will have peace,' when the sword is at our throats."

/It says, "Sovereign LORD, how completely you have deceived this people and Jerusalem." /This is saying that the people of Judah were deceived. /God let Judah be deceived.

/False prophets taught the people of Judah, "There is peace, and everything is all right." /The people of Judah believed them and received disasters instead of peace. /They were deceived by the words of false prophets.

/We will be deceived if we disobey God's Word. /2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 /Those who truly love and obey the truth will not be deceived. /The people of Judah sinned, and when disaster came upon them, they resented God for deceiving them. /They resented God when they were destroyed.

/Verses 11-12. /At that time this people and Jerusalem will be told, "A scorching wind from the barren heights in the desert blows toward my people, but not to winnow or cleanse; a wind too strong for that comes from me. Now I pronounce my judgments against them."

/Now, a great disaster like a scorching wind will come upon Judah. /A fierce disaster would come upon them. /There will be great judgment upon whoever does not repent.

/Verse 13. /Look! He advances like the clouds, his chariots come like a whirlwind, his horses are swifter than eagles. Woe to us! We are ruined!

/The enemies would come like the clouds. /The invaders' chariots would come like a whirlwind.

/Verse 14. /O Jerusalem, wash the evil from your heart and be saved. How long will you harbor wicked thoughts?

/It says to wash the evil from their hearts. /Judah would be saved from the disaster if they repented. /Believers can be saved if they repent in the midst of hardships.

/Verse 15. /A voice is announcing from Dan, proclaiming disaster from the hills of Ephraim.

/“Dan” is located along the border of northern Israel. /“The hills of Ephraim” are northern Israel's mountains located near Judah. /Babylon will come through northern Israel down to southern Israel.



/Verses 17-18. /They surround her like men guarding a field, because she has rebelled against me," declares the LORD. "Your own conduct and actions have brought this upon you. This is your punishment. How bitter it is! How it pierces to the heart!"

/The invaders will surround Jerusalem. /Babylon's army will surround Jerusalem and no one will be able to escape. /This is because Judah's sins were that great.

/Verses 19-20. /Oh, my anguish, my anguish! I writhe in pain. Oh, the agony of my heart! My heart pounds within me, I cannot keep silent. For I have heard the sound of the trumpet; I have heard the battle cry. Disaster follows disaster; the whole land lies in ruins. In an instant my tents are destroyed, my shelter in a moment.

/Judah was destroyed through Babylon. /Judah was destroyed. /Therefore, Jeremiah was in anguish and writhed in pain.

/Verse 21. /How long must I see the battle standard and hear the sound of the trumpet?

/The "battle standard" is the weapons of the enemy and the flag of the soldiers. /Babylon's army's invasion was close, but Judah did not know it. /Judah was too ignorant to do good.

/Verse 23. /I looked at the earth, and it was formless and empty; and at the heavens, and their light was gone.

/The land of Judah became formless and empty because of Babylon's invasion. /It would become a wasteland. /Verse 27 says that the land would be ruined. /However, it would not be completely destroyed.

/Verse 27. /This is what the LORD says: "The whole land will be ruined, though I will not destroy it completely.

/God did not completely destroy Judah, but left the stubble. /God shows mercy in the midst of his wrath. /Isaiah 6:13 /Habakkuk 3:2

/Verse 28. /Therefore the earth will mourn and the heavens above grow dark, because I have spoken and will not relent, I have decided and will not turn back."

/God decided to bring disaster upon Judah. /The Lord does not turn back. /God works according to his plans. /Therefore, the people would mourn and the skies would grow dark.

/Verse 29. /At the sound of horsemen and archers every town takes to flight. Some go into the thickets; some climb up among the rocks. All the towns are deserted; no one lives in them.

/The horsemen and archers will invade. /They will yell and cry out as they invade. /No one can escape them.

/Verse 30. /What are you doing, O devastated one? Why dress yourself in scarlet and put on jewels of gold? Why shade your eyes with paint? You adorn yourself in vain. Your lovers despise you; they seek your life.

/Judah and the people of Jerusalem tried to be saved by foreign nations. /They used different methods and ways. /However, it was all no use when they faced difficulties. /The “lovers” indicate the foreign nations. /In this way, reliance on the world is all useless. /They will lead to despise and shame.

/Verse 31. /I hear a cry as of a woman in labor, a groan as of one bearing her first child--the cry of the Daughter of Zion gasping for breath, stretching out her hands and saying, "Alas! I am fainting; my life is given over to murderers."

/It says, “I hear a cry as of a woman in labor.” /The pain of Judah’s destruction will be great. /Their spirits were faint. /They did not only receive physical pain, but pain their in hearts as well.

/When we are punished and receive judgment, there will be physical pain and pain in our hearts. /However, when believers repent in the midst of their punishments, their spirits will be renewed. /No matter how great the sufferings may be, there will be peace in their hearts. /We must rely only on God who is the source of life and the source of all blessings.

/Here, we will conclude the fifth lecture on Jeremiah. /Thank you.