

/We will now begin the seventh lecture on Jeremiah. /We will begin with Jeremiah chapter 7. /The title of chapter 7 is, "The Temple Becomes a Den of Robbers." /This means that the Temple became a den of robbers.

/First, abandon ritualism and sin and walk in faith. /Verses 1-7. /Second, the people will be invaded because they made the Lord's house into a den of robbers. /Verses 8-15.

/Third, God's wrath will be on the people because of their sin of idolatry. /Verses 16-20. /Fourth, they will not receive blessings because they did not listen to the Lord. /Verses 21-34.

/Read verses 1-2. /This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: "Stand at the gate of the LORD's house and there proclaim this message: "Hear the word of the LORD, all you people of Judah who come through these gates to worship the LORD.

/God spoke through Jeremiah at the gate of the Lord's house. /The gate of the Temple was a place where God's Word was proclaimed.

/Verse 3. /This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Reform your ways and your actions, and I will let you live in this place.

/God said through Jeremiah, "Reform your ways and your actions." /God said that he would only allow the people of Judah to remain in Canaan if they walked down the right path according to God's Word.

/Today, the secret to enjoying God's blessings is to obey God's Word. /We are blessed when we obey God's Word.

/Verse 4. /Do not trust in deceptive words and say, "This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD!"

/The leaders of Judah showed off, "This is the temple of the LORD." /They also showed off that God was their God. /They believed that God would bless them.

/However, their hearts and actions were against God and they walked in sin. /Therefore, although they boasted of God's Temple, they walked down the road of sin.

/God said that if the people of Judah acted in righteousness and did not sin, he would allow them to forever dwell in the land of Canaan. /Even if they boasted of God and boasted of the Temple, God would forsake Judah if they continued to walk in sin.

/Verse 7. /then I will let you live in this place, in the land I gave your forefathers for ever and ever.

/God said that he would allow them to live in Canaan forever if they obeyed his Word.

/Verses 8-9. /But look, you are trusting in deceptive words that are worthless. ""Will you steal and murder, commit adultery and perjury, burn incense to Baal and follow other gods you have not known,

/The people of Judah stole, murdered, and committed adultery. /Then they showed off at the Temple that they were saved. /Today, there are many people who say they love God, yet, serve many idols.

/Believers cannot serve both God and idols. /Today, there are many who stand against God even though they say they serve God.

/Verse 11. /Has this house, which bears my Name, become a den of robbers to you? But I have been watching! declares the LORD.

/God's house is a holy house and a house of prayer. /It is a house where believers have spiritual fellowship with God and walk with the Lord. /However, the people of Judah showed off the Temple, yet, committed robbery, murder and adultery.

/They made God's house into a den of robbers. /They used the Temple to sin. /Our Jesus also rebuked the people for turning God's house into a den of robbers. /Matthew 21:13

/Verse 12. /""Go now to the place in Shiloh where I first made a dwelling for my Name, and see what I did to it because of the wickedness of my people Israel.

/Here, Shiloh is a city located between Bethel and Shechem. /Shiloh was fifteen kilometers northeast of Bethel. /When the Israelites left Egypt, they set up tents in Shiloh in Canaan. /Joshua 18:1

/However, God said the Israelites acted in wickedness in Shiloh. /They acted wickedly in the place where they were supposed to serve God. /Therefore, God would not hear their prayers.

/God would also discipline and judge them. /Therefore, the people of Judah during Jeremiah's time came before God's Temple and claimed that they served God, but in actuality, they acted wickedly. /Therefore, God would judge both the Temple of Jerusalem and Shiloh.

/Verse 15. /I will thrust you from my presence, just as I did all your brothers, the people of Ephraim.'

/Ephraim refers to northern Israel. /Northern Israel was destroyed during the time of King Hoshea. /Israel was destroyed by Assyria in 721 BC.

/Now, southern Judah would also be chased out from God's presence just as northern Israel was. /Southern Judah would receive God's judgment as a result of their sins.

/Verse 16. /"So do not pray for this people nor offer any plea or petition for them; do not plead with me, for I will not listen to you.

/God told Jeremiah not to pray for the people of Judah. /This was because they served idol. /God told Jeremiah not to pray for peace in Judah. /This is because their sins were too great.

/Verse 18. /The children gather wood, the fathers light the fire, and the women knead the dough and make cakes of bread for the Queen of Heaven. They pour out drink offerings to other gods to provoke me to anger.

/The people of Judah made cakes of bread for the Queen of Heaven. /The "Queen of Heaven" is the god that the Assyrians and Babylonians served. /They served the sun, moon, and stars in the sky as gods. /The people of Judah brought in these foreign gods and served them. /Therefore, God would pour out his wrath on the people of Judah.

/Verse 19. /But am I the one they are provoking? declares the LORD. Are they not rather harming themselves, to their own shame?

/God was furious with the people of Judah. /God said that he would not judge the land. /He would not judge only the people, but he would burn all animals and trees as well.

/Verse 21. /"This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Go ahead, add your burnt offerings to your other sacrifices and eat the meat yourselves!

/Here, God spoke sarcastically. /God ignored the people's sacrificial offerings. /No matter how many sacrifice offerings they gave, God would have nothing to do with them.

/God desires broken spirits. /Psalm 51:17 /God desires mercy more than ritual sacrifices. /He said that obedience was better than sacrifice.

/Verse 23. /but I gave them this command: Obey me, and I will be your God and you will be my people. Walk in all the ways I command you, that it may go well with you.

/God commanded the Israelites to obey his commandments when he led them out of Egypt. /God said that sacrifices and burnt offerings are useless if the people did not obey him.

/God accepts offerings when we give offerings while obeying his commands.  
/Deuteronomy 30:15-20

/Verse 24. /But they did not listen or pay attention; instead, they followed the stubborn inclinations of their evil hearts. They went backward and not forward.

/The forefathers of the Israelites did not obey God's commands when they left Egypt and crossed the wilderness. /God continuously sent prophets, but they did not repent. /They

did not obey God's commands.

/Verse 29. /Cut off your hair and throw it away; take up a lament on the barren heights, for the LORD has rejected and abandoned this generation that is under his wrath.

/God told Jerusalem, "Cut off your hair." /This means that they would be shamed.

/Verse 30. /"The people of Judah have done evil in my eyes, declares the LORD. They have set up their detestable idols in the house that bears my Name and have defiled it.

/Here it says that they defiled the Lord's name with detestable idols. /"Detestable idols" signify idolatry. /The people of Judah served detestable idols and defiled the house of the Lord. /1 Corinthians 3:16, 17

/Today in the New Testament time, the hearts of us believers is the house of God. /Therefore, we must throw out anything that we love and rely on more than God, because they are all idols.

/Verse 31. /They have built the high places of Topheth in the Valley of Ben Hinnom to burn their sons and daughters in the fire-- something I did not command, nor did it enter my mind.

/The people of Judah built the high places of Topheth in the Valley of Ben Hinnom. /Then they burnt their sons and daughters. /This was idolatry. /They acted wickedly by burning their children as burnt offerings.

/2 Kings 23:10 /Jeremiah 19:5, 6 /The Valley of Ben Hinnom symbolizes hell. /This was a valley where people threw away dead bodies. /God would judge them in such a place like this.

/The armies of their enemies would take the idolaters in Judah and kill them in the Valley of Ben Hinnom. /The people of Judah served idols in the Valley of Ben Hinnom and that would eventually be the place where many of them would die in the hands of their enemies.

/Thus, the place would become the Valley of Slaughter. /Therefore, we must throw away all idols and serve God only. /Here we will conclude the lecture on chapter 7.

/We will continue with chapter 8. /The title of chapter 8 is, "The Lying Pen of the Scribes." /First, the wicked will be slandered even after they are dead. /Verses 1-3. /Second, return when they should. /Verses 4-7.

/Third, the lying pen of the scribes lead the people down the wrong path. /Verses 8-11. /Fourth, those who leave the path will drink poisoned water. /Verses 12-17. /Fifth, they will not be healed even by all of man's ways. /Verses 18-22.

/Read verses 1-2. /"At that time, declares the LORD, the bones of the kings and officials of Judah, the bones of the priests and prophets, and the bones of the people of Jerusalem will be removed from their graves. They will be exposed to the sun and the moon and all the stars of the heavens, which they have loved and served and which they have followed and consulted and worshiped. They will not be gathered up or buried, but will be like refuse lying on the ground.

/The people of Judah left God and served the sun, moon and the stars in the sky as their idols. /2 Kings 21:5; 23:4, 11 /Therefore, they would be punished and would die as a result of serving the sun, moon and stars.

/After they die, their enemies will invade and drag them out of their graves, and they will be exposed to the sun, moon and stars. /Not only will those who serve idols be judged by God, but they will be shamed even after they die.

/Their names will be shameful even after they die. /For example, there was a king named Ahab during the time of Elijah. /King Ahab served many idols along with his wife, Jezebel.

/Therefore, they died horrible deaths, and their names were considered shameful even after they died. /Here in verse 3, it says that the people preferred death to life. /This means that the people wanted to die because the disaster and pain that came upon them was too great. /Revelation 9:6

/Verse 4. /"Say to them, 'This is what the LORD says: "'When men fall down, do they not get up? When a man turns away, does he not return?

/It is natural for a person to get back up after he falls down. /It is natural for a person to return after he goes away. /However, the people of Judah left God but did not return.

/The people did not think to repent and return after they walked in sin. /They pursued their own courses like horses charging into battle. /People can make mistakes and fall, and they can temporarily leave God.

/However, we must immediately get up and return to God. /A righteous man falls seven times, but he rises again. /Proverbs 24:16

/Verse 7. /Even the stork in the sky knows her appointed seasons, and the dove, the swift and the thrush observe the time of their migration. But my people do not know the requirements of the LORD.

/The stork, the swift and the thrush are migratory birds. /Some birds fly north for the winter, and some birds fly south for the winter. /Then they return when the seasons change.

/Therefore, we too must repent and return to God. /We must not miss the chance to

repent. /2 Corinthians 6:2 /Isaiah 1:3 /Psalm 49:20 /We must immediately return to God when we are given the chance to.

/Verse 8. /"How can you say, "We are wise, for we have the law of the LORD," when actually the lying pen of the scribes has handled it falsely?

/The Bible is the root of wisdom. /Psalm 19:7; 119:98 /We become ignorant if we forsake the Bible. Even the smartest people in the world become ignorant if they learn the Bible wrong. /Here, it speaks of the lying pen of the scribes.

/The scribes recorded the Bible and stored the Bible. /Scribes must record the Bible exactly as it is. /They must not add to or take away from the Bible. /However, the scribes here added to and took away from the Bible.

/They did not record the Bible as it is. /They changed the Bible to however they wanted. / Revelation 22:17, 18 /The Bible says that no one is to add to or take away from the Bible. /We, servants of God, today must also preach the Bible exactly as it is.

/We must not falsely teach the Bible. /The people were deceived by the lying pen of the scribes. /Hence, people would chase after false things.

/Therefore, both the scribes and those who follow the wrong things are both foolish. /They ultimately throw away the word of the Lord.

/Verse 10. /Therefore I will give their wives to other men and their fields to new owners. From the least to the greatest, all are greedy for gain; prophets and priests alike, all practice deceit.

/They falsely taught the Bible and falsely learned the Bible. /They taught lies and learned lies. /Therefore, God will give their wives to other men and their fields to new owners.

/Verse 11. /They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious. "Peace, peace," they say, when there is no peace.

/The false prophets taught the people that there would be peace. /However, there was no peace. /The priests and prophets could not dress the wound of the people of Judah.

/Therefore, there was no true peace in the hearts of the people. /There was no peace in their spirits. /Today, many pastors only speak words of blessings. /Pastors must rebuke and make believers upright when they walk down the road of sin.

/However, even when believers do wrong, there are many who teach, "It is all right. There is peace." /Matthew 11:5 /We must heal spiritual wounds in the church just as Jesus did.

/Illness of the heart is more important than illness of the body. /We must first heal

spiritual illnesses. /We must heal illnesses of the heart that arose from sin.

/Verse 12. /Are they ashamed of their loathsome conduct? No, they have no shame at all; they do not even know how to blush. So they will fall among the fallen; they will be brought down when they are punished, says the LORD.

/The people of Judah were not ashamed even as they committed loathsome acts. /They were shameless as they served idols that God hated. /They habitually committed sins. /Their hearts became stubborn. /They were shameless.

/Their conscience fell. /Therefore, in verse 13, it says that God would bring judgment upon the people of Judah. /Then first, they will be brought down when they are punished. /Verse 12. /Second, there will be no fruit on the vine and fig tree. /Verse 13a.

/Third, the leaves of the trees will wither. /Verse 13. /Fourth, what was given to them will be taken away. /Verse 13b. /Fifth, they will not be able to flee to the fortified cities during the times of disaster. /Verse 14a. /Sixth, they will drink poisoned water. /Verse 14b.

/Seventh, the peace they hoped for will be no more. /Verse 15a. /Eighth, they hoped for healing but there will only be terror. /Verse 15b.

/Verse 16. /The snorting of the enemy's horses is heard from Dan; at the neighing of their stallions the whole land trembles. They have come to devour the land and everything in it, the city and all who live there."

/"Dan" is a city to the north of Israel. /The Babylonian army would invade from the north. /Therefore, the sound of invasion from the north would be loud.

/Babylon will invade and devour the land of Judah and its city and people. /Here in verse 17 it says that God will send venomous snakes. /The enemies will invade like venomous snakes. /The terror of the enemies' invasions would be great.

/Verse 18. /O my Comforter in sorrow, my heart is faint within me.

/Jeremiah lamented when he saw the disaster that the people of Judah would receive.

/Verse 19. /Listen to the cry of my people from a land far away: "Is the LORD not in Zion? Is her King no longer there?" "Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their worthless foreign idols?"

/The people of Judah would be taken captive to far foreign nations. /Then they will call out to the Lord God from these far lands. /The people of Judah will resent God from there. /God will punish them because of their sin of idolatry with their images and worthless foreign idols.

/Verse 20. /"The harvest is past, the summer has ended, and we are not saved."

/This refers to a time long after the people of Judah are taken captive. /They will groan even after a long time passes because they will not have been saved.

/Verse 22. /Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then is there no healing for the wound of my people?

/There was balm in Gilead. /Balm is used as medicine. /Genesis 37:25 /There were good medicine in Gilead and skilled physicians as well. /However, the medicine and physicians would not be able to heal the wound of the people of Judah.

/Man's ways cannot resolve punishments that people receive from God. /When we sin and are disciplined by God, we will not be able to resolve them through the ways and methods of man.

/Therefore, when we are disciplined by God and face hardships, there is no other way than to repent. /The only way we can be healed is to repent and turn away from sin, and return to God.

/Therefore, when we receive sufferings and hardships, it can be resolved if we repent and return to God. /Therefore, we must repent of our sins and stand upright before God. /Here we will conclude the lecture on chapter 8.

/With this we will conclude the seventh lecture on Jeremiah. /Thank you.