

/We will now begin the ninth lecture on Jeremiah. /Today's passage is Jeremiah chapter 12. /The title of chapter 12 is, "The Wicked Prosper."

/First, Jeremiah's question about the wicked that prosper. /Verses 1-4. /Second, Israel does not obey and thus, the Lord abandons the temple. /Verses 5-13. /Third, The Lord punishes the foreign nations and restores Israel. /Verses 14-17.

/Read verse 1. /You are always righteous, O LORD, when I bring a case before you. Yet I would speak with you about your justice: Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why do all the faithless live at ease?

/Jeremiah said that God was righteous. /God is absolutely righteous. /He is also a just God. /Sometimes, we fail to understand God's works.

/However, when time passes, we understand that God is just in all his ways. /In today's passage, Jeremiah asks, "Why does the way of the wicked prosper?" /The wicked should be ruined, yet, why do they prosper?

/Verse 2. /You have planted them, and they have taken root; they grow and bear fruit. You are always on their lips but far from their hearts.

/Jeremiah asked God why he planted the wicked and let them grow. /The wicked served God with their mouths but their hearts left God. /Then why did the wicked prosper?

/Verse 3. /Yet you know me, O LORD; you see me and test my thoughts about you. Drag them off like sheep to be butchered! Set them apart for the day of slaughter!

/Jeremiah served God with all his heart. /He did his best to carry out his calling as a prophet. /Jeremiah says in the latter part of verse 3. /"Set them apart for the day of slaughter!"

/The wicked will prosper at first, but they will eventually be ruined. /The wicked are like beasts that will be suddenly slaughtered. /Psalm 73:7; 17-19. /When believers face difficulties, it is because God is refining them. /Job 7:18 /Romans 8:17

/God disciplines those whom he loves. /God refines them. /God refines believers so that they could receive rewards in heaven. /Hebrews 12:6 /However, the wicked will prosper at first but will later be entirely ruined.

/Verse 4. /How long will the land lie parched and the grass in every field be withered? Because those who live in it are wicked, the animals and birds have perished. Moreover, the people are saying, "He will not see what happens to us."

/The land of Judah will receive disasters. /The grass in the fields will wither and the animals will perish.

/Verse 5. /"If you have raced with men on foot and they have worn you out, how can you compete with horses? If you stumble in safe country, how will you manage in the thickets by the Jordan?

/Here, "men on foot" and "safe country" symbolize small disasters. /Next, it says, "how can you compete with horses?" /Here it mentions men on foot and safe country. /They symbolize small disasters.

/It also says, "horses" and "thickets by the Jordan." /They symbolize great disasters that are to come. /Jeremiah was persecuted by the people in his hometown. /However, that was part of small disasters. /Therefore, his current hardships were small.

/There would be greater hardships to come in the future. /The great disaster is that King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon would invade the land. /Therefore, if we do not overcome small hardships, we will not be able to overcome greater hardships.

/We must overcome small hardships with faith. /Today, we must serve in the church, attend early morning prayer, and keep Sundays. /Then we can overcome great hardships.

/Verse 7. /"I will forsake my house, abandon my inheritance; I will give the one I love into the hands of her enemies.

/The people of Israel sinned before God, and therefore, God will abandon their inheritance.

/Verse 9. /Has not my inheritance become to me like a speckled bird of prey that other birds of prey surround and attack? Go and gather all the wild beasts; bring them to devour.

/The "speckled bird of prey" refer to birds with spotted feathers. /They signify the people of Judah's acts in which they act with both truth and lies. /This is compromise and syncretism.

/The people of Judah served idols and became syncretic. /They changed. /Today, there are many who change new theologies and heresies into the truth.

/Verse 10. /Many shepherds will ruin my vineyard and trample down my field; they will turn my pleasant field into a desolate wasteland.

/Here, the "many shepherds" signify foreign kings. /The foreign kings devoured the people of Judah. /Therefore, the land would become a wasteland.

/Verse 12. /Over all the barren heights in the desert destroyers will swarm, for the sword of the LORD will devour from one end of the land to the other; no one will be safe.

/The enemies would invade and torment the people of Judah. /The sword of the war

would devour the people of Judah. /Therefore, they will sow wheat but reap thorns.

/In this way, anything that we do after we leave God will all be done in vain. /This is mentioned in verse 13. /Therefore, we must put our faith first. /Haggai 1:6

/Read verse 14. /This is what the LORD says: "As for all my wicked neighbors who seize the inheritance I gave my people Israel, I will uproot them from their lands and I will uproot the house of Judah from among them.

/Here, God speaks of the restoration of Israel. /The people of Judah sinned and were to be punished, but God would later bring them back.

/The people of Judah would repent and God would restore them. /God would then uproot all the foreign nations that tormented Judah. /God would uproot Babylon and Assyria.

/God will punish Judah through foreign nations, but when Judah stands upright, God would judge the foreign nations. /Isaiah 10:5-6 /Isaiah 14:3-11 /The house of Judah would return to God.

/Verse 15. /But after I uproot them, I will again have compassion and will bring each of them back to his own inheritance and his own country.

/God had compassion on the people of Judah. /Therefore, he would bring them back to their inheritance. /God would allow them to return to the seat of blessings.

/Verse 16. /And if they learn well the ways of my people and swear by my name, saying, 'As surely as the LORD lives'-- even as they once taught my people to swear by Baal-- then they will be established among my people.

/Later, the foreign peoples would return to God and learn God's Word. /The foreign peoples will repent and return to God. /Foreign peoples would believe in Jesus and receive salvation in the New Testament times.

/Verse 17. /But if any nation does not listen, I will completely uproot and destroy it," declares the LORD.

/If the foreign peoples do not return to God and they do not learn about God's ways, God will destroy them. /Therefore, anyone, whether he is a Jew or not, who does not repent will be destroyed.

/We will continue with Jeremiah chapter 13. /The title is, "Linen Belt."

/First, God teaches with a linen belt. /Verses 1-11. /Second, every wineskin will be filled with wine. /Verses 12-14. /Third, everyone is to hear God's Word before darkness comes. /Verses 15-16. /Fourth, the portions that the disobedient will receive. /Verses 17-27.

/Read verse 1. /This is what the LORD said to me: "Go and buy a linen belt and put it around your waist, but do not let it touch water."

/God taught with a linen belt through Jeremiah. /God taught the people of Judah with a linen belt. /God told Jeremiah to buy a linen belt and put it around his waist. /

/Then God told Jeremiah to go to the Euphrates River and hide it in the rocks. /Jeremiah obeyed God's commands, bought a linen belt and hid it in the Euphrates River.

/Many days later, God told Jeremiah to go get the belt that he hid in the river. /Therefore, Jeremiah went to the river as God commanded and retrieved the belt.

/However, the belt was ruined and could not be used. /The belt was sturdy and handy when it was around Jeremiah's waist. /However, the belt became useless after it was hidden and retrieved from the river.

/Here, the Euphrates River is Perath in Hebrew. /Perath is the Euphrates River. However, at the time, the Euphrates River was about 1,127 kilometers in length. /It seems impossible for Jeremiah to have traveled such a long distance.

/However, Judah is located in the region of Paraha. /Joshua 18:21, 23 /Today, this region is known as Ain Paraha. /This is located about five kilometers east of Anathoth.

/Here, Perath refers to the region of Paraha. /God taught the Israelites through Jeremiah with a symbolic act. /There is a spiritual meaning in this. /The "linen belt" signifies believers today.

/The people of Judah were important to God and they glorified him when they lived in God. /However, after the people of Judah left God, sinned, and chased after the world, they became useless.

/Therefore, believers must fully be united with God and walk with the Lord. /We become glorious beings when we walk with God. /1 Peter 2:9 /Exodus 19:5-6 /We are kingly priests. /We are God's glorious children.

/However, there is no life if we leave God. /John 15:5 /Therefore, we as children of God must not fall to the world. /We must not be friends with the world. /John 6:27 /Galatians 6:8

/Verse 8. /Then the word of the LORD came to me:

/What was the reason for why the people of Judah became like the ruined belt? /It is because they sinned. /What were their sins? /First, they were proud. /God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. /James 4:6 /King Nebuchadnezzar was ruined because he was proud. /Daniel 4:30-33

/Second, they refused to listen to the Lord. /The hearts of the people of Judah were wicked and they disobeyed God's commands. /They were disobedient. /Third, they acted with stubborn hearts. /Their hearts became hardened.

/Then they were cut off from spiritual life. /Ephesians 4:18 /Believers must always be gentle and humble in heart. /Fourth, they chased after and served other gods. /They chased after idols. /The people of Judah sinned in such ways and thus, they became as useless as rotten belts.

/Verse 11. /For as a belt is bound around a man's waist, so I bound the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah to me,' declares the LORD, 'to be my people for my renown and praise and honor. But they have not listened.'

/Just as a belt is bound around a man's waist, God bound the people of Judah around him. /Therefore, Judah became God's praise and honor. /However, they sinned and did not listen to God's Word, and thus, they became like rotten belts. /They would be thrown away like rotten belts.

/Verse 12. /"Say to them: 'This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Every wineskin should be filled with wine.' And if they say to you, 'Don't we know that every wineskin should be filled with wine?'

/Here it says to fill every wineskin with wine. /The wineskins signify kings, priests, and prophets. /It also signifies the people of Jerusalem. /"Filled with wine" means to be filled with sin.

/It also means that they would be drunk of their sins. /Luke 21:34 /Revelation 17:1-2 /The people of Judah were drunk with the world. /Then they went against one another. /They fought with those closest to them. /Therefore, God would judge them.

/Verse 15. /Hear and pay attention, do not be arrogant, for the LORD has spoken.

/God tells us not to be arrogant. /God tells us to hear and pay attention to God's Word.

/Verse 16. /Give glory to the LORD your God before he brings the darkness, before your feet stumble on the darkening hills. You hope for light, but he will turn it to thick darkness and change it to deep gloom.

/The "darkness" here signifies great disasters. /Great disasters will come in the future. /Therefore, the people are to glorify God before the great disasters come. /We must be prepared in faith when there is light.

/We must prepare the ark of faith before disasters come. /We must prepare our faith. /We must prepare oil and lamp like the five wise virgins. /Ecclesiastes 12:1-2

/Verse 17. /But if you do not listen, I will weep in secret because of your pride; my eyes

will weep bitterly, overflowing with tears, because the LORD's flock will be taken captive.

/Judah did not listen to God, and therefore, they will be destroyed. /Kings and queens will become pitiful and low.

/Verse 20. /Lift up your eyes and see those who are coming from the north. Where is the flock that was entrusted to you, the sheep of which you boasted?

/Babylon would invade from the north. /They would take captive the people of Judah, God's flock. /Allies will become enemies.

/Verse 23. /Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Neither can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil.

/"The Ethiopian" are African peoples. /Their dark skins cannot change. /A leopard's spots cannot change. /In this day, the people of Judah were accustomed to sinning.

/The people of Judah could not do good. /They were changed to be completely sinful people. /Therefore, they needed to wholeheartedly repent and stop sinning. /Then there would be hope.

/Verse 24. /"I will scatter you like chaff driven by the desert wind.

/Those who are accustomed to sinning will eventually be like chaff driven by the desert wind. /Then they will be shamed.

/Verse 27. /your adulteries and lustful neighings, your shameless prostitution! I have seen your detestable acts on the hills and in the fields. Woe to you, O Jerusalem! How long will you be unclean?"

/The people of Judah heard God's warnings but they did not repent. /They continued to commit adultery and serve idols. /Therefore, God said that they would be destroyed as punishment for their sins.

/God said that the people of Judah would repent after a long time passes, and then they would become clean. /The people of Judah would be ruined, then repent and return to God.

/We will continue with chapter 14. /The title of chapter 14 is "The Curse of the Drought." /First, the people call out to the Lord as a result of the drought. /Verses 1-9.

/Second, God does not hear the prayers of those who love to wander. /Verses 10-12. /Third, all who listen to the false prophets will be destroyed. /Verses 13-16. /Fourth, the prophet will cry prayers because of Israel's destruction. /Verses 17-22.

/Read verse 1. /This is the word of the LORD to Jeremiah concerning the drought:

/Now there would be a great drought in Judah. /They would receive a drought as a result of their sins. /All the water will dry up. /There will be no rain on the earth. /The grass will all wither. /Therefore, animals will not live.

/There are many times when people are disciplined of their sins through famine. /The people of Israel encountered a famine in the time of the prophet Elijah. /1 Kings 17-18

/Today's generation faces a famine of God's Word. /Amos 8:11 /Therefore, we must repent and enter the spiritual world. /Then God will pour out his holy blessings upon us.

/Verse 7. /Although our sins testify against us, O LORD, do something for the sake of your name. For our backsliding is great; we have sinned against you.

/Jeremiah repented and prayed to God as a representative of the people of Judah. /We also repent of our sins. /Here, "our" signifies the joint responsibility of prophets for the people's sins.

/Therefore, we must grieve for the church. /We must be responsible for our own selves. /Therefore, Jeremiah repented, "For our backsliding is great; we have sinned against you." Psalm 51:17

/Verse 8. /O Hope of Israel, its Savior in times of distress, why are you like a stranger in the land, like a traveler who stays only a night?

/God is the Hope of Israel and its Savior. /God will surely respond when we cry out to God in the midst of our hardships. /God is Master and Shepherd of Israel.

/However, sometimes it may seem as if God abandoned the Israelites and let them be. /The Lord sometimes did not help the Israelites immediately in times of trouble.

/God did not help immediately and thus, Jeremiah prayed. /The people of Judah were God's people. /Jeremiah prayed that God would not forsake them but have compassion on them. /Jeremiah asked God to save them.

/Verse 10. /This is what the LORD says about this people: "They greatly love to wander; they do not restrain their feet. So the LORD does not accept them; he will now remember their wickedness and punish them for their sins."

/God said that he would punish the people because they loved to wander. /Proverbs 28:9 /Therefore, we must daily obey God's Word. /Then God will hear our prayers.

/If we disobey God's Word, God will not accept any of our offerings. /Therefore, we must not wander, but we must repent and be upright. /Isaiah 58:6

/Verse 13. /But I said, "Ah, Sovereign LORD, the prophets keep telling them, 'You will not see the sword or suffer famine. Indeed, I will give you lasting peace in this place.'"

/The false prophets told the people, "You will not see the sword." /They meant that there would not be a war. /They said that there would not be a famine. /Therefore, Jeremiah grieved over the false prophecies of the false prophets.

/The people of Judah were deceived by false prophets. /Therefore, the true prophet lamented and prayed. /The false prophets deceived the people. /They were the complete opposite of Jeremiah.

/Jeremiah pointed out the sins, rebuked the people and told them to repent. /The false prophets said that everything would be fine. /The false prophets said that there would be peace even if the people sinned. /False prophets only say things that people like to hear.

/False prophets only say things that fill people's greed. /However, true prophets warn people of disasters. /They prophesy about disasters and prepare the people. /28:8 /We must also prepare our faith before disasters come.

/First, true prophets warn people of disasters and prepare them. /Second, they repent of their own sins. /1 Timothy 1:15 /1 Corinthians 15:9 /Third, they proclaim God's Word as it is. /Ezekiel 2:4-7; 3:11, 27 /We must preach the Bible exactly as it is.

/Verse 14. /Then the LORD said to me, "The prophets are prophesying lies in my name. I have not sent them or appointed them or spoken to them. They are prophesying to you false visions, divinations, idolatries and the delusions of their own minds.

/The false prophets were not sent by God. /They prophesied however they wished and with whatever they wanted to say. /23:16 /Their false prophecies were not God's revelation.

/False prophets prophesy however they wish. /"Divinations" are the fortune telling of the false prophets. /Deuteronomy 18:10 /They spoke of idolatries. /They prophesied about false things. /They spoke lies. /They spoke delusion of their own minds. /2 Thessalonians 2:10

/Verse 15. /Therefore, this is what the LORD says about the prophets who are prophesying in my name: I did not send them, yet they are saying, 'No sword or famine will touch this land.' Those same prophets will perish by sword and famine.

/God would judge the false prophets with swords and famine. /This is because they did not properly proclaim God's Word. /God did not send the false prophets, but they prophesied in God's name. /False prophets kill people. /6:14

/Verse 16. /And the people they are prophesying to will be thrown out into the streets of Jerusalem because of the famine and sword. There will be no one to bury them or their



wives, their sons or their daughters. I will pour out on them the calamity they deserve.

/The people who hear the prophecies of the false prophets will be destroyed by God's sword and famine. /God will judge both the false prophets and those who followed their prophecies. /Isaiah 9:16

/Both false prophets and those who follow them will be destroyed. /Therefore, believers must not be deceived by wrong things, and we must follow the truth. /We must correctly discern the truth. /2 Timothy 3:7 /We must lead many people to the truth. /Daniel 12:3

/Verse 17. /"Speak this word to them: "Let my eyes overflow with tears night and day without ceasing; for my virgin daughter-- my people-- has suffered a grievous wound, a crushing blow.

/Jeremiah grieved and cried for the people of Judah. /He cried because God's people were to be destroyed because they were deceived by false prophets. /Jeremiah grieved in his heart and shed tears night and day. /Luke 23:28

/Verse 19. /Have you rejected Judah completely? Do you despise Zion? Why have you afflicted us so that we cannot be healed? We hoped for peace but no good has come, for a time of healing but there is only terror.

/From verse 19, Jeremiah prays for the people of Judah. /Jeremiah loved and prayed for the people of Judah as if they were his own.

/Verse 20. /O LORD, we acknowledge our wickedness and the guilt of our fathers; we have indeed sinned against you.

/Jeremiah acknowledged the sins of their fathers in place of the people and repented. /Jeremiah prayed while waiting for God's mercy. /Proverbs 28:13

/Verse 21. /For the sake of your name do not despise us; do not dishonor your glorious throne. Remember your covenant with us and do not break it.

/Jeremiah prayed that God would have mercy on the people of Judah for the sake of the Lord's name.

/Verse 22. /Do any of the worthless idols of the nations bring rain? Do the skies themselves send down showers? No, it is you, O LORD our God. Therefore our hope is in you, for you are the one who does all this.

/“The worthless idols of the nations” are idols. /No matter how great or numerous idols are, they cannot bring rain. /Idols cannot nature and the weather. /Our Creator Lord God is the only one who can give true blessings.

/Believers must desire God. /Then God will pour out his abundant grace on us.

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