

An Object Lesson from a Broken Clay Jar

Jeremiah 19:1-15

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Text:

Jeremiah 19:1-15,

- 1. The Lord told Jeremiah, "Go and buy a clay jar from a potter. Take with you some of the leaders of the people and some of the leaders of the priests.**
- 2. Go out to the part of the Hinnom Valley which is near the entrance of the Potsherd Gate. Announce there what I tell you.**
- 3. Say, 'Listen to what the Lord says, you kings of Judah and citizens of Jerusalem! The Lord God of Israel who rules over all says, "I will bring a disaster on this place that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it ring!**
- 4. I will do so because these people have rejected me and have defiled this place. They have offered sacrifices in it to other gods which neither they nor their ancestors nor the kings of Judah knew anything about. They have filled it with the blood of innocent children.**
- 5. They have built places here for worship of the god Baal so that they could sacrifice their children as burnt offerings to him in the fire. Such sacrifices are something I never commanded them to make! They are something I never told them to do! Indeed, such a thing never even entered my mind!**
- 6. So I, the Lord, say: "The time will soon come that people will no longer call this place Topheth or the Hinnom Valley. But they will call this valley the Valley of Slaughter!**

7. In this place I will thwart the plans of the people of Judah and Jerusalem. I will deliver them over to the power of their enemies who are seeking to kill them. They will die by the sword at the hands of their enemies. I will make their dead bodies food for the birds and wild beasts to eat.

8. I will make this city an object of horror, a thing to be hissed at. All who pass by it will be filled with horror and will hiss out their scorn because of all the disasters that have happened to it.

9. I will reduce the people of this city to desperate straits during the siege imposed on it by their enemies who are seeking to kill them. I will make them so desperate that they will eat the flesh of their own sons and daughters and the flesh of one another.'""

10. The Lord continued, "Now break the jar in front of those who have come here with you.

11. Tell them the Lord who rules over all says, 'I will do just as Jeremiah has done. I will smash this nation and this city as though it were a potter's vessel which is broken beyond repair. The dead will be buried here in Topheth until there is no more room to bury them.'

12. I, the Lord, say: 'That is how I will deal with this city and its citizens. I will make it like Topheth.

13. The houses in Jerusalem and the houses of the kings of Judah will be defiled by dead bodies just like this place, Topheth. For they offered sacrifice to the stars and poured out drink offerings to other gods on the roofs of those houses.'"

14. Then Jeremiah left Topheth where the Lord had sent him to give that prophecy. He went to the Lord's temple and stood in its courtyard and called out to all the people.

15. "The Lord God of Israel who rules over all says, 'I will soon bring on this city and all the towns surrounding it all the disaster I threatened to do to it. I will do so because they have stubbornly refused to pay any attention to what I have said!'" (NET)

Introduction:

I. This chapter strongly emphasizes that God spoke and Jeremiah obeyed, an essential lesson for us all!

A. "The Lord told Jeremiah, . . ." (verse 1)

B. "Announce there what I tell you. Say, . . ." (verses 2-3)

C. "So I, the Lord, say: . . ." (verse 6)

D. "The Lord continued, . . ." (verse 10)

E. "Tell them the Lord who rules over all says, . . ." (verse 11)

F. "I, the Lord, say: . . ." (verse 12)

G. "The Lord God of Israel who rules over all says, . . ." (verse 15)

II. However, Judah and Jerusalem refused to comply with God's commands and were horribly destroyed, another essential lesson for us all!

Commentary:

Jeremiah 19:1, The Lord told Jeremiah, "Go and buy a clay jar from a potter. Take with you some of the leaders of the people and some of the leaders of the priests. (NET)

I. The Lord told Jeremiah, . . .

A. "This discourse was also delivered some time during the reign of Jehoiakim," Clarke wrote.

II. "Go and buy a clay *jar from a potter.

A. *NET footnote: Referring to clay that has been baked or fired in a kiln.

B. Coffman lists the following other action based messages in the book of Jeremiah:

1. Marred Girdle (chapter 13)
2. Abstinence from Marriage (chapter 16)
3. Potter's Clay (chapter 18)
4. Bonds and Bars (chapter 27)
5. Buying a Field (chapter 32)

C. The common pottery of that day was both inexpensive and brittle. (The Pulpit Commentary)

1. Isaiah 30:14, It shatters in pieces like a clay jar, so shattered to bits that none of it can be salvaged. Among its fragments one cannot find a shard large enough to scoop a hot coal from a fire or to skim off water from a cistern.” (NET)

III. Take with you some of the *leaders of the people and some of the leaders of the priests.

A. NET footnote: Hebrew elders (twice in this verse)

B. These leaders of the people and the leaders of the priests went with Jeremiah to the Hinnom Valley where Jeremiah presented God’s message to them.

C. Clarke suggested the “leaders of the priests” were the chiefs of the twenty-four classes which David had established.

1. 1 Chronicles 24:4, The descendants of Eleazar had more leaders than the descendants of Ithamar, so they divided them up accordingly; the descendants of Eleazar had sixteen leaders, while the descendants of Ithamar had eight. (NET)

2. 2 Kings 19:2, He sent Eliakim the palace supervisor, Shebna the scribe, and the leading priests, clothed in sackcloth, with this message to the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz: (NET)

D. The leaders, elders, ancients were the natural and popular representatives of the people.

1. Exodus 3:16, "Go and bring together the elders of Israel and tell them, 'The Lord, the God of your fathers, appeared to me—the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—saying, "I have attended carefully to you and to what has been done to you in Egypt, (NET)

2. 2 Samuel 19:11, Then King David sent a message to Zadok and Abiathar the priests saying, "Tell the elders of Judah, 'Why should you delay any further in bringing the king back to his palace, when everything Israel is saying has come to the king's attention. (NET)

3. 1 Kings 8:1, Then Solomon convened in Jerusalem Israel's elders, all the leaders of the Israelite tribes and families, so they could witness the transferal of the ark of the Lord's covenant from the City of David (that is, Zion). (NET)

4. 1 Kings 20:7, The king of Israel summoned all the leaders of the land and said, "Notice how this man is looking for trouble. Indeed, he demanded my wives, sons, silver, and gold, and I did not resist him." (NET)

Jeremiah 19:2, Go out to the part of the Hinnom Valley which is near the entrance of the Potsherd Gate. Announce there what I tell you. (NET)

I. Go out to the part of the Hinnon Valley which is near the entrance of the *Potsherd Gate.

A. NET footnote: identification and location uncertain; some see it as referring to the Dung Gate.

1. Nehemiah 2:13, I proceeded through the Valley Gate by night, in the direction of the Well of the Dragons and the Dung Gate, inspecting the walls of Jerusalem that had been breached and its gates that had been destroyed by fire. (NET)

2. Nehemiah 3:13-14, Hanun and the residents of Zanoah worked on the Valley Gate. They rebuilt it and positioned its doors, its bolts, and its bars, in addition to working on fifteen hundred feet of the wall as far as the Dung Gate. Malkijah son of Recab, head of the district of Beth Hakkerem, worked on the Dung Gate. He rebuilt it and positioned its doors, its bolts, and its bars. (NET)

3. Nehemiah 12:31, I brought the leaders of Judah up on top of the wall, and I appointed two large choirs to give thanks. One was to proceed on the top of the wall southward toward the Dung Gate. (NET)

4. 2 Kings 23:10, The king ruined Topheth in the Valley of Ben Hinnom so that no one could pass his son or his daughter through the fire to Molech. (NET)

5. "Two gates led to the valley of the son of Hinnom, the Fountain Gate at the SE corner and the Dung Gate at the SW corner of Zion." (Coffman)

B. Hamilton noted that the Hinnom Valley was on the southern border of Jerusalem, the valley being a garbage, refuse dump.

1. Jeremiah 7:31-32, They have also built places of worship in a place called Topheth in the Valley of Ben Hinnom so that they can sacrifice their sons and daughters by fire. That is something I never commanded them to do! Indeed, it never even entered my mind to command such a thing! So, watch out!" says the Lord. "The time will soon come when people will no longer call those places Topheth or the Valley of Ben Hinnom. But they will call that valley the Valley of Slaughter and they will bury so many people in Topheth they will run out of room. (NET)

2. It was there that people sacrificed infants to Molech.

a. Molech was the national god of the Ammonites. Moloch is the Greek spelling of this name.

3. As broken pottery would be dumped there, the gate was properly called the Potsherd Gate.

a. Jeremiah 7:29-34, So, mourn, you people of this nation. Cut off your hair and throw it away. Sing a song of mourning on the hilltops. For the Lord has decided to reject

and forsake this generation that has provoked his wrath!” The Lord says, “I have rejected them because the people of Judah have done what I consider evil. They have set up their disgusting idols in the temple which I have claimed for my own and have defiled it. They have also built places of worship in a place called Topheth in the Valley of Ben Hinnom so that they can sacrifice their sons and daughters by fire. That is something I never commanded them to do! Indeed, it never even entered my mind to command such a thing! So, watch out!” says the Lord. “The time will soon come when people will no longer call those places Topheth or the Valley of Ben Hinnom. But they will call that valley the Valley of Slaughter and they will bury so many people in Topheth they will run out of room. Then the dead bodies of these people will be left on the ground for the birds and wild animals to eat. There will not be any survivors to scare them away. I will put an end to the sounds of joy and gladness, or the glad celebration of brides and grooms throughout the towns of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem. For the whole land will become a desolate wasteland.” (NET)

C. “The fires of burning refuse in the Valley of Hinnon that never ceased were later associated with depictions of Hell or Hades.” (Willis)

1. The Valley of Hinnom is referenced in the New Testament as Gehenna.

a. Matthew 5:22, 29, 30, But I say to you that anyone who is angry with a brother will be subjected to judgment. And whoever insults a brother will be brought before the council, and whoever says 'Fool' will be sent to fiery hell. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away! It is better to lose one of your members than to have your whole body thrown into hell. 30 If your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away! It is better to lose one of your members than to have your whole body go into hell. (NET)

b. Matthew 10:28, Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Instead, fear the one who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. (NET)

c. Matthew 18:9, And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into fiery hell. (NET)

d. Matthew 23:15, 33, "Woe to you, experts in the law and you Pharisees, hypocrites! You cross land and sea to make one convert, and when you get one, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves! You

snakes, you offspring of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell? (NET)

e. Mark 9:43, 45, 47, If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off! It is better for you to enter into life crippled than to have two hands and go into hell, to the unquenchable fire. If your foot causes you to sin, cut it off! It is better to enter life lame than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. If your eye causes you to sin, tear it out! It is better to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, (NET)

f. Luke 12:5, But I will warn you whom you should fear: Fear the one who, after the killing, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him! (NET)

g. James 3:6, And the tongue is a fire! The tongue represents the world of wrongdoing among the parts of our bodies. It pollutes the entire body and sets fire to the course of human existence—and is set on fire by hell. (NET)

h. 2 Peter 2:4, For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but threw them into hell and locked them up in chains in utter darkness, to be kept until the judgment, (NET)

2. The potter's field in which Judas Iscariot was buried was located just a little southwest of the Valley of Ben (the son of) Hinnom. (See Coffman.)

a. The Valley of Hinnom was a horrible place where garbage and the bodies of dead criminals were incinerated, where Molech was worshiped and where in worship to this idol, children were sacrificed. (See Coffman.)

II. Announce there what I tell you.

A. Jeremiah was directed to make these announcements there, in the Valley Of Hinnom near the Potsherd (East, Sun, Dung) Gate.

Jeremiah 19:3, Say, 'Listen to what the Lord says, you kings of Judah and citizens of Jerusalem! The Lord God of Israel who rules over all says, "I will bring a disaster on this place that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it ring! (NET)

I. Say, 'Listen to what the Lord says, you kings of Judah and citizens of Jerusalem!

A. Jeremiah delivered this powerful, well illustrated message of destruction to the leaders of Jerusalem.

1. They strongly disagreed with Jeremiah's message and persecuted him because of it.

2. Coffman wrote that this message was directed to the entire dynasty responsible for Israel's apostasy.

II. The Lord God of Israel who rules over all says, . . .

A. The Lord God was ruler over Judah's kings.

1. Jeremiah 17:20, As you stand in those places announce, 'Listen, all you people who pass through these gates. Listen, all you kings of Judah, all you people of Judah and all you citizens of Jerusalem. Listen to what the Lord says. (NET)

III. "I will bring a disaster on this place that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it ring!

A. The disaster which would befall Jerusalem was horrible, so much so that it would cause the ears of the people who heard about this coming destruction to ring, a condition known as tinnitus.

B. References to ears tingling (ringing) are found in only two other references in the Old Testament.

1. 1 Samuel 3:11, The Lord said to Samuel, "Look! I am about to do something in Israel; when anyone hears about it, both of his ears will tingle. (NET)

2. 2 Kings 21:12, So this is what the Lord God of Israel says, 'I am about to bring disaster on Jerusalem and Judah. The news will reverberate in the ears of those who hear about it. (NET)

3. This may reference such a loud, sudden noise it causes the ears to ring.

a. The destruction of Jerusalem was such “a loud, sudden noise.” (See Coffman.)

Jeremiah 19:4, I will do so because these people have rejected me and have defiled this place. They have offered sacrifices in it to other gods which neither they nor their ancestors nor the kings of Judah knew anything about. They have filled it with the blood of innocent children. (NET)

I. I will do so because these people have rejected me and have defiled this place.

A. The sins of the people of Jerusalem included:

1. forsaking the Lord, . . .
2. worshiping foreign gods, . . .
3. burning sacrifices to idols, . . .
4. sacrificing children to idols.
5. building the high places of Baal.

B. Related references:

1. Jeremiah 17:3, and on the mountains and in the fields. I will give your wealth and all your treasures away as plunder. I will give it away as

the price for the sins you have committed throughout your land. (NET)

2. Jeremiah 7:31-32, They have also built places of worship in a place called Topheth in the Valley of Ben Hinnom so that they can sacrifice their sons and daughters by fire. That is something I never commanded them to do! Indeed, it never even entered my mind to command such a thing! So, watch out!" says the Lord. "The time will soon come when people will no longer call those places Topheth or the Valley of Ben Hinnom. But they will call that valley the Valley of Slaughter and they will bury so many people in Topheth they will run out of room. (NET)

3. Jeremiah 7:6, 31-32, Stop oppressing foreigners who live in your land, children who have lost their fathers, and women who have lost their husbands. Stop killing innocent people in this land. Stop paying allegiance to other gods. That will only bring about your ruin. They have also built places of worship in a place called Topheth in the Valley of Ben Hinnom so that they can sacrifice their sons and daughters by fire. That is something I never commanded them to do! Indeed, it never even entered my mind to command such a thing! So, watch out!" says the Lord. "The time will soon come when people will no longer call those places Topheth or the Valley of Ben Hinnom. But they will call that valley the Valley of Slaughter and they will bury so many

people in Topheth they will run out of room. (NET)

4. Psalm 106:38, They shed innocent blood—the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan. The land was polluted by bloodshed. (NET)

5. 2 Kings 21:16, Furthermore Manasseh killed so many innocent people, he stained Jerusalem with their blood from end to end, in addition to encouraging Judah to sin by doing evil in the sight of the Lord. (NET)

6. 2 Kings 24:4, Because he killed innocent people and stained Jerusalem with their blood, the Lord was unwilling to forgive them. (NET)

7. Jeremiah 26:15, But you should take careful note of this: If you put me to death, you will bring on yourselves and this city and those who live in it the guilt of murdering an innocent man. For the Lord has sent me to speak all this where you can hear it. That is the truth!” (NET)

C. These leaders had not only grievously sinned. They also filled the city with innocent blood. (See Willis.)

1. 2 Kings 21:16, Furthermore Manasseh killed so many innocent people, he stained Jerusalem with their blood from end to end, in addition to encouraging Judah to sin by doing evil in the sight of the Lord. (NET)

2. 2 Kings 24:4, Because he killed innocent people and stained Jerusalem with their blood, the Lord was unwilling to forgive them. (NET)

3. Psalm 106:38, They shed innocent blood— the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan. The land was polluted by bloodshed. (NET)

4. Jeremiah 16:18, Before I restore them I will punish them in full for their sins and the wrongs they have done. For they have polluted my land with the lifeless statues of their disgusting idols. They have filled the land I have claimed as my own with their detestable idols.” (NET)

II. They have offered sacrifices in it to other gods which neither they nor their ancestors nor the kings of Judah knew anything about.

A. Coffman wrote, “This means that the sins of the people had completely alienated Jerusalem from God’s approval.”

III. They have filled it with the blood of innocent *children.

A. NET footnote: Hebrew – innocent ones (a reference to child sacrifice, as indicated in the next verse).

B. Coffman wrote that this refers “to the senseless murder of innocent people by Manasseh.”

1. 2 Kings 21:16, Furthermore Manasseh killed so many innocent people, he stained Jerusalem with their blood from end to end, in addition to encouraging Judah to sin by doing evil in the sight of the Lord. (NET)

Jeremiah 19:5, They have built places here for worship of the god Baal so that they could sacrifice their children as burnt offerings to him in the fire. Such sacrifices are something I never commanded them to make! They are something I never told them to do! Indeed, such a thing never even entered my mind! (NET)

I. They have built places here for worship of the god Baal so that they could sacrifice their children as burnt offerings to him in the fire.

A. Coffman wrote that this verse refers to the sacrifice of children to Molech, which it clearly does.

1. Molech was the particular Baal in question here. (See Coffman.)

a. Jeremiah 2:8, Your priests did not ask, 'Where is the Lord?' Those responsible for teaching my law did not really know me. Your rulers rebelled against me. Your prophets prophesied in the name of the god Baal. They all worshiped idols that could not help them. (NET)

2. Clarke wrote that “Baal” was a general name for all the popular idols such as Baal, Moloch, Ashtaroth, etc. al.

B. Judah’s sins included idolatry, judicial murder of the innocents, and burning their own children as sacrifices to Molech. (See Coffman.)

II. Such sacrifices are something I never commanded them to make! They are something I never told them to do!

A. The people of Judah were to do everything in worship exactly as God commanded, nothing more, nothing less.

1. Any deviation from the commands from God was abominable. (See Coffman.)

II. Indeed, such a thing never even entered my mind!

A. These sins were so horrible they didn’t even enter God’s mind.

1. Jeremiah 7:31, They have also built places of worship in a place called Topheth in the Valley of Ben Hinnom so that they can sacrifice their sons and daughters by fire. That is something I never commanded them to do! Indeed, it never even entered my mind to command such a thing! (NET)

2. Jeremiah 32:35, They built places of worship for the god Baal in the Valley of Ben Hinnom so that they could sacrifice their sons and

daughters to the god Molech. Such a disgusting practice was not something I commanded them to do! It never even entered my mind to command them to do such a thing! So Judah is certainly liable for punishment.’ (NET)

Jeremiah 19:6, So I, the Lord, say: “The time will soon come that people will no longer call this place Topheth or the Hinnom Valley. But they will call this valley the Valley of Slaughter! (NET)

I. So I, the Lord, say: . . .

A. Never forget that we are to hear and do what the Lord says, all of what he says.

II. “The time will soon come that people will no longer call this place Topheth or the Hinnom Valley.

A. Topheth (Aramaic) (fireplace) and the Valley of Ben Hinnom would become known as the Valley of Slaughter. (Smith)

1. Jeremiah 7:31-32, They have also built places of worship in a place called Topheth in the Valley of Ben Hinnom so that they can sacrifice their sons and daughters by fire. That is something I never commanded them to do! Indeed, it never even entered my mind to command such a thing! So, watch out!” says the Lord. “The time will soon come when people will no longer call those places Topheth or the Valley of Ben Hinnom. But they will call that valley the Valley of Slaughter

and they will bury so many people in Topheth they will run out of room. (NET)

III. But they will call this valley the Valley of Slaughter!

A. Coffman observed that it was in this very valley the Chaldean/Babylonian army encamped having come to destroy Jerusalem. (Jamieson, Fausett, and Brown via Coffman)

Jeremiah 19:7, In this place I will thwart the plans of the people of Judah and Jerusalem. I will deliver them over to the power of their enemies who are seeking to kill them. They will die by the sword at the hands of their enemies. I will make their dead bodies food for the birds and wild beasts to eat. (NET)

I. In this place I will thwart the plans of the people of Judah and Jerusalem.

A. Smith observed that the people of Jerusalem believed they should resist Babylon and that God would enable them to achieve victory over the Babylonians.

1. However, in fact, the people of Jerusalem would be slaughtered by sword, pestilence and famine.
2. Dead bodies would lie around everywhere to be eaten by birds and wild beasts.
3. Famine would get so bad the citizens of Jerusalem would resort to cannibalism. (Smith)

4. The “plans” of verse 7 probably refers to some determination made by the people of Judah and Jerusalem to proclaim themselves independent and to pay no more tribute to the Chaldeans.” (Clarke)

5. God would “thwart” the plans of the people of Judah and Jerusalem.

a. “Thwart,” literally, “I will pour out,” alluding to the pottery jar. (The Pulpit Commentary.)

II. I will deliver them over to the power of their enemies who are seeking to kill them. They will die by the sword at the hands of their enemies.

A. God had given these sinful people every opportunity to repent, but they stubbornly refused to return to God.

1. Therefore, God would deliver them over to the power of their enemies who would kill them by the sword!

2. Jeremiah 18:16, So their land will become an object of horror. People will forever hiss out their scorn over it. All who pass that way will be filled with horror and will shake their heads in derision. (NET)

III. I will make their dead bodies food for the birds and wild beasts to eat.

A. Jeremiah 7:33, Then the dead bodies of these people will be left on the ground for the birds and

wild animals to eat. There will not be any survivors to scare them away. (NET)

B. This was repulsive to the ancient Jewish mind and continues to be repulsive to us.

Jeremiah 19:8, I will make this city an object of horror, a thing to be hissed at. All who pass by it will be filled with horror and will hiss out their scorn because of all the disasters that have happened to it. (NET)

I. I will make this city an object of horror, a thing to be hissed at. All who pass by it will be filled with horror and will hiss out their scorn because of all the disasters that have happened to it.

A. This warning is almost a verbatim quotation from Deuteronomy 28:53 stating what would happen to Israel should they sinfully rebel against God.

1. Deuteronomy 28:53, You will then eat your own offspring, the flesh of the sons and daughters the Lord your God has given you, because of the severity of the siege by which your enemies will constrict you. (NET)

2. Lamentations 2:20, Look, O Lord! Consider! Whom have you ever afflicted like this? Should women eat their offspring, their healthy infants? Should priest and prophet be killed in the Lord's sanctuary? (NET)

3. Lamentations 4:10, The hands of tender-hearted women cooked their own children, who

became their food, when my people were destroyed. (NET)

4. 2 Kings 6:28-29, Then the king asked her, "What's your problem?" She answered, "This woman said to me, 'Hand over your son; we'll eat him today and then eat my son tomorrow.' So we boiled my son and ate him. Then I said to her the next day, 'Hand over your son and we'll eat him.' But she hid her son!" (NET)

5. Judah had sinned grievously against God and would soon be destroyed.

6. In fact, the nation was destroyed three times; viz., .
..

a. Northern Kingdom in 722 B.C. by the Assyrians.

b. Southern Kingdom in 486 B.C. by the Babylonians.

c. Jerusalem in 70 A.D. by the Romans.

Jeremiah 19:9, I will reduce the people of this city to desperate straits during the siege imposed on it by their enemies who are seeking to kill them. I will make them so desperate that they will eat the flesh of their own sons and daughters and the flesh of one another.""" (NET)

I. I will reduce the people of this city to desperate straits during the siege imposed on it by their enemies who are seeking to kill them.

A. Related References:

1. Deuteronomy 28:53, You will then eat your own offspring, the flesh of the sons and daughters the Lord your God has given you, because of the severity of the siege by which your enemies will constrict you. (NET)

2. Leviticus 26:29, You will eat the flesh of your sons and the flesh of your daughters. (NET)

3. Ezekiel 5:10, Therefore fathers will eat their sons within you, Jerusalem, and sons will eat their fathers. I will execute judgments on you, and I will scatter any survivors to the winds. (NET)

4. Lamentations 4:10, The hands of tenderhearted women cooked their own children, who became their food, when my people were destroyed. (NET)

II. I will make them so desperate that they will eat the flesh of their own sons and daughters and the flesh of one another.”

A. The conditions would be so bad the starving people would resort to cannibalism. (See Hamilton.)

1. Deuteronomy 28:53-57, You will then eat your own offspring, the flesh of the sons and daughters the Lord your God has given you, because of the severity of the siege by which

your enemies will constrict you. The man among you who is by nature tender and sensitive will turn against his brother, his beloved wife, and his remaining children. He will withhold from all of them his children's flesh that he is eating (since there is nothing else left), because of the severity of the siege by which your enemy will constrict you in your villages. Likewise, the most tender and delicate of your women, who would never think of putting even the sole of her foot on the ground because of her daintiness, will turn against her beloved husband, her sons and daughters, and will secretly eat her afterbirth and her newborn children (since she has nothing else), because of the severity of the siege by which your enemy will constrict you in your villages. (NET)

2. Lamentations 4:10, The hands of tenderhearted women cooked their own children, who became their food, when my people were destroyed. (NET)

3. Leviticus 26:27-29, "If in spite of this you do not obey me but walk in hostility against me, I will walk in hostile rage against you and I myself will also discipline you seven times on account of your sins. You will eat the flesh of your sons and the flesh of your daughters. (NET)

4. Deuteronomy 28:55-57, He will withhold from all of them his children's flesh that he is eating (since there is nothing else left), because of the

severity of the siege by which your enemy will constrict you in your villages. Likewise, the most tender and delicate of your women, who would never think of putting even the sole of her foot on the ground because of her daintiness, will turn against her beloved husband, her sons and daughters, and will secretly eat her afterbirth and her newborn children (since she has nothing else), because of the severity of the siege by which your enemy will constrict you in your villages. (NET)

5. 2 Kings 6:26-31, While the king of Israel was passing by on the city wall, a woman shouted to him, "Help us, my master, O king!" He replied, "No, let the Lord help you. How can I help you? The threshing floor and winepress are empty." Then the king asked her, "What's your problem?" She answered, "This woman said to me, 'Hand over your son; we'll eat him today and then eat my son tomorrow.' So we boiled my son and ate him. Then I said to her the next day, 'Hand over your son and we'll eat him.' But she hid her son!" When the king heard what the woman said, he tore his clothes. As he was passing by on the wall, the people could see he was wearing sackcloth under his clothes. Then he said, "May God judge me severely if Elisha son of Shaphat still has his head by the end of the day!" (NET)

B. Not only did this happen during the Babylonian conquest. It also occurred in A.D. 70 when Jerusalem was besieged by the Romans. (See Clarke.)

Jeremiah 19:10, The Lord continued, “Now break the jar in front of those who have come here with you. (NET)

I. The Lord continued, . . .

A. We must listen to all, everything God has said!

1. Obeying part of what God says is definitely not sufficient!

II. “Now break the jar in front of those who have come here with you.

A. Jeremiah was to smash the jar in front of the people who had accompanied him to this location.

1. This was to represent God’s smashing, destroying Judah and Jerusalem and the people living there by the Babylonians.

a. The jar was broken intentionally.

b. The destruction of Jerusalem was also purposeful, a determined result of their sinfulness.

2. Smith explained, “This symbolic act dramatized the prediction that the people of Judah and Jerusalem would be smashed like an irreparable vessel.

3. There was no longer any hope that Jerusalem would be spared.

- a. Like the potter's jar, Jerusalem would be smashed, broken destroyed!
- b. The jar was empty and Judah-Jerusalem were devoid of any righteousness.

Jeremiah 19:11, Tell them the Lord who rules over all says, 'I will do just as Jeremiah has done. I will smash this nation and this city as though it were a potter's vessel which is broken beyond repair. The dead will be buried here in Topheth until there is no more room to bury them.' (NET)

I. Tell them the Lord who rules over all says, . . .

A. Exactly what God says must be proclaimed!

- 1. God rules over all and his word must be proclaimed to all, rich and poor, kings and ordinary people!

II. 'I will do just as Jeremiah has done. I will smash this nation and this city as though it were a potter's vessel which is broken beyond repair.

A. Just as Jeremiah smashed the pottery, God would smash Judah and Jerusalem.

- 1. The smashing of the pottery jar represented God's smashing Jerusalem. (See Clarke.)

a. Isaiah 30:14, It shatters in pieces like a clay jar, so shattered to bits that none of it can be salvaged. Among its fragments one

cannot find a shard large enough to scoop a hot coal from a fire or to skim off water from a cistern.” (NET)

2. The potter’s vessel was broken into so many pieces it could not be repaired.

a. The same was true of destroyed Jerusalem.

b. No human or group of humans could put it together again.

c. Of course, God could restore Jerusalem if and when it became his will to do so.

i. It became his will to do so following the seventy year Babylonian captivity when the captives had duly repented and rededicated themselves to the Lord’s service and righteousness.

III. The dead will be buried here in Topheth until there is no more room to bury them.’

A. Topheth in the Valley of Ben Hinmom would become a graveyard.

1. In fact, the whole city of Jerusalem would become a graveyard.

2. Jeremiah 7:32, So, watch out!” says the Lord. “The time will soon come when people will no longer call those places Topheth or the Valley of

Ben Hinnom. But they will call that valley the Valley of Slaughter and they will bury so many people in Topheth they will run out of room. (NET)

B. Things would become so bad, Topheth, the city dump, would overflow with dead bodies.

1. Dead bodies would overflow to the point that the entire city of Jerusalem would become a Topheth, a firepit for rubbish.

a. Jeremiah 7:30-33, The Lord says, "I have rejected them because the people of Judah have done what I consider evil. They have set up their disgusting idols in the temple which I have claimed for my own and have defiled it. They have also built places of worship in a place called Topheth in the Valley of Ben Hinnom so that they can sacrifice their sons and daughters by fire. That is something I never commanded them to do! Indeed, it never even entered my mind to command such a thing! So, watch out!" says the Lord. "The time will soon come when people will no longer call those places Topheth or the Valley of Ben Hinnom. But they will call that valley the Valley of Slaughter and they will bury so many people in Topheth they will run out of room. Then the dead bodies of these people will be left on the ground for the birds and wild animals

to eat. There will not be any survivors to scare them away. (NET)

b. 2 Kings 23:10-12, The king ruined Topheth in the Valley of Ben Hinnom so that no one could pass his son or his daughter through the fire to Molech. He removed from the entrance to the Lord's temple the statues of horses that the kings of Judah had placed there in honor of the sun god. (They were kept near the room of Nathan Melech the eunuch, which was situated among the courtyards.) He burned up the chariots devoted to the sun god. The king tore down the altars the kings of Judah had set up on the roof of Ahaz's upper room, as well as the altars Manasseh had set up in the two courtyards of the Lord's temple. He crushed them up and threw the dust in the Kidron Valley. (NET)

c. Isaiah 30:33, For the burial place is already prepared; it has been made deep and wide for the king. The firewood is piled high on it. The Lord's breath, like a stream flowing with brimstone, will ignite it. (NET)

d. Jeremiah 32:29, The Babylonian soldiers that are attacking this city will break into it and set it on fire. They will burn it down along with the houses where people have made me angry by offering sacrifices to the

god Baal and by pouring out drink offerings to other gods on their rooftops. (NET)

e. Zephaniah 1:5, I will remove those who worship the stars in the sky from their rooftops, those who swear allegiance to the Lord while taking oaths in the name of their 'king,' (NET)

Jeremiah 19:12, I, the Lord, say: 'That is how I will deal with this city and its citizens. I will make it like Topheth. (NET)

I. I, the Lord, say:

A. The fact that it was the Lord who had said these things was repeatedly emphasized.

B. Be sure of the source of what you believe, that it is what the Lord has said!

II. 'That is how I will deal with this city and its citizens.

A. The false prophets had predicted that all would be well with Jerusalem.

B. God told it like it was to be and Jeremiah delivered this message to the people.

III. I will make it like Topheth.

A. God would make Jerusalem like Topheth, "a place of slaughter and destruction." (See Clarke.)

Jeremiah 19:13, The houses in Jerusalem and the houses of the kings of Judah will be defiled by dead bodies just like this place, Topheth. For they offered sacrifice to the stars and poured out drink offerings to other gods on the roofs of those houses.'" (NET)

I. The houses in Jerusalem and the houses of the kings of Judah will be defiled by dead bodies just like this place, Topheth.

A. NET footnote: Hebrew – the host of heaven (including the sun, moon, planets, and stars, all of which were objects of worship in ancient Near Eastern cultures).

B. "The rooftops were apparently the normal places for the worship of astral deities such as Astarte." (Harrison via Coffman)

1. The houses in Jerusalem were destroyed.

C. Ahaz and Manasseh introduced the pagan astral cults to Judah..

1. 2 Kings 21:5, In the two courtyards of the Lord's temple he built altars for all the stars in the sky. (NET)

2. 2 Kings 23:12, The king tore down the altars the kings of Judah had set up on the roof of Ahaz's upper room, as well as the altars Manasseh had set up in the two courtyards of the Lord's temple. He crushed them up and threw the dust in the Kidron Valley. (NET)

D. The Pulpit Commentary explained “the houses of the kings of Judah” referred to the palaces and other buildings.”

1. Jeremiah 22:6, “For the Lord says concerning the palace of the king of Judah, “This place looks like a veritable forest of Gilead to me. It is like the wooded heights of Lebanon in my eyes. But I swear that I will make it like a wilderness whose towns have all been deserted. (NET)”

E. All the houses of Jerusalem would be utterly destroyed, made horrible just like Topheth.

II. For they offered sacrifice to the stars and poured out drink offerings to other gods on the roofs of those houses.”

A. The roots of the houses in Jerusalem had been used as the places astral deities and idols in general had been worshiped. (The Pulpit Commentary)

1. These houses were certainly to be destroyed.

Jeremiah 19:14, Then Jeremiah left Topheth where the Lord had sent him to give that prophecy. He went to the Lord’s temple and stood in its courtyard and called out to all the people. (NET)

I. Then Jeremiah left Topheth where the Lord had sent him to give that prophecy.

A. At this time, Jeremiah returned to the temple in Jerusalem and addressed the general population there.

B. Coffman wrote, "This (verses 14-15) was probably only a summary of what Jeremiah said in the court of the temple because (Pashhur, the chief officer of the temple, was greatly irritated and angered by it as comes to light in the next chapter."

1. Barnes via Coffman wrote, "These verses (14-15) should have been joined to the next chapter."
2. The Pulpit Commentary reads, "Here begins a fresh section of the narrative."

II. He went to the Lord's temple and stood in its courtyard and called out to all the people.

A. From the Valley of (Ben) Hinnom, the Valley of Slaughter, Tophet, Jeremiah went to the Lord's Temple and, as directed, repeated his message from there.

Jeremiah 19:15, "The Lord God of Israel who rules over all says, 'I will soon bring on this city and all the towns surrounding it all the disaster I threatened to do to it. I will do so because they have stubbornly refused to pay any attention to what I have said!'" (NET)

I. "The Lord God of Israel who rules over all says, . . .

A. Willis suggested these remarks by Jeremiah build off the Temple sermon in Jeremiah 7 which was delivered during the first half of the reign of Jehoiakim (c. 607 B.C.).

1. Jeremiah 7:1-34, The Lord said to Jeremiah: "Stand in the gate of the Lord's temple and proclaim this message: 'Listen, all you people of Judah who have passed through these gates to worship the Lord. Hear what the Lord has to say. The Lord God of Israel who rules over all says: Change the way you have been living and do what is right. If you do, I will allow you to continue to live in this land. Stop putting your confidence in the false belief that says, "We are safe! The temple of the Lord is here! The temple of the Lord is here! The temple of the Lord is here!" You must change the way you have been living and do what is right. You must treat one another fairly. Stop oppressing foreigners who live in your land, children who have lost their fathers, and women who have lost their husbands. Stop killing innocent people in this land. Stop paying allegiance to other gods. That will only bring about your ruin. If you stop doing these things, I will allow you to continue to live in this land which I gave to your ancestors as a lasting possession. "But just look at you! You are putting your confidence in a false belief that will not deliver you. You steal. You murder. You commit adultery. You lie when you swear on oath. You sacrifice to the god Baal. You pay allegiance to other gods whom you have not previously known. Then you come and stand in my presence in this temple I have claimed as my own and say, "We are safe!" You think you are so safe that you go on doing all those hateful sins! Do you think this temple I have claimed as my

own is to be a hideout for robbers? You had better take note! I have seen for myself what you have done! says the Lord. So, go to the place in Shiloh where I allowed myself to be worshiped in the early days. See what I did to it because of the wicked things my people Israel did. You also have done all these things, says the Lord, and I have spoken to you over and over again. But you have not listened! You have refused to respond when I called you to repent! So I will destroy this temple which I have claimed as my own, this temple that you are trusting to protect you. I will destroy this place that I gave to you and your ancestors, just like I destroyed Shiloh. And I will drive you out of my sight just like I drove out your relatives, the people of Israel.” Then the Lord said, “As for you, Jeremiah, do not pray for these people! Do not cry out to me or petition me on their behalf! Do not plead with me to save them, because I will not listen to you. Do you see what they are doing in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? Children are gathering firewood, fathers are building fires with it, and women are mixing dough to bake cakes to offer to the goddess they call the Queen of Heaven. They are also pouring out drink offerings to other gods. They seem to do all this just to trouble me. But I am not really the one being troubled!” says the Lord. “Rather they are bringing trouble on themselves to their own shame! So,” the Lord God says, “my raging fury will be poured out on this land. It will be poured out on human beings

and animals, on trees and crops. And it will burn like a fire which cannot be extinguished.” The Lord said to the people of Judah, “The Lord God of Israel who rules over all says: ‘You might as well go ahead and add the meat of your burnt offerings to that of the other sacrifices and eat it, too! Consider this: When I spoke to your ancestors after I brought them out of Egypt, I did not merely give them commands about burnt offerings and sacrifices. I also explicitly commanded them: “Obey me. If you do, I will be your God and you will be my people. Live exactly the way I tell you and things will go well with you.” But they did not listen to me or pay any attention to me. They followed the stubborn inclinations of their own wicked hearts. They acted worse and worse instead of better. From the time your ancestors departed the land of Egypt until now, I sent my servants the prophets to you again and again, day after day. But your ancestors did not listen to me nor pay attention to me. They became obstinate and were more wicked than even their own forefathers.’” Then the Lord said to me, “When you tell them all this, they will not listen to you. When you call out to them, they will not respond to you. So tell them: ‘This is a nation that has not obeyed the Lord their God and has not accepted correction. Faithfulness is nowhere to be found in it. These people do not even profess it anymore. So, mourn, you people of this nation. Cut off your hair and throw it away. Sing a song of mourning on the hilltops. For the Lord has decided to reject

and forsake this generation that has provoked his wrath!” The Lord says, “I have rejected them because the people of Judah have done what I consider evil. They have set up their disgusting idols in the temple which I have claimed for my own and have defiled it. They have also built places of worship in a place called Topheth in the Valley of Ben Hinnom so that they can sacrifice their sons and daughters by fire. That is something I never commanded them to do! Indeed, it never even entered my mind to command such a thing! So, watch out!” says the Lord. “The time will soon come when people will no longer call those places Topheth or the Valley of Ben Hinnom. But they will call that valley the Valley of Slaughter and they will bury so many people in Topheth they will run out of room. Then the dead bodies of these people will be left on the ground for the birds and wild animals to eat. There will not be any survivors to scare them away. I will put an end to the sounds of joy and gladness, or the glad celebration of brides and grooms throughout the towns of Judah and the streets of Jerusalem. For the whole land will become a desolate wasteland.” (NET)

2. The people had paid no attention to Jeremiah’s sermon.

3. Now, ten years later, Jeremiah, at God’s direction, tries again, but with stronger language and more urgency . . . as the time is near at hand!

II. 'I will soon bring on this city and all the towns surrounding it all the disaster I threatened to do to it.

A. This was because they stubbornly refused to repent!

B. The predicted destruction would come soon! Punishments for sin were imminent. J (See Willis.)

1. This was because they stubbornly refused to repent, stiff-necked. They refused to listen! (See Willis.)

a. Jeremiah 7:26, But your ancestors did not listen to me nor pay attention to me. They became obstinate and were more wicked than even their own forefathers.'" (NET)

b. Jeremiah 17:23, Your ancestors, however, did not listen to me or pay any attention to me. They stubbornly refused to pay attention or to respond to any discipline.' (NET)

c. Deuteronomy 9:6, 13, Understand, therefore, that it is not because of your righteousness that the Lord your God is about to give you this good land as a possession, for you are a stubborn people! Moreover, he said to me, "I have taken note of these people; they are a stubborn lot! (NET)

d. Deuteronomy 10:16, Therefore, cleanse your heart and stop being so stubborn! (NET)

e. Judges 2:19, When a leader died, the next generation would again act more wickedly than the previous one. They would follow after other gods, worshiping them and bowing down to them. They did not give up their practices or their stubborn ways. (NET)

f. 2 Kings 17:14, But they did not pay attention and were as stubborn as their ancestors, who had not trusted the Lord their God. (NET)

g. 2 Chronicles 30:8, Now, don't be stubborn like your fathers! Submit to the Lord and come to his sanctuary which he has permanently consecrated. Serve the Lord your God so that he might relent from his raging anger. (NET)

h. 2 Chronicles 36:13, He also rebelled against King Nebu-chadnezzar, who had made him vow allegiance in the name of God. He was stubborn and obstinate, and refused to return to the Lord God of Israel. (NET)

i. Nehemiah 9:16-17, 29, "But they—our ancestors—behaved presumptuously; they

rebelled and did not obey your commandments. They refused to obey and did not recall your miracles that you had performed among them. Instead, they rebelled and appointed a leader to return to their bondage in Egypt. But you are a God of forgiveness, merciful and compassionate, slow to get angry and unfailing in your loyal love. You did not abandon them, And you solemnly admonished them in order to return them to your law, but they behaved presumptuously and did not obey your commandments. They sinned against your ordinances—those by which an individual, if he obeys them, will live. They boldly turned from you; they rebelled and did not obey. (NET)

j. Jeremiah 3:13, However, you must confess that you have done wrong, and that you have rebelled against the Lord your God. You must confess that you have given yourself to foreign gods under every green tree, and have not obeyed my commands,' says the Lord. (NET)

k. Jeremiah 6:17, The Lord said, "I appointed prophets as watchmen to warn you, saying: 'Pay attention to the warning sound of the trumpet!'" But they said, "We will not pay attention!" (NET)

l. Jeremiah 7:13, 24, 26, You also have done all these things, says the Lord, and I have spoken to you over and over again. But you have not listened! You have refused to respond when I called you to repent! But they did not listen to me or pay any attention to me. They followed the stubborn inclinations of their own wicked hearts. They acted worse and worse instead of better. But your ancestors did not listen to me nor pay attention to me. They became obstinate and were more wicked than even their own forefathers.'" (NET)

m. Jeremiah 9:13, The Lord answered, "This has happened because these people have rejected my laws which I gave them. They have not obeyed me or followed those laws. (NET)

n. Jeremiah 11:8, 10, But they did not listen to me or pay any attention to me! Each one of them followed the stubborn inclinations of his own wicked heart. So I brought on them all the punishments threatened in the covenant because they did not carry out its terms as I commanded them to do.'" They have gone back to the evil ways of their ancestors of old who refused to obey what I told them. They, too, have paid allegiance to other gods and worshiped them. Both the nation of Israel and the nation of Judah

have violated the covenant I made with their ancestors. (NET)

o. Jeremiah 13:10-11, These wicked people refuse to obey what I have said. They follow the stubborn inclinations of their own hearts and pay allegiance to other gods by worshiping and serving them. So they will become just like these linen shorts which are good for nothing. For,' I say, 'just as shorts cling tightly to a person's body, so I bound the whole nation of Israel and the whole nation of Judah tightly to me.' I intended for them to be my special people and to bring me fame, honor, and praise. But they would not obey me. (NET)

p. Jeremiah 44:5, 23, But the people of Jerusalem and Judah would not listen or pay any attention. They would not stop the wickedness they were doing nor quit sacrificing to other gods. You have sacrificed to other gods! You have sinned against the Lord! You have not obeyed the Lord! You have not followed his laws, his statutes, and his decrees! That is why this disaster that is evident to this day has happened to you." (NET)

C. The people to whom Jeremiah preached refused to believe what he told them and set about to persecute and even kill him. (See Coffman.)

III. I will do so because they have stubbornly refused to pay any attention to what I have said!"

A. Smith wrote, "After the death of good King Josiah in 609 B.C., Jeremiah's life was a living martyrdom.

1. Smith further stated Jeremiah had experienced threats against his life and reputation, suffered severe depression on four previous occasions, dealt with mental anguish and was about to experience a physical attack and bodily pain.

2. Publicly he stood firmly for the Lord, but privately he was a broken man, Smith wrote.

3. Related references:

a. **Jeremiah 11:21, Then the Lord told me about some men from Anathoth who were threatening to kill me. They had threatened, "Stop prophesying in the name of the Lord or we will kill you!" (NET)**

b. **Jeremiah 18:18, Then some people said, "Come on! Let us consider how to deal with Jeremiah! There will still be priests to instruct us, wise men to give us advice, and prophets to declare God's word. Come on! Let's bring charges against him and get rid of him! Then we will not need to pay attention to anything he says." (NET)**

c. Jeremiah 12:1-4, Lord, you have always been fair whenever I have complained to you. However, I would like to speak with you about the disposition of justice. Why are wicked people successful? Why do all dishonest people have such easy lives? You plant them like trees and they put down their roots. They grow prosperous and are very fruitful. They always talk about you, but they really care nothing about you. But you, Lord, know all about me. You watch me and test my devotion to you. Drag these wicked men away like sheep to be slaughtered! Appoint a time when they will be killed! How long must the land be parched and the grass in every field be withered? How long must the animals and the birds die because of the wickedness of the people who live in this land? For these people boast, "God will not see what happens to us." (NET)

d. Jeremiah 15:15-18, I said, "Lord, you know how I suffer. Take thought of me and care for me. Pay back for me those who have been persecuting me. Do not be so patient with them that you allow them to kill me. Be mindful of how I have put up with their insults for your sake. As your words came to me I drank them in, and they filled my heart with joy and happiness because I belong to you, O Lord, the God who rules over all. I did not spend my time

in the company of other people, laughing and having a good time. I stayed to myself because I felt obligated to you and because I was filled with anger at what they had done. Why must I continually suffer such painful anguish? Why must I endure the sting of their insults like an incurable wound? Will you let me down when I need you like a brook one goes to for water, but that cannot be relied on?" (NET)

e. Jeremiah 17:12-18, Then I said, "Lord, from the very beginning you have been seated on your glorious throne on high. You are the place where we can find refuge. You are the one in whom Israel may find hope. All who leave you will suffer shame. Those who turn away from you will be consigned to the netherworld. For they have rejected you, the Lord, the fountain of life. Lord, grant me relief from my suffering so that I may have some relief; rescue me from those who persecute me so that I may be rescued, for you give me reason to praise! Listen to what they are saying to me. They are saying, "Where are the things the Lord threatens us with? Come on! Let's see them happen!" But I have not pestered you to bring disaster. I have not desired the time of irreparable devastation. You know that. You are fully aware of every word that I have spoken. Do not cause me dismay! You are my source of safety in times of trouble. May

those who persecute me be disgraced. Do not let me be disgraced. May they be dismayed. Do not let me be dismayed. Bring days of disaster on them. Bring on them the destruction they deserve.” (NET)

f. Jeremiah 18:19-23, Then I said, “Lord, pay attention to me. Listen to what my enemies are saying. Should good be paid back with evil? Yet they are virtually digging a pit to kill me. Just remember how I stood before you pleading on their behalf to keep you from venting your anger on them. So let their children die of starvation. Let them be cut down by the sword. Let their wives lose their husbands and children. Let the older men die of disease and the younger men die by the sword in battle. Let cries of terror be heard in their houses when you send bands of raiders unexpectedly to plunder them. For they have virtually dug a pit to capture me and have hidden traps for me to step into. But you, Lord, know all their plots to kill me. Do not pardon their crimes! Do not ignore their sins as though you had erased them! Let them be brought down in defeat before you! Deal with them while you are still angry! (NET)

4. Jesus encountered this same problem. The people to whom he preached, particularly the religious leaders, were stubborn, stiff-necked, would not listen and paid no attention to what he told them!

Conclusion:

I. The Lord told Jeremiah:

- A. Buy a clay jar from a potter.
- B. Take the jar and some leaders of the people and of the priests to the Hinnom Valley.
- C. Tell these people an horrendous disaster was coming upon them and that place because of their sinfulness which included idolatry, even the sacrificing of children.
- D. Break the clay jar before the leaders of the people and of the priests to illustrate the fact that God would smash Judah and Jerusalem because of their sins.
- E. Leave Topheth, go to the temple and tell the people there what God had said regarding Judah and Jerusalem.

Note: Jeremiah obeyed God and was blessed with the Lord's providential care.

II. Judah and Jerusalem sinned grievously against God. Their punishments included:

- A. A disaster of unequaled severity would strike Jerusalem and its surroundings.
- B. The best laid plans of Judah and Jerusalem would be thwarted.

C. They would be delivered into the power of their enemies who would seek to kill them.

D. Birds and wild beasts would eat their dead bodies.

E. Jerusalem would be made a place of horror and ridicule.

F. The people would be reduced to desperate straits even, in their hunger, to eating their own children and one another.

G. The Jewish nation would be destroyed beyond repair.

H. Topheth would overflow with dead people of Judah and Jerusalem.

I. The houses of Jerusalem would be destroyed because from their roofs idols and stars were worshiped.

Note: These things befell them because they stubbornly refused to pay any attention to what God had said.

III. The sins of Judah and Jerusalem included, but were not limited to:

A. Rejecting God.

B. Defiling the Hinnom Valley

C. Sacrificing to other gods.

D. Filling the Hinnom Valley with the blood of innocent children.

E. Building altars to and worshiping the idol Baal.

F. Sacrificing their children as burnt offerings in the fire to Baal.

G. Offering sacrifices to the stars and poured out drink offerings to other gods on the roofs of their houses.

H. Stubbornly refusing to pay any attention to what God had said!

Note: Refusing to obey God's commands brings horrible consequences both in this world and in the world to come!

Questions

on

Jeremiah 19:1-15

1. What is the lesson drawn from a broken clay jar? _____

2. What essential lesson does Jeremiah 19 teach? _____

3. What was Judah's and Jerusalem's response to God's commands? What were the results of this response? _____

4. To what time can the events of chapter 19 be dated? _____

5. List all the action based messages found in the book of Jeremiah. _____

6. Describe the common pottery of Jeremiah's era. _____

7. Jeremiah was told to buy what, go where, take whom with him and do what? _____

8. Who were the "leaders" mentioned in verse 1? _____

9. Locate the Valley of Hinnom, the Valley of Ben-Hinnom and Topheth. _____

10. Through the years, what happened in the Valley of Hinnom?_

11. To what city gate was Jeremiah to go? _____

12. Where did hell/Gehenna, the place of eternal punishment for lost sinners, get its name? _____

13. Exactly where was Judas Iscariot buried? _____

14. What was the attitude of the kings of Judah and citizens of Jerusalem to Jeremiah's announcements? _____

15. What does the Bible say about tingling or ringing ears? What caused their ears to ring? _____

16. God determined to bring _____ on _____
and _____ because those _____
God and _____ the _____ of _____.

17. The sins of the people of Jerusalem included: _____

18. The _____ of the _____ had not only _____
_____ . They had _____
the _____ with _____ .

19. They had _____ in _____
to _____ which neither they nor
their _____ nor the _____ of _____
knew anything about.

20. The _____ of the _____ had _____
_____ from _____'s _____ .

21. Who were the "innocent children" whose blood filled
Jerusalem? _____

22. Identify Baal and Molech? How were they worshipped? _____

23. Name religious practices in today's world which the Lord did
not tell us to observe, to do? _____

24. The _____ of _____ were to do
_____ in _____ as _____
_____, _____
_____. The same hold true for us!

25. _____ (Aramaic: _____) and the _____
of _____ would soon become known
as the _____ of _____.

26. Why would this new name be an appropriate designation for
this valley? _____

27. What were the plans of Judah and Jerusalem? What
happened to these plans? _____

28. God would make _____ and object of _____,
a thing to be _____ at and _____ because
of all the _____ that had happened to it. Their

_____ would become _____
for the _____ and _____.

29. What had the Bible said about times and conditions such as these? _____

30. Describe the "desperate straits" mentioned in verse 9. Of what did these "desperate straits" consist? How bad did things get? _____

31. When did Jerusalem experience "desperate straits"? _____

32. We must listen to _____, _____ God has said _____ of what God says is _____.

33. What did breaking the potter's jar symbolize? _____

34. How were the potter's jar and the people of Jerusalem comparable? _____

35. Things would become so _____, _____,
the _____, would _____
with _____. _____
would _____ to the point that the entire _____
of _____ would become a _____, a _____
for _____.

36. For what religious activities were the flat roofs of the houses in Jerusalem used? What would happen to those houses? _____

37. What are "astral deities" and who introduced them to Judah?

38. Where did Jeremiah go when he left Topheth? What did he do when he got there? When did he get there? _____

39. What does the Bible say about stubbornly unrepentant, stiff-necked people who refuse to heed God's word? _____

40. What would God do to the stubborn, stiff-necked people of Jerusalem? _____

41. What did the Lord tell Jeremiah? _____

42. The punishments to be visited upon sinful Judah and Jerusalem would include: _____

43. The sins of Judah and Jerusalem included but were not limited to: _____

44. These things befell them because they _____
_____ to _____ any _____ to
what _____ had _____.

45. _____ to _____'s
_____ brings _____ both
in this _____ and in the _____ to _____!