



TRUTH FOR TROUBLED TIMES "When God Speaks to a Nation" Jeremiah 2:1-6:30

No. 4425

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Josiah, the reforming king, and Jeremiah, the reluctant prophet, were active in Judah at the end of the 7th century B.C. But the people did not want to reform or respond to Jeremiah's jeremiads. God still spoke through the young men.

I. God's Charges Against Judah. See also 2 Chronicles 34:1-33

- A. The reforming activity of Josiah.
 - 1. Purging all vestiges of idolatry.
 - 2. Discovery of the Book of the Covenant.
 - 3. The call to reform.
- B. The preaching ministry of Jeremiah.
 - 1. A reminder of Israel's original exalted position. 2:1-3
 - a. A nation in love with God.
 - b. The firstfruits of his harvest.
 - 2. An account of Israel's drift into apostasy.
 - a. Their love for God had degenerated into fault-finding. 2:5
 - b. They ceased to seek the Lord: "Where is the Lord?" 2:6, 8
 - c. They became fascinated with "worthless" things. 2:5, 8
 - d. They did the unthinkable: they changed gods! 2:11
 - e. They exchanged "living water" for leaky cisterns. 2:13
 - f. Their backsliding led to critical miscalculations. 2:14-19
 - g. They lost their sense of awe. 2:19
 - h. They refused to serve the Lord. 2:20
 - i. They have not realized their potential. 2:21
 - j. They cannot escape their guilt. 2:22
 - k. They live in outright denial. 2:23-24
 - l. They blame their behavior on the way they're made. 2:25
 - m. They turn their backs, but not their faces. 2:27
 - n. They've forgotten how to blush. 3:3

II. God's Call to Judah.

- A. You had the chance to learn from Israel, but refused. 3:6-8
- B. You professed to repent, but it was superficial. 3:10-11
- C. You knew I would extend love and forgiveness, but you spurned it. 3:14-21
- D. I will even give you words of repentance. 3:22-25
- E. But it's all a matter of the heart and returning to the Lord. 4:1, 4

Point to Ponder: Does this apply to America in general and to me in particular?