

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 303 – Potter’s Earthen Bottle Through Bringing Of Evil (Jeremiah 19:1-15)

1. After getting the potter’s earthen bottle, who was Jeremiah told to take?

Those of the ancients of the people and ancients of the priests: *“Thus saith the Lord, Go and get a potter’s earthen bottle, and take of the ancients of the people, and of the ancients of the priests” (Jeremiah 19:1).*

- In the previous chapter, we had God use a potter to teach a lesson (**Jeremiah 18:1-10**).
- Gather the aged for therein error certainly resided (**Isaiah 9:13-16** and **Ezekiel 8:11-12**).
- The aged latter defend Jeremiah for fear of consequences of killing him (**Jeremiah 26:8**; **Jeremiah 26:17-19**).

2. What message was Jeremiah told to deliver about Judah and Jerusalem?

That God would bring a kind of evil upon them that would make those who heard of it ears to tingle: *“And go forth unto the valley of the son of Hinnom, which is by the entry of the east gate, and proclaim there the words that I shall tell thee, And say, Hear ye the word of the Lord, O kings of Judah, and inhabitants of Jerusalem; Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will bring evil upon this place, the which whosoever heareth, his ears shall tingle” (Jeremiah 19:2-3).*

- Go where they had practiced idolatry and had offered their children for sacrifice (**II Chronicles 28:1-3**, **II Chronicles 33:1-6**, **Jeremiah 7:30**, and **Jeremiah 32:35**).
- The kind of punishment to make the hearers of it ears to tingle (**I Samuel 3:11** and **II Kings 21:12-13**; cf. **Isaiah 66:15-16** and **Hebrews 10:31**).

3. What did they do to cause God to make Tophet become the valley of slaughter?

The forsook Him, estranged this place, practiced idolatry, offering their sons as burnt offerings to Baal, doing that which God had not authorized: *“Because they have forsaken me, and have estranged this place, and have burned incense in it unto other gods, whom neither they nor their fathers have known, nor the kings of Judah, and have filled this place with the blood of innocents; They have built also the high places of Baal, to burn their sons with fire for burnt offerings unto Baal, which I commanded not, nor spake it, neither came it into my mind: Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that this place shall no more be called Tophet, nor The valley of the son of Hinnom, but The valley of slaughter” (Jeremiah 19:4-6).*

- Because they forsook Him (**II Kings 22:16-17** and **II Chronicles 15:2**).
- Because they estranged this place (**II Chronicles 33:1-5**).
- Filled this place with blood of innocents (**Jeremiah 22:17**; cf. **Proverbs 6:16-19**).

- Because they practiced idolatry (**Psalms 16:4**, **Psalms 97:7**, and **Isaiah 42:17**).
- Because they sacrificed their children to idols (**Deuteronomy 12:31-32**, **Psalms 106:34-43**, and **Ezekiel 16:20-23**).
- Because they did what God did not command, speak, or think (**Leviticus 10:1-2**, **Numbers 9:1-9**, and **Jeremiah 32:35**).
- Now, this place would be the valley of slaughter (**Jeremiah 7:32**; cf. **Isaiah 30:33**).

4. What was God going to make void?

The counsel [plan] of Judah and Jerusalem: *“And I will make void the counsel of Judah and Jerusalem in this place; and I will cause them to fall by the sword before their enemies, and by the hands of them that seek their lives: and their carcasses will I give to be meat for the fowls of the heaven, and for the beasts of the earth”* (**Jeremiah 19:7**).

- Made void their counsel [plans] (**Psalms 33:8-11** and **Isaiah 30:1-5**).
- Fall by the sword of their enemies with their carcasses as food for the wildlife (**Deuteronomy 28:15-26**).

5. What was going to happen to Jerusalem?

The city would be made desolate and a hissing: *“And I will make this city desolate, and an hissing; every one that passeth thereby shall be astonished and hiss because of all the plagues thereof”* (**Jeremiah 19:8**).

- Desolation (**Jeremiah 7:34** and **Jeremiah 44:1-6**).
- A hissing (**Jeremiah 18:16** and **Jeremiah 29:18**).
- Because of all the plagues thereof just like Babylon would eventually become (**Jeremiah 50:13**).

6. What would the inhabitants of Judah be driven to eat?

They would eat each other: *“And I will cause them to eat the flesh of their sons and the flesh of their daughters, and they shall eat every one the flesh of his friend in the siege and straitness, wherewith their enemies, and they that seek their lives, shall straiten them”* (**Jeremiah 19:9**).

- There would be famine (**Ezekiel 14:21**).
- Such famine would drive them to practice cannibalism as God had foretold long ago would be their punishment for disobedience (**Deuteronomy 28:47-62**).

7. What reason do we read as to why God had Jeremiah take the potter’s earthen bottle?

To break it and make a point from it: *“Then shalt thou break the bottle in the sight of the men that go with thee, And shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord of hosts; Even so will I break this people and this city, as one breaketh a potter’s vessel, that cannot be made whole again: and they shall bury them in Tophet, till there be no place to bury. Thus will I do unto this place, saith the Lord, and to*

the inhabitants thereof, and even make this city as Tophet: And the houses of Jerusalem, and the houses of the kings of Judah, shall be defiled as the place of Tophet, because of all the houses upon whose roofs they have burned incense unto all the host of heaven, and have poured out drink offerings unto other gods” (Jeremiah 19:10-13).

- Making a point with that bottle is likened to other points God made (**I Kings 11:29-35, Jeremiah 13:1-17, Jeremiah 51:61-64, Ezekiel 5:1-13, and Hosea 3:1-5**).
- Broken wherein they could not be made whole again (**Isaiah 30:9-14**).
- God intended to punish the majority of that current generation (**Jeremiah 29:10**; cf. **Psalms 90:10**).
- Making Jerusalem like Tophet, which we’ve seen in this chapter was going to become a valley of slaughter (**Jeremiah 19:4-6**).
- The defilement of these places had a reason (**II Kings 23:10-16**).

8. What message did Jeremiah deliver when he came to the court of the Lord’s house? Punishment for their hardened necks: *“Then came Jeremiah from Tophet, whither the Lord had sent him to prophesy; and he stood in the court of the Lord’s house; and said to all the people, Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will bring upon this city and upon all her towns all the evil that I have pronounced against it, because they have hardened their necks, that they might not hear my words” (Jeremiah 19:14-15).*

- When God sent Jeremiah to stand in the court of His house, Jeremiah was expected to proclaim only what God said (**Jeremiah 26:1-7**).
- God had always dealt with Israel in a way in which they could expect the punishment for their disobedience to be severe (**Joshua 24:14-16, I Kings 14:10, Isaiah 66:4, etc.**).