

Notes on Jeremiah 14:1-16:9

Intro: God has often brought judgments upon nations in the form of natural catastrophes. These serve as a means to bring sinful people to their knees. So God had predicted he would do to Israel if they were not faithful. Cf. Lev. 26:20,26

A drought devastates the land--14:1-6

Now a drought serves as an occasion for Jeremiah to cry out to the people of their sin and the need for repentance, much like Joel had done years before during a locust plague. V. 2-6 describe the effects of the drought on the land.

Jeremiah prays for the people--14:7-9

Acknowledging Judah's sins Jeremiah can only plead for God to act in keeping with the name with which he has revealed himself, as Savior of Israel, v. 7. If God would delay in saving His people, He might appear to be as a stranger who did not care, or a soldier who could not help, v. 8-9. Since God was present and Israel was still his people, Jeremiah pleads for help, v. 9.

God's answer--14:10-11

v. 10 The people have not kept their feet in check.
v. 11 Thus prayer should not be offered for them.
v. 12 Sacrifice and offerings will not be accepted because they do not reflect a changed heart. Instead judgment will come by the very means God had by Moses predicted (Cf. Lev. 26:25ff).

Jeremiah's defense of the people and God's answer--14:13-18

v. 13 But Lord, the prophets are telling them peace is coming!
v. 14 The prophets, though speaking in God's name, are not speaking God's words! They will come under the judgments they deny!

Jeremiah continues his plea for deliverance and God's answer--14:19-15:9

v. 19-22 In further petition Jeremiah urges God to send the blessing of rain. He pleads with God not to annul the covenant or disgrace His throne.
15:1-4 Moses and Samuel would not be able to intercede for sinful Judah. Judgment will not be averted by any intercession by anyone!
15:5-9 God continues with graphic pictures of judgment that will not be halted.

Jeremiah expresses his sorrow at his difficult plight among men and God's answer--15:10-21

v. 10 Jeremiah bids his mother join him in the anguish of his role as prophet. He has become a man of strife and contention. This strife draws not out of quarrels over borrowing and lending, but his role as spokesman for God.
v. 11 God's answer. The verb form is disputed: set free, strengthen or support, are possibilities. Whatever the meaning, it is "for good". Jeremiah would be vindicated in the turning of the wicked to him for supplication in time! God's address to Jeremiah's persecutors assures him of their judgment. "Iron from north" is probably a reference to the Babylonians.

v. 15-18 Jeremiah recalls to the Lord his mistreatment by his contemporaries. He has proclaimed God's message. He has delighted in God's word. He did not participate or rejoice in the wickedness of others.

v. 19-21 To an extent there was the need for repentance on Jeremiah's part in doubting God's faithfulness to his prophet. Thus, if you will "return", I will restore you! Separate good from evil, and you will be my spokesman. I will save and deliver you!

Jeremiah is charged not to marry--16:1-9

v. 1-4 Don't take a wife

v. 5-9 Do not mourn their deaths, for a time is coming when there will be more deaths than there will be time to mourn, v. 6. Do not attend their feasts, v. 8.