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Daily Bible devotional; Daily Rice 2024 July 26

YouTube Prayer Link

Jeremiah 18: God's sovereignty and justice

The Bible uses many different roles to describe an aspect of God's relationship with us. For example, God is the Creator, we are creatures, and God created us out of His love. God is Abba the Father, we are His children, and He loves us; God is the Good Shepherd, we are the sheep of His pasture, and He leads and protects us; God is King, we are His people, we belong to Him, and so on.

In Jeremiah 18, the Bible uses another role to describe God's relationship with us, that of the potter's relationship with the clay, emphasizing God's sovereignty and good will over our lives. The central idea of Jeremiah 18 is God's explanation of human sovereignty and justice, as well as man's responsibility for faith and obedience to God. In this chapter, God warns the people of Judah through Jeremiah that they must abandon their evil ways and return to God's ways or they will be punished by God. This chapter also introduces the parable of the potter, showing that God is the master, that we are His creatures, and that He has the right to shape our destiny based on our actions.

God speaks to us through the things around us, and God points out that He is the potter, that Israel is the clay in His hands, that He has absolute sovereignty over Israel, that He can shape and discard at will. In the same way that a potter can reshape that broken vessel, a god can change his mind about a nation, blessing or punishing them according to their actions and beliefs. When God wants to build a nation, but the people choose to do evil and do not obey God's Voice, God will not give them the blessing he has spoken. These two passages are

balanced, and both point out that God has the sovereignty to bring evil and blessing. Although God ordained good and bad things to come, He can still change His mind, but the principle of change is based on whether people listen to God's Word and repent and turn away from sin, so people's decisions are very important. If a person chooses to rely on God, even if God is determined to bring evil, he can take back judgment. If you choose not to obey, the blessings of the mission will cease.

God has absolute sovereignty over our lives. Our God is a loving God of infinite wisdom and grace, who has a good plan for each of our lives, and who will shape our lives according to his heart, so that we may be honored vessels for his use. Clay is the most ordinary, but when it is squeezed by the potter's hand, squeezed by a wheel, and fired by fire, it can become a beautiful, very useful, and valuable vessel. Ephesians says that we are God's handiwork, His handwork.

However, the process of being pottery can be painful, squeezed by the wheel, and grilled by a blazing fire. But being pottery is a necessary way for clay to be turned into a noble vessel. As children of God, we should believe that whatever happens in our lives is what shapes us, and when we respond in the right way, it will lead to good life growth. God wants to make us beautiful vessels of abundant spiritual life in the environment in which He has placed us. God's purpose is to make us valuable vessels fit for the Lord's use. On the other hand, if we are hindered by sin in our lives, if we do not obey Him, God will not be able to make us valuable vessels. Then it is we who suffer and who suffer.

The prophet cried out to God, and he was not angry with the Jews for repaying evil for good, and God knew their sins, so the prophet asked God to punish them. Faced with the enemy's schemes, the prophet sought God's help. Today, when God has chosen us as prophets, we will face the attacks of the enemy, and we will also seek God's help. Because the prophet's words were not in accordance with the will of the authority, they plotted evil against him, but the prophet did not stop sending his message. Of course, our hearts are still to intercede in the face of attacks, but we need to understand that we preach a heavy message for repentance, and if we do not preach it, people will not repent and turn from sin. The princes of Judah, though they devised evil schemes, could not change the prophet's message. The priests, wise men, and prophets mentioned in it actually exist in the Antichrist today, and we have none. For us, we can only overcome by relying on God and by praying, so we all come and build an altar to the LORD God.

Let's pray together:

Dear Heavenly Father, pray that the Lord will help us to rely on God in everything and make choices that are in God's heart. Give us a strong heart to speak God's Word with courage; Help us build a life of rest and prayer and build an altar to the LORD God in all aspects of our lives.

Dear Lord, you are potters and we are clay. You have absolute sovereignty and good intentions over our lives. We are willing to obey you, and may you come and edify us and remove impurities from us. Be with us, that we may endure the trials of the flame, that we may be

precious vessels worthy of you, spreading the fragrance of Christ. Thank you, Lord! Bless Your Church and Bless Your Children!

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I pray, amen.

Jeremiah1-8

18:1 The words of Jeremiah came to Jeremiah and said,

18:2 Get up and go down to the craftsman's house, where I will make you listen to me.

18:3 So I went down to the craftsman's house, and met him turning to make vessels. 18:4 The craftsman made a vessel of clay was made bad in his hand, and he made another vessel out of this clay. The craftsman will do what he sees as it is good.

18:5 Yahweh's words came to me ,

18:6 ye said , "Israel i will treat you , i will treat you , and you will not be able to make mud like this . Israel family, so is the clay in the hands of the craftsmen, so are you in my hands.

18:7 When do I speak of a state or a country, I say that it will be uprooted, torn down, or destroyed.

18:8 If the nation of which I speak turns away from their wickedness, I will repent and not bring upon them the calamity which I wish to inflict.

18:9 When do I speak of a state or a country and say that it should be built and planted .

18:10 If they do what is evil in my eyes, and do not listen to my voice, I will repent and will not give them the blessings which I have spoken.

18:11 Now say to the children of Judah and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, "Thus will Jehovah say, I have brought a plague against you, and I am determined to punish you; Turn back from the evil ways you have done and correct your ways.

18:12 But they said, It is in vain; We are to do what we want . Each man does his own evil deeds according to his stubborn evil heart.

18:13 So Jehoah says, "Whoever has heard of such a thing has been done by the people of Israel, as you have visited in various countries.

18:14 Shall the snow of Lebanon, be cut off from the rocks of the field? How can the cold water that flows from afar dry up?

18:15 But my people have forgotten me, and have burned incense to false gods, and have caused them to stumble in the way they are walking on, and on the old paths, so that they may walk on slopes that have not been built. 18:16 So that their land is terrified and laughs continually, and everyone who passes through it will shake their heads in horror.

18:17 And I will scatter them before my enemies, as the east wind blows; I will turn my back on them and not face them in the day of trouble.

18:18 And they said, Come; We may devise plots against Jeremiah because we have the priestly law, the wise men devise, and the prophets prophecy, all of which cannot be stopped. Come, let us strike him with our tongue and ignore anything he says.

18:19 O Yahwah, give heed to me and to those who are fighting with me.

18:20 Shall evil be rewarded with good? They have dug a pit for my life, remembering how I stood before you and interceded for them, that your wrath might be turned away from them.

18:21 Wherefore give their sons and daughters to famine and to the sword, and may their wives be childless and widows, and their men destroyed by death, and their young men slain by the sword.

18:22 When you make the enemy come to them suddenly, may they hear the cry coming out of their houses, because they are digging a pit to take me, and they are secretly setting up a net to tie my feet.

18:23 Yahweh, you know all the schemes they have to put me to death. Do not forgive their iniquities, nor blot out their iniquities from your presence, but cause them to stumble before your presence, and punish them in your anger.

The central idea of Jeremiah 18 is God's explanation of human sovereignty and justice, as well as man's responsibility for faith and obedience to God. In this chapter, God warns the people of Judah through Jeremiah that they must abandon their evil ways and return to God's ways or they will be punished by God. This chapter also introduces the parable of the potter, showing that God is the master, that we are His creatures, and that He has the right to shape our destiny based on our actions. In the same way that a potter can reshape that broken vessel, a god can change his mind about a nation, blessing or punishing them according to their actions and beliefs. Therefore, this chapter calls on people to trust and rely on God's sovereignty and righteousness to return to His ways or face dire consequences.

In Jeremiah 18, there are a few important verses that are as follows:

1. Jeremiah 18:1-2: "The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, saying, 'Arise and go down to the potter's house, where I will make you listen to my voice.'" Here, God sent Jeremiah to visit a potter to teach Israel about God's plan and work by observing the potter's process of making pottery.
2. Jeremiah 18:3-4: "So I went down to the potter's house, and found him making vessels on wheels.

The potter took the clay in his hand, and the vessel which he made of the clay was broken in his hand, and he made another vessel out of the clay, and made it as he pleased. Here, the potter made a vessel out of clay, but found a flaw in the process, so he destroyed it and started making a new vessel. This parable symbolizes that God is a potter and the Israel are his vessels, and God can destroy them and recreate them according to His own plans.

3. Jeremiah 18:6: "O house of Israel, shall I not treat you with mud according to this potter?" As the clay is in the hands of the potters, O house of Israel, so are you in my hands. Here God tells the Israel through the potter's parable that He can destroy them at any time and recreate a better Israel.

4. Jeremiah 18:11: "Thus saith the Lord: Behold, if the evil I have planned turns away from the way which I appointed, I will repent and will not bring it upon them." Here God tells the Israelites that He will change His plans based on their actions, and that He will not inflict punishment on the Israelites if they repent.

Jeremiah 18 illustrates God's discipline of the people of Israel and His plan for them. Here are just a few of the important theological central ideas and theological takeaways:

God is the potter: In Jeremiah 18, God compares Himself to the potter and the people of Israel to His vessels. Just as potters can shape clay at will, gods have the right to shape and arrange it throughout human history. This underscores God's sovereignty over mankind and the fulfillment of His plans and purposes.

Human Response: In Jeremiah 18, God reveals His plan for the people of Israel, but he also speaks of man's free will. If a nation repents and converts, God is willing to undo the evil done to them; Conversely, if a people do evil, God is willing to change his grace toward them. This shows that God respects man's free will, and that man's choices and actions will affect God's promises and judgments against them.

God's Grace and Punishment: In Jeremiah 18, God shows His grace and mercy. He is willing to revoke the punishment of a repentant nation and to show mercy. However, God also declares judgment and punishment on the wicked nations.

This reaffirms God's justice and mercy, and He responds in response to human behavior.

The Role of a Prophet: In Jeremiah 18, Jeremiah acts as a prophet delivering God's Word to the people of Israel, warning them to repent and return. His role is to lead the people to God's ways under God's leadership.

Overall, Jeremiah 18 emphasizes the sovereignty and dignity of God, who has the right to shape human history, but also respects man's free will. The central idea of theology is to emphasize God's grace and mercy, but it also reminds us of God's justice and judgment. Jeremiah's mission is to call people to honest repentance and obedience to God's will, and this is what we should keep in our faith.