**Jeremiah: It’s the Last Hour**

**What Will You Do in the End**

**Jeremiah 5:20:6:15**

**June 14, 2015**

If

Before the end comes, find **SALVATION IN JESUS**, the One who brings peace.

**Jeremiah 5:20–6:15 — 20** *Declare this in the house of Jacob; proclaim it in Judah:* ***21*** *“Hear this, O foolish and senseless people, who have eyes, but see not, who have ears, but hear not.* ***22*** *Do you not fear me? declares the Lord. Do you not tremble before me? I placed the sand as the boundary for the sea, a perpetual barrier that it cannot pass; though the waves toss, they cannot prevail; though they roar, they cannot pass over it.* ***23*** *But this people has a stubborn and rebellious heart; they have turned aside and gone away.* ***24*** *They do not say in their hearts, ‘Let us fear the Lord our God, who gives the rain in its season, the autumn rain and the spring rain, and keeps for us the weeks appointed for the harvest.’* ***25*** *Your iniquities have turned these away, and your sins have kept good from you.* ***26*** *For wicked men are found among my people; they lurk like fowlers lying in wait. They set a trap; they catch men.* ***27*** *Like a cage full of birds, their houses are full of deceit; therefore they have become great and rich;* ***28*** *they have grown fat and sleek. They know no bounds in deeds of evil; they judge not with justice the cause of the fatherless, to make it prosper, and they do not defend the rights of the needy.* ***29*** *Shall I not punish them for these things? declares the Lord, and shall I not avenge myself on a nation such as this?”* ***30*** *An appalling and horrible thing has happened in the land:* ***31*** *the prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule at their direction; my people love to have it so, but what will you do when the end comes?*

**Before the end comes…**

1. Fear **GOD**. Jeremiah 5:22

J…**Matthew 13:14–15 — 14** *“You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive.”* **15** *For this people’s heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.’*

What does it mean to fear God? **Proverbs 1:7 — 7** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

1. Flag **WICKED MEN**. Jeremiah 5:26
2. Face **REALITY**. Jeremiah 5:31

**2 Timothy 4:3–5 — 3** *For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,*  ***4*** *and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.*  ***5*** *As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*

**Jeremiah 5:20–6:15**

***1*** *Flee for safety, O people of Benjamin, from the midst of Jerusalem! Blow the trumpet in Tekoa, and raise a signal on Beth-haccherem, for disaster looms out of the north, and great destruction.* ***2*** *The lovely and delicately bred I will destroy, the daughter of Zion.* ***3*** *Shepherds with their flocks shall come against her; they shall pitch their tents around her; they shall pasture, each in his place.* ***4*** *“Prepare war against her; arise, and let us attack at noon! Woe to us, for the day declines, for the shadows of evening lengthen!* ***5*** *Arise, and let us attack by night and destroy her palaces!”* ***6*** *For thus says the Lord of hosts: “Cut down her trees; cast up a siege mound against Jerusalem. This is the city that must be punished; there is nothing but oppression within her.* ***7*** *As a well keeps its water fresh, so she keeps fresh her evil; violence and destruction are heard within her; sickness and wounds are ever before me.* ***8*** *Be warned, O Jerusalem, lest I turn from you in disgust, lest I make you a desolation, an uninhabited land.”*

1. Flee for **SAFETY**. Jeremiah 6:1

**2 Timothy 3:1–5 — 1** *But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty.*  ***2*** *For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,*  ***3*** *heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good,*  ***4*** *treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,*  ***5*** *having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.*

 **Psalm 18:1–3 — 1** *I love you, O Lord, my strength.*  ***2*** *The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.*  ***3*** *I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.*

O Rock divine, O Refuge dear,

A Shelter in the time of storm;

Be Thou our Helper ever near,

A Shelter in the time of storm.

Oh, Jesus is a Rock in a weary land,

A weary land, a weary land;

Oh, Jesus is a Rock in a weary land,

A Shelter in the time of storm.

 Vernon Charlesworth 1880

1. Feel the **WARNING**. Jeremiah 6:8

**Jeremiah 5:20–6:15**

***9*** *Thus says the Lord of hosts: “They shall glean thoroughly as a vine the remnant of Israel; like a grape gatherer pass your hand again over its branches.”* ***10*** *To whom shall I speak and give warning, that they may hear? Behold, their ears are uncircumcised, they cannot listen; behold, the word of the Lord is to them an object of scorn; they take no pleasure in it.* ***11*** *Therefore I am full of the wrath of the Lord; I am weary of holding it in. “Pour it out upon the children in the street, and upon the gatherings of young men, also; both husband and wife shall be taken, the elderly and the very aged.* ***12*** *Their houses shall be turned over to others, their fields and wives together, for I will stretch out my hand against the inhabitants of the land,” declares the Lord.* ***13*** *“For from the least to the greatest of them, everyone is greedy for unjust gain; and from prophet to priest, everyone deals falsely.* ***14*** *They have healed the wound of my people lightly, saying, ‘Peace, peace,’ when there is no peace.* ***15*** *Were they ashamed when they committed abomination? No, they were not at all ashamed; they did not know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; at the time that I punish them, they shall be overthrown,” says the Lord.*

1. Favor the **WORD OF THE LORD**. Jeremiah 6:10

**Psalm 1:1–3 — 1** *Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;*  ***2*** *but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.*  ***3*** *He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.*

1. Forsake **SHAMEFUL PEOPLE**. Jeremiah 6:15

**1 Corinthians 15:33–34 — 33** *Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.”*  ***34*** *Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.*

H. Richard Niebuhr (1894–1963): “A God without wrath brings men without sin into a kingdom without judgment through the ministrations of a Christ without a cross.”

Let’s talk about what we will do in the end…

1. How does the LORD describe His people (5:21)?
2. What does it mean to have eyes, but not see and ears but not hear (5:21)?
3. Why should we fear and tremble before the LORD (5:22, 24)?
4. How does sin keep good from us (5:25)?
5. What was the LORD’s major criticism against the leaders of His people (5:26-28)?
6. What were the religious leaders doing that the people loved (5:30-31)?
7. What kinds of things are the people of God being told today that they love to hear but won’t prepare them to stand before the LORD in the end (5:31)?
8. What are the signs of disaster you have seen taking place in our world today (6:4-5)?
9. Why must evil be punished and when will all evil come to and end (6:6-8)?
10. What do people who reject God think about the word of God (6:10)?
11. What is being said today that would lead people to believe that all is well when it really isn’t (6:14)?
12. What must people do to be prepared in the end?