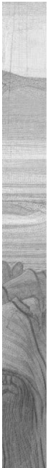



Digging Deeper into Jeremiah 3:6-5:9 for personal study & lifegroups...



Jeremiah 3:6-4:4 Return, Return!




Return to God... 

what? 1) ... it is miraculously possible (3:6-13)

why? 2) ... it is incredibly wonderful (3:14-20)

how? 3) ... it is deceptively simple (3:21-4:4)

when? (PS) NOW! Or else judgement (4:4b)

  turn from & turn to! 

Welcome to the third instalment of our studies in Jeremiah. It's a long section set for today's passage, and we didn't have time to read it all in church. The sermon focused on the first half, returning to God (3:6-4:4). The second half (if you have time) shows consequences if we don't (4:5-5:9). Discuss any questions you bring then have a go at...

1) Recapping 3:6-4:4...

- Recap the "A tale of two sisters" (v6-13) see diagram overleaf. Why is Israel (the Northern Kingdom which was so rebellious that it was carried into exile in 722BC by the Assyrians, over a hundred years before the time of Jeremiah) described as "more righteous" than "unfaithful Judah"- the Southern Kingdom (v11)?
- How does the metaphor of adultery bring home the seriousness of idolatry? Which idols do you think are most prevalent in our church? In you?
- How would you explain to a non-Christian how to become a Christian from this passage? Can you think of a New Testament passage to supplement it?
- Optional...** Why can God remarry his divorced spouse (3:8,12) and yet command others not to do so (3:1, Deut 24:1-4)¹

2) Looking ahead to 4:5-5:9 (if time)...

- Can you see any details regarding the threatened judgement which came true?
- Why is God's judgement so terrifying? (eg 23-26) Is the threatened judgement final? The people of Judah will come out of exile. (see 4:27, 5:10, also 5:18)
- What do you find yourself praying as you read this section?

Resources... (repeated again)

- You can't beat **reading the book**. Why not try to read a chapter a day out loud in your devotions. Also see 2 Kings 23-25 for a chronological history.
- <https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-jeremiah/> including the video there, though Andrew Shead (Fig 3) divides it slightly differently.
- The [6 page document](#) from **Emmanuel Canterbury** (shared on the Weekly News) is an excellent introduction to the book and worth reading through.



¹ This is a tricky one. If this throws up pastoral issues for you on this sensitive topic, do come and talk more with me or others. See the four answers in the discussion at <https://hermeneutics.stackexchange.com/questions/71189/did-god-in-jeremiah-312-contradict-deuteronomy-244-by-letting-israel-return-to>. The first is the most interesting - Jesus died, was released from the law that binds him and so is able as the divine bridegroom post resurrection to remarry us. The ESV study Bible for Deut 24 majors on the injustices of a man remarrying for the sake of acquiring a second dowry from her second marriage. This would not apply to Yahweh's motives for remarrying his spouse. Either way, he wants us back and can have us back!

Jeremiah 3:6-4:4 Return, Return!

A tale of 2 sisters...



CHRIST CHURCH
HUNTINGDON

ISRAEL

ISRAEL (N)
(unfaithful)

JUDAH (S)
(more unfaithful)

Commits adultery
Return? Doesn't
Divorced
Called back!

Saw all this, yet...
Commits adultery
Return? Doesn't
Divorced?
Called back!

astonishing
grace!



Picture CC-SA-3.0 https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Kingdoms_of_Israel_and_Judah_map_830.svg

Diagrams from Stephen Boon, Cornhill Training Course, used with permission (repeated again).

Fig 1- timeline of Jeremiah in the Bible....

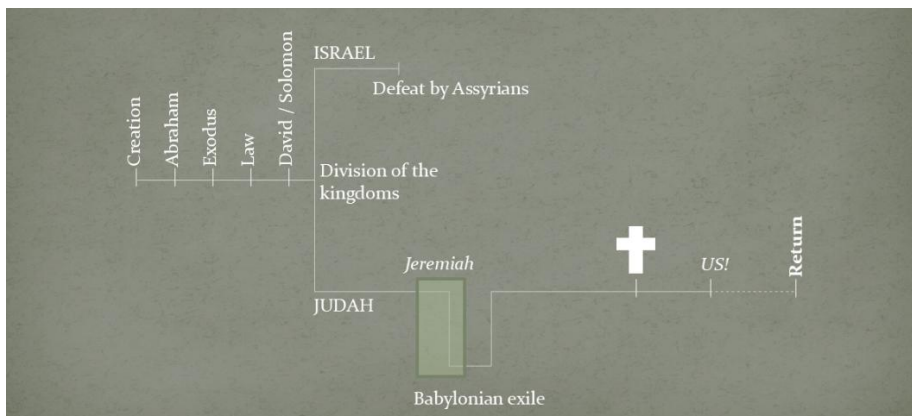


Fig 2- the world of Jeremiah...

