

Today, we'd like to see the title of "Question to God" in the book of Jeremiah 12:1-17.

To Online Word's people on the earth, we'd like to suggest 3 Questions.

- Q1. In verse 1, "Righteous *are* You, O LORD, when I plead with You; Yet let me talk with You about *Your* judgments. *Why* does the way of the wicked prosper? *Why* are those happy who deal so treacherously?" why does Jeremiah ask a question to God? And who else asked this kind of a question to God in the Old Testament? And what would you be if God gave you immediately what you truly deserve?
- Q2. In verse 5, "If you have run with the footmen, and they have wearied you, Then how can you contend with horses? And *if* in the land of peace, *In which* you trusted, *they wearied* you, Then how will you do in the floodplain of the Jordan?," what does it mean?
- Q3. In verse 7, "I have forsaken My house, I have left My heritage; I have given the dearly beloved of My soul into the hand of her enemies.," what divine characteristic can we see?

(Background)

(Jeremiah 11:21) "Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the men of Anathoth who seek your life, saying, 'Do not prophesy in the name of the LORD, lest you die by our hand'—

This chapter 12 is divided:

(1-4) Jeremiah's Question to God

(5-17) God's answer to Jeremiah

(Text)

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| <p><u>¹ Righteous <i>are</i> You, O LORD, when I plead with You;</u> <u>Yet let me talk with You about <i>Your</i> judgments.</u> <u><i>Why</i> does the way of the wicked prosper?</u> <u><i>Why</i> are those happy who deal so treacherously?</u></p> | <p>(1-4) Jeremiah's Question to God 1=Q1 Righteous are You; please with You... talk with You about Your judgments (God's righteous character is stated, and then Jeremiah raised the question – questioning is fine unless you charge God foolishly); Why does the way of the wicked prosper? (a common question like Asaph, Job, Habakkuk ¹Psalm 73:1-3; Job 21:7;</p> |
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¹ Psalm 73:1-3 Truly God is good to Israel. To such as are pure in heart. ² But as for me. my feet had almost stumbled: My steps had nearly slipped. ³ For I was envious of the boastful. When I saw the prosperity of the wicked.: Job 21:7 Why do the wicked live and become old. Yes. become mighty in power?: Habakkuk 1:4 Therefore the law is powerless, And justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; Therefore perverse judgment proceeds.

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| <p>²You have planted them, yes, they have taken root; They grow, yes, they bear fruit. <u>You are near in their mouth</u> <u>But far from their mind.</u></p> <p>³But You, O LORD, know me; You have seen me, And You have <u>tested my heart toward You.</u> <u>Pull them out like sheep for the slaughter,</u> <u>And prepare them for the day of slaughter.</u></p> <p>⁴<u>How long will the land mourn,</u> And the herbs of every field wither? <u>The beasts and birds are consumed,</u> For <u>the wickedness of those who dwell there,</u> Because <u>they said, "He will not see our final end."</u></p> <p>⁵<u>"If you have run with the footmen,</u> and they have <u>wearied you,</u> Then <u>how can you contend with horses?</u> And <i>if</i> in the land of peace, <i>In which you trusted, they wearied you,</i> Then how will you do <u>in the floodplain of the Jordan?</u></p> <p>⁶For <u>even your brothers, the house of your father,</u> Even they have <u>dealt treacherously with you;</u> Yes, they have called a multitude after you. Do not believe them, Even though they speak <u>smooth words to you.</u></p> <p>⁷<u>"I have forsaken My house, I have left My heritage;</u> I have given <u>the dearly beloved of My soul into</u></p> | <p><i>Habakkuk 1:4</i>) ; happy who deal so treacherously (happy who deal so betrayal or deception – here, Jeremiah is impatient to God's justice, i.e. Let God give them immediately what they deserve ; Our God is long suffering; Our God is patient; If God does so to us, we would be in big trouble. ²<i>Peter 3:9</i>)</p> <p>2= You are near in their mouth But far from their mind (lip service to God; Pretend to love God; No heart to love God; hypocrites!)</p> <p>3= Pull them out like sheep for the slaughter, And prepare them for the day of slaughter (Let God do justice to the treacherous Anathoth residents, who did so to Jeremiah ³<i>Jeremiah 11:19</i>)</p> <p>4= they (wicked people) said, "He (God) will not see our final end "(blasphemy to God)</p> <p>(5-17) God's answer to Jeremiah</p> <p>5= Q2 the footmen...wearied you (they are tired of you. How can you handle it?); how can you contend with horses?; in the floodplain of the Jordan (how can you contend with the flood? You can not contend with them except through the strength and the help of the Lord. So, through trials, trust in our Lord, and commit all things to Him.)</p> <p>6= even your brothers, the house of your father... dealt treacherously with you (deceived you)</p> <p>7= Q3 have forsaken My house (because of God's justice); the dearly beloved of My soul (God still loves; unfailing love; faithful love; amazing love despite verse 8--- God' s chastisement through evil instrument Babylon to correct the children of God)</p> |
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² *Peter 3:9*The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

³ *Jeremiah 11:19* But I was like a docile lamb brought to the slaughter; and I did not know that they had devised schemes against me, saying, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, and let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name may be remembered no more."

the hand of her enemies.

⁸ My heritage is to Me like a lion in the forest;
It cries out against Me;
Therefore I have hated it.

⁹ My heritage *is* to Me like a speckled vulture;
The vultures all around are against her.
Come, assemble all the beasts of the field,
Bring them to devour!

¹⁰ "Many rulers have destroyed My vineyard,
They have trodden My portion underfoot;
They have made My pleasant portion a desolate
wilderness.

¹¹ They have made it desolate;
Desolate, it mourns to Me;
The whole land is made desolate,
Because no one takes it to heart.

¹² The plunderers [spoilors] have come
On all the desolate heights in the wilderness,
For the sword of the LORD shall devour
From *one* end of the land to the *other* end of the
land;
No flesh shall have peace.

¹³ They have sown wheat but reaped thorns;
They have put themselves to pain *but* do not
profit.
But be ashamed of your harvest
Because of the fierce anger of the LORD."

¹⁴ Thus says the LORD: "Against all My evil
neighbors who touch the inheritance which I
have caused My people Israel to inherit—behold,
I will pluck them out of their land and pluck out
the house of Judah from among them.

9= a speckled vulture (a vulture pecked by other vultures); The vultures all around are against her (Like the odd chicken, the rest of them all peck on her)

10= Many rulers [pastors] (false spiritual leaders)

11= no one takes it to heart (no one minds of it; They don't care of it, e.g. today, nobody takes care of music/ movie/ government/ church in deep serious trouble; far from God)

14= Against all My evil neighbors (Babylonians); pluck them (Babylonians) out of their land (after Judah's 70 years captivity by Babylon); pluck out the house of Judah (to return to Israel by Cyprus the Persian king)

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| <p>¹⁵Then it shall be, after I have plucked them out, that I <u>will return</u> and have <u>compassion on them and bring them back</u>, everyone to his heritage and everyone to his land.</p> <p>¹⁶And it shall be, if they will <u>learn carefully the ways of My people</u>, to swear by My name, 'As the LORD lives,' as they taught My people to swear by Baal, then <u>they shall be established in the midst of My people</u>.</p> <p>⁷But if <u>they do not obey</u>, I will <u>utterly pluck up and destroy that nation</u>," says the LORD.</p> | <p>15= compassion on them and bring them back (God's unfailing love; God's punishment to correct Judah to restore to God)</p> <p>16= (Judah's revival)</p> |
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