

“Uncircumcised Heart”

Jeremiah 9:17-26 10/11/15

Today, we'd like to study the title of “Uncircumcised Heart” in *Jeremiah 9:17-26*.

To Online Word's people, we'd like to suggest 3 Questions:

Q1. In verse 20, “Yet hear the word of the LORD, O women, And let your ear receive the word of His mouth; Teach your daughters wailing, And everyone her neighbor a lamentation,” what does it mean?

Q2. In verse 24, “But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I *am* the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,” says the LORD,” what does it mean?

Q3. In verse 26, “Egypt, Judah, Edom, the people of Ammon, Moab, and all *who are* in the farthest corners, who dwell in the wilderness. For all *these nations are* uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel *are uncircumcised in the heart*,” what does the phrase of “uncircumcised in the heart” mean?

(Background)

Jeremiah prophesied during 626 BC -586 BC

Assyria conquered Israel (722 BC); Babylon conquered Judah (586 BC); Persia conquered Babylon (536 BC)

In Jeremiah 9:13-14, “And the LORD said, “Because they have forsaken My law which I set before them, and have not obeyed My voice, nor walked according to it, ¹⁴but they have walked according to the dictates of their own hearts and after the Baals, which their fathers taught them,” Jeremiah prophesied God’s judgment to Judah, historically before Babylon’s conquering Judah, because of Judah’s idol worships.

¹⁷Thus says the LORD of hosts:

“Consider and call for the mourning women,
That they may come;

And send for skillful wailing women,
That they may come.
¹⁸Let them make haste
And take up a wailing for us,
That our eyes may run with tears,
And our eyelids gush with water.
¹⁹For a voice of wailing is heard from Zion:
‘How we are plundered!
We are greatly ashamed,
Because we have forsaken the land,
Because we have been cast out of our dwellings.”

²⁰Yet hear the word of the LORD, O women,
And let your ear receive the word of His mouth;
Teach your daughters wailing,
And everyone her neighbor a lamentation.

²¹For death has come through our windows,
Has entered our palaces,
To kill off the children— *no longer to be outside!*
And the young men— no longer on the streets!

²²Speak, “Thus says the LORD:
‘Even the carcasses of men shall fall as refuse on the open field,
Like cuttings after the harvester,
And no one shall gather *them.*”

²³Thus says the LORD:
“Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom,
Let not the mighty *man* glory in his might,
Nor let the rich *man* glory in his riches;

17= skillful wailing women (professional wailers or mourners: those who were particularly adept at wailing)

18= a wailing for us (a wailing for people)

20= Q1 Yet hear the word of the Lord, O women (because Judah did not hear the word of God but worshipped Baal, 14); receive (accept, obey); teach your daughters wailing (sorrow for destroyed Judah – God’s judgment – and repent), everyone (people) a lamentation (repentance too)

21= (like a ghost city; this place is going to be desolate; all are dead and the left ones are carried away to Babylon)

22 = (total and complete desolation and destruction)

23= (all human wisdom, mighty, and richness would be utterly destroyed; even our such possessions are temporary during our physical life UNLESS, 24, all things to the glory of God)

<p>24 But let <u>him who glories</u> glory in <u>this</u>, That he <u>understands and knows Me</u>, That <u>I am the LORD</u>, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For <u>in these</u> I delight," says the LORD.</p> <p>25 "Behold, <u>the days are coming</u>," says the LORD, "that I will punish <u>all who are</u> <u>circumcised with the uncircumcised</u>—</p> <p>26 Egypt, Judah, Edom, the people of Ammon, Moab, and all <i>who are</i> in the farthest corners, who dwell in the wilderness. For all <i>these nations are</i> uncircumcised, and <u>all</u> <u>the house of Israel are uncircumcised in</u> <u>the heart.</u>"</p>	<p>24=Q2 this, (1) understand and knows Me (God); (2) I am the Lord (God is the master of our daily life), exercising (God's characters) lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth (His stubborn love, i.e., His faithful love; judgment for righteousness ¹Mat 23:37); for in these I delight (God is pleased)</p> <p>25= the days (of the Lord's judgment through Babylon's conquering Judah); all who are circumcised with the uncircumcised (Jews and Gentiles; physical circumcision – a sign of God's covenant with Abraham; Rainbow – a sign of God's covenant with Noah; Sabbath day – a sign of God's covenant with Moses; Communion – a sign of God's new covenant with all Christians)</p> <p>26=Q3 Egypt... (all the Gentiles); all the house of Israel are uncircumcised in the heart (ritually physical circumcision did but not in heart changing from old life to live after flesh to new life to live after the Spirit, <i>Romans 2:25-29</i>² e.g., water baptism)</p>
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¹ Mat 23:37" O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under *her* wings, but you were not willing!"

² Romans 2:25-29 For circumcision is indeed profitable if you keep the law; but if you are a breaker of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. ²⁶Therefore, if an uncircumcised man keeps the righteous requirements of the law, will not his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision? ²⁷And will not the physically uncircumcised, if he fulfills the law, judge you who, *even with your written code* and circumcision, *are* a transgressor of the law? ²⁸For he is not a Jew who *is one* outwardly, nor *is* circumcision that which *is* outward in the flesh; ²⁹but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision *is that* of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise *is* not from men but from God.