

Today, we'd like to see the title of "Pride of Judah" in the book of Jeremiah 13:1-27.

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

Q1. In verse 1, " Thus the LORD said to me: "Go and get yourself a linen sash, and put it around your waist, but do not put it in water," how many times does this chapter state the phrase of "the Lord said?" And why does Jeremiah say so many times?

Q2. In verses 9 to 11, "Thus says the LORD: 'In this manner I will ruin the pride of Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem. ¹⁰ This evil people, who refuse to hear My words, who follow the dictates [imagination] of their hearts, and walk after other gods to serve them and worship them, shall be just like this sash which is profitable for nothing. ¹¹ For as the sash clings to the waist of a man, so I have caused the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah to cling to Me,' says the LORD, 'that they may become My people, for renown, for praise, and for glory; but they would not hear," what is the relationship between the pride of Judah and the linen sash? And list the consequences of our pride?

Q3. In verse 23, "Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? *Then* may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil," what does it mean? And how could we change ourselves?

(Background)

In the last time, in Jeremiah 12:16-17," And it shall be, if they will learn carefully the ways of My people, to swear by My name, 'As the LORD lives,' as they taught My people to swear by Baal, then they shall be established in the midst of My people. ¹⁷ But if they do not obey, I will utterly pluck up and destroy that nation," says the LORD," God means if they obey Me, I will establish them as My people. Otherwise, I will utterly destroy them.

Jesus often used parables to teach spiritual things. Here God used through Jeremiah parables with visual objects to make the people pay attention and to teach spiritual things.

<p>¹ Thus <u>the LORD said to me</u>: "Go and get yourself <u>a linen sash</u>[girdle], and put it around your waist [loins], but do not put it in water." ²So I</p>	<p>1-11 (Ruined Linen Sash)</p> <p>1=Q1 the Lord said to me (10 times¹ – it shows seriousness to Judah people who did not listen to Him); a linen sash</p>
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¹ 10 times (1) here Verse 1 plus: (2) Verse 3. "And the word of the LORD came to me the second time, saying"; (3) verse 5, "as the LORD commanded me;"(4) verse 8, "Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying;" (5) Verse 9, "Thus says the LORD;" (6) Verse 11:"... declares the LORD;" (7) verse 13 "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says"; (8) Verse 14, "says the Lord;" (9) Verse 15, For the Lord has spoken;" and (10) Verse 25, "says the LORD"

<p>got a sash according to the word of the LORD, and put <i>it</i> around my waist. ³And the word of the LORD came to me the second time, saying,</p> <p>⁴“Take the sash that you acquired, which <i>is</i> around your waist, and arise, go to the <u>Euphrates</u>, and hide it there in a <u>hole in the rock</u>.”</p> <p>⁵So I went and <u>hid it</u> by the Euphrates, as the LORD commanded me.</p> <p>⁶Now it came to pass <u>after many days</u> that the LORD said to me, “Arise, go to the Euphrates, and take from there the sash which I commanded you to hide there.”</p> <p>⁷Then I went to the Euphrates and dug, and I <u>took the sash</u> from the place where I had hidden it; and there was the sash, <u>ruined</u>[marred]. It was <u>profitable for nothing</u>. ⁸Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,</p> <p>⁹“Thus says the LORD: ‘In this manner <u>I will ruin the pride of Judah and the great pride of Jerusalem</u>.’</p> <p>¹⁰This evil people, who refuse to hear My words, who follow <u>the dictates</u>[imagination] <u>of their hearts</u>, and <u>walk after other gods</u> to serve them and worship them, shall be just <u>like this sash which is profitable for nothing</u>.</p>	<p>[girdle] (linen belt for Levites’ linen robe² – not perspiration but inspiration service to God, i.e., not flesh works but spirit’s works ³<i>Mat 11:29-30; John 15:4</i>)</p> <p>4= Euphrates (in its upper stream, there are more rocks than in its down stream)</p> <p>5= hid it (it would be rotten by microorganisms, bugs)</p> <p>7= took the sash (as a visual teaching object)... ruined... profitable for nothing (sash is not able to make tighten his waist because of the ruined sash).</p> <p>9-11 = Q2</p> <p>9= I will ruin the pride of Judah; the great pride of Jerusalem (God will resist the proud people; the consequences of the pride – self satisfaction; doesn’t need God’s direction; misunderstands own prosperity as God’s blessings; looks down neighbors; love other thoughts, as it pleases, rather than God’s thoughts)</p> <p>10= the dictates [imagination] of their hearts (NIV stubbornness – 8 times in Jeremiah⁴ - evil sense <i>Gen 6:5; Ezekiel</i></p>
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² 1 Chronicles 15:27 David was clothed with a robe of fine linen. as were all the Levites who bore the ark. the singers, and Chenaniah the music master *with* the singers. David also wore a linen ephod. (Even king David who worshipped God wore a linen robe.)

³ *Mat 11:30* Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me. for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.”: *John 15:4* Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

⁴ *Jeremiah 3:17* At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart. *Jeremiah 7:24* But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward. *Jeremiah 9:14* But have walked after

<p>11 For as the <u>sash clings to the waist of a man</u>, so I have caused the whole house of Israel and the whole house of <u>Judah to cling to Me</u>,’ says the LORD, ‘that they may become My people, for renown, <u>for praise, and for glory</u>; but <u>they would not hear.</u>’</p> <p>12 “Therefore you shall speak to them this word: ‘Thus says the LORD God of Israel: “<u>Every bottle shall be filled with wine.</u>”’ And they will say to you, ‘Do we <u>not certainly know</u> that every bottle will be filled with wine?’</p> <p>13 “Then you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the LORD: “Behold, I will fill all the inhabitants of this land—<u>even the kings who sit on David’s throne, the priests, the prophets, and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem—with drunkenness!</u>”</p> <p>14 And I will dash them one against another, even the fathers and the sons together,” says the LORD. “I will <u>not pity nor spare nor have mercy, but will destroy them.</u>””</p>	<p>3:7^b) walk after other gods... like this sash which is profitable for nothing (idol worship following the pride of Judah is like the ruined sash)</p> <p>11= sash clings to the waist of a man ... Judah to cling to Me (Judah not cling to God is the ruined sash not cling to the waist); for praise, and for glory (God bestowed grace upon Judah who in effect praise and glory to God <i>Ephesians 1:5-6^o</i>); they would not hear.</p> <p>12-14 (drunkenness of wine)</p> <p>13= even the kings who sit on David’s throne, the priests, the prophets, and all inhabitants of Jerusalem- with drunkenness (of wine—the wine of God’s wrath of judgment against Judah)</p> <p>14= ... not pity nor spare no have mercy... destroy them (through Babylon for 70 years captivity)</p>
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the imagination of their own heart, and after Baalim, which their fathers taught them: Jeremiah 11:8 Yet they obeyed not, nor inclined their ear, but walked every one in the imagination of their evil heart: therefore I will bring upon them all the words of this covenant, which I commanded them to do: but they did them not. Jeremiah 13:10 This evil people, which refuse to hear my words, which walk in the imagination of their heart, and walk after other gods, to serve them, and to worship them, shall even be as this girdle, which is good for nothing. Jeremiah 16:12 And ye have done worse than your fathers; for, behold, ye walk every one after the imagination of his evil heart, that they may not hearken unto me: Jeremiah 18:12 And they said, There is no hope: but we will walk after our own devices, and we will every one do the imagination of his evil heart. Jeremiah 23:17 They say still unto them that despise me, The LORD hath said, Ye shall have peace; and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you

⁵ *Gen 6:5* Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth. and *that every intent [imagination] of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*; *Ezekiel 3:7* But the house of Israel will not listen to you, because they will not listen to Me: for all the house of Israel are impudent and hard-hearted.

⁶ *Ephesians 1:5-6* having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

<p>¹⁵ Hear and give ear: Do not be <u>proud</u>, For the LORD has spoken.</p> <p>¹⁶ <u>Give glory to the LORD your God</u> <u>Before He causes darkness,</u> And before your feet stumble On the dark mountains, And while you are looking for light, He turns it into the shadow of death <i>And makes it dense darkness.</i></p> <p>¹⁷ But if you will not hear it, <u>My soul will weep in secret for your pride;</u> <u>My eyes will weep bitterly</u> And run down with tears, Because the LORD's flock has been taken captive.</p> <p>¹⁸ Say to <u>the king and to the queen mother,</u> "Humble yourselves; Sit down, For your rule shall collapse, the crown of your glory."</p>	<p>15-27 (proud Judah)</p> <p>16= Give glory to the Lord your God Before He causes darkness (in the last moment just before the final end of God's wrath of judgment, repent and come back to God and give glory to Him, Isaiah 5 times of the phrase "For all this His anger is not turned away, But His hand is stretched out sill," <i>Isaiah</i> <i>9:17</i>⁷)</p> <p>17= My soul will weep in secret for your pride; My eyes will weep bitterly (it's a reference to weeping prophet Jeremiah, like Jesus lamented or wept over Jerusalem in <i>Mat 23:37</i>⁸; e.g. our heart too because of today⁹ (e.g. violent, disasters) world close to the Great Tribulation, <i>Rev 6-18</i>)</p> <p>18= the king and to the queen mother (Jehoiachin the 18th king of Judah and his mother Nehushta – he was the son of Jehoiakim [Eliakim] and the grandson of Josiah the 15th good king <i>2 Kings</i> <i>24:8-12</i>¹⁰)</p>
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⁷ *Isaiah 9:17* "Therefore the Lord will have no joy in their young men, Nor have mercy on their fatherless and widows; For everyone is a hypocrite and an evildoer, And every mouth speaks folly. For all this His anger is not turned away, But His hand is stretched out still." (5:25; 9:12; 9:17; 9:21; 10:4)

⁸ *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!"

⁹ *Matthew 24:7-14* For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

¹⁰ *2 Kings 24:8-12* Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem three months. His mother's name was Nehushta the daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem. And he did evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father had done. At that time the servants of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against Jerusalem, and the city was besieged. And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came against the city, as his servants were besieging it. Then Jehoiachin king of Judah, his mother, his servants, his princes, and his officers went out to the king of Babylon; and the king of Babylon, in the eighth year of his reign, took him prisoner.

<p>¹⁹ The <u>cities of the South</u> shall be shut up, And no one shall open <i>them</i>; <u>Judah shall be carried away captive</u>, all of it; It shall be wholly carried away captive.</p> <p>²⁰ Lift up your eyes and see Those who come <u>from the north</u>. Where <i>is</i> the flock <i>that</i> was given to you, Your beautiful sheep?</p> <p>²¹ What will you say when He punishes you? For you have taught them <u>To be chieftains</u>, to be head over you. Will not <u>pangs</u> seize you, Like a woman in <u>labor</u>?</p> <p>²² And if you say in your heart, “Why have these things come upon me?” For the greatness of your iniquity <u>Your skirts have been uncovered</u>, <u>Your heels made bare</u>.</p> <p>²³ <u>Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots?</u> <u>Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil.</u></p> <p>²⁴ “Therefore I will scatter them like stubble That passes away by <u>the wind of the wilderness</u>.”</p> <p>²⁵ This is your lot, The portion of your measures from Me,” says the LORD, “Because you have forgotten Me And trusted in falsehood.</p>	<p>19= the cities of the South (the cities in the Negev, NIV, dry land south from Beersheba); Judah shall be carried away captive (by Babylon soon)</p> <p>20= from the north (Babylon)</p> <p>21= To be chieftains [captains]; pangs (pains); labor [travail]</p> <p>22= Your skirts have been uncovered, Your heels made bare (how to be carried away by Babylon is described – naked body to dehumanize).</p> <p>23=Q3 Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? (Never); Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil (evil works from evil heart; a lot of drug/alcoholic programs spent over 3 billion dollars toward self reformation, which is worthless unless our hearts are changed – our heart can be changed only in the power of Jesus Christ).</p> <p>24= the wind of the wilderness (e.g. Santa Ana’s wind)</p>
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²⁶ Therefore I will uncover your skirts over your face,
That your shame may appear.

²⁷ I have seen your adulteries
And your *lustful neighings*,
The lewdness of your harlotry,
Your abominations on the hills in the fields.
Woe to you, O Jerusalem!
Will you still not be made clean?"... [When shall it
once be? KJV]

27= neighing (crying out after evil); Will you still not be made clean? When shall it once be? (God asked to Jerusalem -- marred or ruined by sin -- to cleanse; When Jerusalem is cleaned from Sin in God's mercy, it will once shall be gracious *Isaiah 1:18*¹¹ e.g. Today God is still asking for those who are marred or ruined by sin. When those are cleansed in Jesus' blood, it shall once be gracious.)

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¹¹ *Isaiah 1:18* "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool."