



Title: Revive Us, Oh Lord

Date: July 3, 2022

Scripture Text: Jeremiah 8

## SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

As Independence Day approaches, we take a moment to pause during today's sermon and consider where we are as a nation. Where we started and how far off course we've traveled. We live in a post-Christian society in which Christianity is no longer the dominant civil religion and it has gradually assumed values, culture, and worldviews that are not necessarily Christian. The values embraced by our society are blatantly against God and His commands. This mentality has also crept into the church. If the church is going to impact society for Christ, it must live for Him and fervently obey His commands. Let's look in Jeremiah 8 at a people unwilling to repent and what happens when repentance is rejected.

### I. Rejection is Unreasonable (Jeremiah 8:4-7)

This passage is dealing with the tragedy of a complacent nation hurling headlong to destruction. Whereas normal people eventually learn from mistakes, the Judeans will never profit from experience because they are obstinate and willful. However, there is still time for them to be saved if only they will repent. But the tragedy is that, while birds follow faithfully the instinctive urges of migration, the Israelites steadfastly refuse to yield to the promptings of God and His commandments.

- What are some of the descriptions Jeremiah uses for the Israelites? (ex. "they hold fast to deceit")
- How many of these would you say are applicable to America today?
- How does a person's heart get so hard against God?
- Describe a time when you were more focused on your circumstances and not on God.
- How can those experiences affect our relationship with God?
- Can that set us up to adopt the attitudes that the Israelites adopted?
- What can you do to keep your heart soft towards God and be willing to repent?

## Morningside Church

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### II. Rejection is Caused by Deception (Jeremiah 8:8-12)

These verses show how the cultic officials in Jerusalem had lured the whole nation while maintaining that they were discharging the responsibilities of the law. The people felt they possessed the law, but possession doesn't equal practicing. [James 1:22](#) states that we deceive ourselves if we are not doers of the Word.

- How does God respond to the Israelites practice of empty religion in vs. 9?
- What are ways we attempt to justify our actions when we are disobedient (sin)?
- What does it mean to 'possess' the word of God?
- Why is it so important to not only possess the true word of God, but also practice it?
- List examples of practicing the word of God.

### III. Rejection Leads to Judgement (Jeremiah 8:13-22)

Jeremiah laments over the spiritual condition of Israel – their hardness of heart and lack of repentance. He prays for healing of the nation (balm). Healing starts with repentance. The church of Jesus Christ needs revival which begins with repentance. For God's people to be effective in society for Christ, they must be in an obedient, growing, maturing relationship with Him. Revive us, oh Lord!!

- Describe what it means to 'repent'.
- What happens when God sends revival?
- If God were to send revival, how ready are you to be part of it?
- What can you do to be personally prepared for God to send revival; to be a useful tool for Him to accomplish His will?

Be in prayer for a soft, pliable heart that God can use to help others see Him in you.

"Has not this house, in which my name is invoked, been made a den of thieves before your eyes? I who am, I have seen it, says the Lord" [\[7:11\]](#). The church of God is turned into a den of thieves when robbery, murder, adultery, perjury, sacrilege, heretical inventions and other evils are practiced within it and when its leaders burn with greed. Hence, God infers, "I who am, I have seen it, says the Lord." In other words, "My eyes have beheld what you thought was hidden. The darkness of your treasures do not escape my consciousness."

Jerome, Bible translator and scholar (345-420 A.D.)