

“Imagery from Jeremiah”

Jer. 1:4-10

Introduction

- I. The man Jeremiah was one of God's great prophets.
- II. In his writings, Jeremiah often used great imagery to teach his point
- III. Let us notice some of those images and the lessons that we can glean from them (Rom. 15:4).

Discussion

- I. *The Fountain of Living Waters and Broken Cisterns* (Jer. 2:12-13).
 - A. Water is an extremely important resource.
 - B. Some places do all that they can to collect as much water as necessary.
 - C. Imagine forsaking endless water for a container that leaks and you have the imagery of God's people during the time of Jeremiah (cf. John 4:10-14; Rev. 22:17).
- II. *Forward and not Backward* (Jer. 7:22-23).
 - A. The Israelites had been told what to do, but unfortunately they chose to do otherwise.
 - B. We must make the decision to always do the Lord's will, and as such we move forward, not backward (Gal. 1:6-9; Heb. 10:39; Luke 9:62).
- III. *Vanity of Shaping Idols* (Jer. 10:3-5).
 - A. God's people would work diligently to fashion themselves idols that were useless and lifeless.
 - B. Christians must make sure that we do not “shape” our own idols today (1 John 5:21; 1 Cor. 10:14; Col. 3:5).
- IV. *Heath in the Desert* (Jer. 17:5-7).
 - A. A tree in a salty, desolate place will not thrive like a tree with an abundance of water.
 - B. A child of God must remain faithful to God, Who is the giver of all blessings (James 1:17; Psm. 1; Rev. 2:10).
- V. *A Burning Fire* (Jer. 20:7-10).
 - A. Like many faithful proclaimers of God's Word, Jeremiah dealt with discouragement and persecution.
 - B. We must make sure that God's Word is so important to us that we cannot help but preach and teach it to others (Luke 24:32-35; Acts 8:4; 2 Tim. 4:2).
- VI. *Rising Early* (Jer. 44:2-5).
 - A. God had not been slack in warning his people of their error and disobedience, and as such was right to punish them.
 - B. Christians should make sure that they do pattern themselves after those in Jeremiah's time (Jer. 44:16-18; cf. John 8:29; Matt. 7:21-23).

Conclusion

- I. The Word of God is filled with intriguing comparisons and imagery.
- II. From the book of Jeremiah, we learn that God wants us to learn from the imagery of the past.