

The Divine Tapestry

PART 81

Jeremiah 9:23-26

“To Know Him is to Love Him”

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“Jeremiah saw five kings on the throne of David in Jerusalem: Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, and Zedekiah. Probably he lived almost a century after Isaiah. Isaiah had lived to see Judah delivered from the Assyrians, but Jeremiah wept out his prophecies on deaf ears and lived to see his beloved people given over to famine and the sword. His loftiest counsels were ignored, his writings torn to shreds by a tyrant king, his name blackened, his life hunted, and his worst predictions horribly fulfilled before his tear-filled eyes. He was indeed a weeping prophet, ‘a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.’ The bitterest feelings of his broken heart he recorded in the book of Lamentations. He was forbidden by God to marry. And, even when his preaching produced results, as in the days of King Josiah, he could clearly see that the reforms were superficial and could not last. Idolatry and corruption had seeped too deeply into the lives of the people. The

sepulcher of Judah might be whitened by a godly and well-meaning king, but inwardly it was filled with corruption and dead men's bones." *Exploring the Scriptures*, John Phillips, pp. 132-133

You might be asking, "Why in the world would we study such a heartbreaking book?" 1 Corinthians 10:11 gives the best answer: "*Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.*"

JEREMIAH'S BROKEN HEART Jeremiah 8:20-9:1

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FOOL'S GOLD

- We have a tendency to "**shine a light**" on (glorify) those things that are most **important** to our life!

- In general, we take pride in:
 - ✓ Our **wisdom** = the **skillful** way we make decisions and live our life.

 - ✓ Our **strength** = either personal **might** or (by association) because we keep company with “champions”.

 - ✓ Our **wealth** = literally our **accumulations**.

Note:

- 1) We can also “glory” in our **abstaining** – this still calls attention to us in reference to the list above;

- 2) It is not wrong to **have**, enjoy or be thankful for the things on this list, only to “**glory**” in them.

FIXED FAITH

- God says: If you want to shine a light on something, proclaim that you understand My ways and love Me deeply. I am One who exhibits:
 - ✓ Lovingkindness – More than just **love** ... it is **covenant keeping** love
 - ✓ Judgment – Justice, the **protection** from and punishment of **evil**
 - ✓ Righteousness – Moral **uprightness**

Note: The word **exercise** is sometimes translated **create**.

THREE QUESTIONS TO TEST OUR “BOASTING”

- **Are you embarrassed by His Word?** Test case: 1 Corinthians 6:9-11
- How do you answer those who say:
 - ✓ **If God was good, injustice would not happen!**
 - ✓ **The lifestyle of the average Christian proves that Christianity is not true.**

THE FALSE FRONT REVEALED

- Circumcision was intended as a personal, **intimate**, intense sign of **dedication** to the God of the covenant ... proof that God was more **important** than any other **experience** or **priority** in your life!
- The problem ... some use a “**Christian**” sign to hide a **pagan heart**.

HOW ABOUT YOU?