

## WHEN GOD'S PATIENCE WEARS THIN

### Jeremiah 8:1-22

**Introduction:** When you look at the nature of God we find that one of His major characteristics is his "longsuffering." **Exodus 34:6 (KJV)** And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, **longsuffering**, and abundant in goodness and truth. **Psalm 86:15 (KJV)** But thou, O Lord, *art* a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

- 1. The Proposal of God, Jeremiah 8:1-3.** As we saw last week God comes to a place where He says, "Enough is enough! There is just so far God goes with man's sinfulness and rejection of their relationship with God. Look again at **Jeremiah 7:15-16 (KJV)** <sup>15</sup> And I will cast you out of my sight, as I have cast out all your brethren, *even* the whole seed of Ephraim. <sup>16</sup> Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee. God says to Jeremiah, "Do not pray for this people. If you do I will not hear." In other words God says that He has had enough of the rejection of God's person and the relationship they have with Him.
- 2. The Problem of Man, Jeremiah 8:4-12.** When we think of the *longsuffering of God* we need to remember a verse in the New Testament, **Romans 2:4 (KJV)** Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? We will find ourselves in dire straights when we reject the goodness and forbearance and longsuffering of God. When we think of this and see how gracious and good God has been to us it should lead us to *repentance*. Yet notice what the scripture says about the people of Judah.
  - a. Refusal to Repent, Jeremiah 8:4-7.** The people had become so hardened to the goodness of God and the great provisions He had provided for them they had backslidden (**Jeremiah 8:5**). Two things are connected to backsliding. (1) *They hold fast deceit*; (2) *they refuse to return*, **Jeremiah 8:5**. This is a sad state to drift into. There seems to be a sense of safety by the people because they know their place with God as the chosen people but this did not alter their behavior. It simply cause them to have a false sense of security and did not realize that God was going to run thin with His patience and begin to deal with them in discipline. The next verse sets the scene for us as it relates to a backslidden condition. Look again at **Jeremiah 8:6 (KJV)** *I hearkened and heard, but they spake not aright: no man repented him of his wickedness, saying, What have I done?* every one turned to his course, as the horse rusheth into the battle. As we looked at **Romans 2:4 (KJV)** Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? We need to remember that the very fact that God is good

and longsuffering should move us to reconsider how we treat our relationship with Him. We might ask the question, "What does repentance have to do with or relationship with God?" That is a good question. We find the first time we find the word "repent" in the Bible is **Exodus 13:17 (KJV)** *And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not *through* the way of the land of the Philistines, although that *was* near; for God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt.* It is clear from this verse that to *repent* is to change one's mind about something. In this case had God led the people of Israel through the way of the land of the Philistines, even though it was the shortest route God knew the people better than they knew themselves. He knew that when they found the Philistines a people who would wage war against them they would lose heart and change their mind and return to Egypt.

**b. Rejected God's Word, Jeremiah 8:8-10.** There is a price to pay for refusing the truth of the word of God. Look at **Jeremiah 8:9 (KJV)** *The wise *men* are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, **they have rejected the word of the LORD**; and what wisdom *is* in them?* We seldom consider this but it is a part of the revealed truth of God's word. When someone rejects the truth and acts contrary of what they know then God has some repercussions which accompanies it. Look with me at **2 Thessalonians 2:10-12 (KJV)** <sup>10</sup> *And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; **because they received not the love of the truth**, that they might be saved. <sup>11</sup> And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: <sup>12</sup> That they all might be damned **who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*** [Emphasis added.] I know this is talking about the lost people but I believe that God does the same for a believer who trifles with the truth and refuses to heed what they know God wants them to believe and do. If we examine our text and compare it with what we read in **2Thessalonians 2:10-12** we realize there are at least two effects that come with this attitude of rejecting God's word.

**1) Strong delusions will come, 2Thessalonians 2:10-12.**

**2) Sensitivity to the wisdom of God is diminished, Jeremiah 8:8-9.**

**c. Raised false hope, Jeremiah 8:11-12.**

**3. The Promise of God, Jeremiah 8:13-17.**

**4. The Provision of God, Jeremiah 8:18-22.**