

Jeremiah Chapter 3

March 10, 2024 · PM · <https://letgodbetrue.com/sermons/2024/jeremiah-chapter-3/>

Chapter 3

Theme: Israel's backsliding, Judah failed the example, but forgiveness with gospel promises for a return.

Outline:

1-5 God Can Forgive Adultery Unlike Men

6-11 Judah's Adultery Worse than Israel's

12-15 God Offered Full Forgiveness to Israel

16-19 God Promised Future Gospel Blessings

20-25 Israel Could be Forgiven by Repentance

Preparatory Reading: Ezekiel 16; Isaiah 11; Galatians 4.

Related Links:

- A. *Introduction to the Book of Jeremiah ... [here](#).*
- B. [Overview of O.T. Prophets \(1\)](#).
- C. [Overview of O.T. Prophets \(2\)](#).
- D. [Timeline of the O.T. Prophets](#).
- E. *Interpreting Prophecy (slides) ... [here](#).*
- F. [Overview of Minor Prophets \(1\)](#).
- G. [Overview of Minor Prophets \(2\)](#).
- H. [Prophets of God \(Men and Work\)](#).
- I. [Hosea: A Survey \(Four Sermons\)](#).

Introduction:

- A. [Here is a wonderful chapter with offers of restoration for great sinners by great promises and examples.](#)
- B. Here is also a rare occurrence of reference to the New Testament church of Jews and Gentiles in Christ.
- C. Always remember the ten northern tribes (already disbursed years before by God's judgment using Assyria) are called Israel, and the two southern tribes of Judah and Benjamin are called Judah.
- D. We read chapter two addressing Jerusalem and Judah (Jer 2:2,28), and this chapter Israel and Judah.
- E. Spiritual adultery, fornication, or whoredom are very popular concepts in the Bible used many times.
- F. [Do not limit them only to idolaters with Buddha in their backyard. Do you like the world \(James 4:4\)?](#)

God Can Forgive Adultery Unlike Men – Verses 1-5

1 They say, If a man put away his wife, and she go from him, and become another man's, shall he return unto her again? shall not that land be greatly polluted? but thou hast played the harlot with many lovers; yet return again to me, saith the LORD.

- A. Moses' law forbid the husband to pursue a remarried wife after divorces (Deut 24:1-4).
 - 1. Here is a divorcee of two husbands – her first husband may not marry her again.
 - 2. God called it an abomination: this form of wife-swapping was a vile use of women.
 - 3. The second marriage defiled her as far as her first husband; she could marry a third.
 - 4. Malachi and Jesus taught “legal” wife-swapping is sin (Mal 3:10-16; Matt 5:27-32).
 - 5. Such abominable looseness regarding a wife's partners is national sin and pollution.
- B. Moses' law in such cases as here and elsewhere for polygamy had some wise purposes.
 - 1. First, a strict process of divorce in writing with no return slowed hardhearted men.
 - 2. Second, a provision for a bill of divorce protected the woman by allowing marriage.
 - 3. While Jesus acknowledged Moses' divorce laws, He said it was not so from creation.
 - 4. Compare polygamy, which was not from creation either, but allowed (II Sam 12:8).
- C. Moses' law forbid any such practice of remarrying a wife that had had another man, yet GOD Jehovah, far more holy and jealous than any man, would remarry Judah here.
 - 1. The LORD well knew their frequent unfaithfulness and insatiable desire for adultery.
 - 2. But He clearly and kindly offers them to return to Him again to restore the marriage.
- D. Lesson: God forgives repentant sinners faster, freer, more fully than man (Is 55:6-9).
- E. Lesson: When you wonder what is wrong with America, think of her loose divorce laws.
- F. Lesson: We believe mercy and intent principles in marriages but stress God's holiness.

2 Lift up thine eyes unto the high places, and see where thou hast not been lien with. In the ways hast thou sat for them, as the Arabian in the wilderness; and thou hast polluted the land with thy whoredoms and with thy wickedness.

- A. If the previous use of harlot and many lovers was not enough, God is more graphic here.
 - 1. **Lien** = verb; lie with for sexual intercourse; trust context and scripture (Gen 26:10).
 - 2. With religious high places all over, God saw it as sleeping with idols everywhere.
 - 3. They got so used to high places that even perfect Asa overlooked them (I Kgs 15:14).
- B. He compared His church to Arabian prostitutes sitting beside the road looking for men.
 - 1. The context is our master; the clauses before and after are sexual – religious adultery.
 - 2. The Bible example of this practice is exactly how Tamar got Judah (Gen 38:13-19).
- C. The promised land of Canaan, to be Israel's home always, is a brothel of wicked whores.

- D. God hates false religion, and it pollutes a land much more than carbon emissions, etc.
- E. Lesson: One of the best exercises in life is to examine your life to consider your ways.
- F. Lesson: False religion will impact nations e.g. Catholicism in Mexico and Philippines.

3 Therefore the showers have been withholden, and there hath been no latter rain; and thou hadst a whore's forehead, thou refusedst to be ashamed.

- A. God's judgment had already started in this example – water withheld for future famine.
- B. Adulterous Judah – unfaithfully worshipping other gods – had no shame for whoredom.
- C. Lesson: There are consequences for sin, especially religious treachery, so do not move.
- D. Lesson: Let a simple fact be known – pure women blush at coarse words or conduct.

4 Wilt thou not from this time cry unto me, My father, thou art the guide of my youth?

- A. Our God and the Bible are incredibly logical, and here is an appeal from Him to them.
- B. Though your sins are very bad, yet I have offered full reconciliation, so ask me for it.
- C. Warnings and blessings should cause repentance and reformation (Hag 1:5-7; Rom 2:4).
- D. Rather than call a totem pole your father (Jer 2:27), they should call on their great God.
- E. They should remember the dear relationship in youth like God had earlier (Jer 2:2).
- F. Lesson: We reason with God in prayer, but we should reason with us (II Cor 5:14-15)

5 Will he reserve his anger for ever? will he keep it to the end? Behold, thou hast spoken and done evil things as thou couldest.

- A. Jeremiah reasoned in a different person (such changes are usual in Psalms and Isaiah).
 - 1. The previous verse is God in the first person and Judah in the second person. Easy.
 - 2. This verse is in the third person – two questions to encourage them – God forgives.
 - 3. Rather than get confused or fuss about the person, find and focus on the easy lesson.
- B. A similar argument is used later in this chapter of God not holding onto anger (Jer 3:12).
 - 1. God is slow to anger to good men and quick to end it to forgive (Ps 103:9; Nah 1:2).
 - 2. God loves mercy, loves to forgive, and is faithful and just to do so for repentance.
- C. The reason for judgment (no rain) and warnings is due to both sinful speech and actions.
- D. All you have to do is repent like in God's offer (Jer 3:1) and His description (Jer 3:4).
- E. Lesson: The terribleness of God is a true attribute, but so is His eagerness to forgive.
- F. Lesson: All that is required is confession of sin – He will repent of anger (Hosea 11:8).

Judah's Adultery Worse than Israel's – Verses 6-11

6 The LORD said also unto me in the days of Josiah the king, Hast thou seen that which backsliding Israel hath done? she is gone up upon every high mountain and under every green tree, and there hath played the harlot.

- A. The obvious break with the previous section and the time of Josiah specified are helpful.
- B. Here is a major shift to a new argument – Israel's national sins as an example to Judah.
- C. God talking to Jeremiah used some words for Israel He had used for Judah (Jer 3:1-2).
- D. The ten northern tribes of Israel had been guilty of Judah's sin – evil religious adultery.
- E. Lesson: Three examples can teach repentance – Bible sinners, others, your experience.
- F. Lesson: Green trees, meaning evergreen trees, were a popular pagan custom even then.

7 And I said after she had done all these things, Turn thou unto me. But she returned not. And her treacherous sister Judah saw it.

- A. God had sent prophets to Israel's ten tribes to repent, but they had rejected the warning.
- B. Former prophets with God's message for Israel included Hosea, Joel, Amos, and Micah.
- C. Judah was witness to all this – Israel's sins, God's warning, and God's offer to reconcile.
- D. God here called Judah the treacherous sister of Israel before we have the reason for it.
- E. Lesson: You should see and consider the acts of men around you and the consequences.

8 And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also.

- A. God is witness to all His dealings with men, and He expects us to consider such things.
 - 1. God saw that though He punished Israel publicly after warnings, Judah ignored it.
 - 2. Israel was dispersed five years into Hezekiah's reign, 93 yrs. before Jeremiah's first.
 - 3. Judah's worst idolatry and sins were by Manasseh, only 23 yrs. after Israel was lost.
 - 4. This is very aggravating to Judah's sins, to have such a clear example and ignore it.
- B. Note the harsher descriptive adjectives – backsliding Israel versus treacherous Judah.
- C. Lesson: We should consider in the day of adversity, not only our own, but also others.
- D. Lesson: The more you know or should know the harder your sentence (Luke 12:47-48).
- E. Lesson: God can leave a church (candlestick) or man (conscience) to itself, so beware.
- F. Lesson: Jesus declared He had more respect for cold (Israel) than lukewarm (Judah)

9 And it came to pass through the lightness of her whoredom, that she defiled the land, and committed adultery with stones and with stocks.

- A. This is back to Israel as a further indictment of her character and conduct against God.
 - 1. The next verse is so worded to make this verse apply to the backsliding sister Israel.
 - 2. Why did God scatter Israel? For the sins of idolatry listed here that defiled the land.
 - 3. A further reason this verse is about Israel is due to her lightness, not her treachery.
- B. She committed religious whoredom with no regard for it, which polluted the ten tribes.
- C. Not counting the two calves, she worshipped stones and stumps (Is 57:6; Hos 4:12-19).
- D. Judah was worse, for she had far greater privileges and has the clear example of Israel.
- E. Lesson: Do not do anything lightly, especially toward the religion of Jesus (Matt 22:5).

10 And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah hath not turned unto me with her whole heart, but feignedly, saith the LORD.

- A. In spite of the defeat and scattering of Israel by Shalmaneser, Judah faked repentance.
- B. Note for the second time Judah is called a treacherous sister and again in the next verse.
- C. Remember timing noted above – reign of Josiah the greatest revival king (II Kgs 23:25).
 - 1. Josiah's great personal character and national and religious reforms are dear to read.
 - 2. But the Bible says Judah only served God while Josiah was alive (II Chron 34:33).
 - 3. This is a terrible thing – for God had entrusted His city, temple, and priests to Judah.
 - 4. Such hypocrisy was not new, for it occurred in the reign of Hezekiah (Isaiah 10:6).
 - 5. Josiah's sons were evil, and they found a nation willing to participate in their sins.
 - 6. God's great blessing on Josiah's revival only lasted for his lifetime and then ended.
 - 7. Such stories are sad; they began with Joshua, for religion did not outlast his peers.
- D. Lesson: Never fake or feign real repentance or religion, for you are the only real loser.
- E. Lesson: God sees your conviction and any real changes in character or conduct it brings.

11 And the LORD said unto me, The backsliding Israel hath justified herself more than treacherous Judah.

- A. God told Jeremiah (to tell Judah the sorry comparison) that Israel was less wicked.
 - 1. We trust every word of God; here the Spirit repeated backsliding and treacherous.
 - 2. Israel from its beginning did not have the city, the temple, or the priests of Jehovah.
 - 3. Israel from its beginning of its first king, Jeroboam, was turned to idolatry of calves.
 - 4. Israel from its beginning had inferior kings to several good kings in David's line.
- B. She committed whoredom with idols through lightness, but Judah through hypocrisy.
- C. Lesson: We should distinguish in others and ourselves wise degrees of folly or scorn.

D. Lesson: Our omniscient God knows every angle and aspect of sin compared to others.

God Offered Full Forgiveness to Israel – Verses 12-15

12 Go and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the LORD; and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the LORD, and I will not keep anger for ever.

- A. God had addressed Jeremiah, but now He told Jeremiah to address scattered Israel, which had justified herself in His sight more than the presumptuous, profane Judah had.
- B. Preachers have good words of God's forgiveness to offer repentant sinners like Israel.
- C. The Spirit used the word *backsliding* six times in this short chapter for Israel's adultery.
- D. God promised to get rid of His anger and replace it with mercy that He is (Micah 7:18).
- E. This message of return and obtain mercy over God's anger had been given (Jer 3:4-5).
- F. Lesson: Never forget God's mercy – it endures forever, and He delights in showing it.

13 Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy God, and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the LORD.

- A. How could the northern tribes get the offered mercy of the previous verse? Repentance.
 - 1. The first step is to acknowledge what you have done wrong and with detail as here.
 - 2. Elihu gave Job an excellent summary how to confess sin and folly (Job 33:27-28).
- B. Sin is the transgression of the law, and the law is God's mind for character and conduct.
 - 1. Rather than worship the true and living God, they gave worship to false religions.
 - 2. Rather than obey God's voice from Sinai and by His prophets, they chose their way.
- C. Lesson: Remember that the first step in repentance is to admit and confess some detail.
- D. Lesson: You should be willing to say God is right and you wrong in the clearest terms.

14 Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion:

- A. How could backsliding Israel get the offered mercy of an earlier verse? Turn! Repent!
 - 1. The second step is to turn away from backsliding to fervent obedience to our God.
 - 2. The effort is so simple it staggers the mind, just as God intended it (Isaiah 55:6-9).
 - 3. If backsliding Israel were to make such a turn, our great God promised forgiveness.
- B. God has not promised universal redemption or complete family salvation but only some.

- C. Israel had not shown much zeal for the LORD, so the crop of penitents would be small.
- D. Whether under Josiah, or with Nehemiah, or at the Day of Pentecost, only a few came.
- E. Lesson: Remember that the second step in repentance is to turn 180 degrees to God.
- F. Lesson: Rather than fuss God did not save all your family, give thanks He saved you!

15 And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

- A. Included with bringing a few penitents from Israel's diaspora would be good pastors.
- B. The history of Israel, beginning with Jeroboam, was only base priests (I Kgs 12:31).
- C. The history of the Samaritans by Assyria also was of base priests (II Kgs 17:24-41).
- D. Pastors after God's heart do not comfort or entertain as much as they teach and educate.
 - 1. It is an error of the RCC that pastors must have good bedside manners and such like.
 - 2. The mirth after Ezra's preaching was for understanding, not pleasure (Neh 8:8-12).
- E. The change in pastors regathered Israelites could expect was very different from history.
- F. They had never had pastors after God's heart, except for a few prophets in many years.
- G. Why separate this verse from the next? For reasons here and the next verse's wording.
- H. Lesson: Pastors to seek or to appreciate are careful and diligent preachers of the Bible.

God Promised Future Gospel Blessings – Verses 16-19

16 And it shall come to pass, when ye be multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, saith the LORD, they shall say no more, The ark of the covenant of the LORD: neither shall it come to mind: neither shall they remember it; neither shall they visit it; neither shall that be done any more.

- A. God clearly made a distinction in this verse from the previous one by the future tense.
 - 1. It is a future event by the words, *And it shall come to pass*, rather than the previous.
 - 2. The events of this section would not occur until they were multiplied in the land.
 - 3. The multiplication of recovered Israelites would take time and be yet in the future.
 - 4. The indefinite time in the future is described as *those days* – a future era not yet seen.
 - 5. There would be a dramatic change in religion not indicated in the previous verse.
- B. The new religious emphasis would not use the Ark of the Covenant in any way at all.
 - 1. The Ark of the Covenant was the central part of O.T. religion for God's presence.
 - 2. The Ark of the Covenant was the central part of O.T. religion with the two tablets.
 - 3. The Ark of the Covenant was the central part of O.T. religion for Day of Atonement.
 - 4. Total dismissal of the Ark of the Covenant? This is a very new and different religion.

5. Surely the Ark was not forgotten by itself, but also all the ceremonial laws with it.
 6. The O.T. ark was a little box with figurines on it. We have the Son of God and Spirit.
 7. We have never thought of the Ark or mentioned the Ark except for O.T. reading.
- C. This new religion ignoring the Ark did not occur until the Reformation (Heb 9:1-10).
1. This is the new religion Jesus introduced to the woman of Samaria (John 4:20-24).
 2. This is the new religion Paul made altogether superior to the old one (II Cor 3:6-18).
 3. This is the new religion by reformation that Paul put above the Ark (Heb 9:1-10).
 4. The N.T. gospel rejects O.T. religion; see Romans, Galatians, Colossians, Hebrews.
 5. Every aspect of O.T. worship is fulfilled and/or superseded by Jesus and His religion.
 6. It is very foolish pastors that spend more than minutes studying tabernacle furniture.
 7. Paul thought the O.T. furniture and ordinances compared to the N.T. gospel of Jesus to be beggarly, blinding, bondage, carnal, childish, condemning, contrary, deadly, decayed, dominion, elementary, Hagar, Ishmael, letter, old, rudimentary, shadowy, shaky, Sinai, slavery, stony, temporary, weak, and worldly (Romans 6:14; 7:4-6; II Cor 3:6-17; Gal 4:1-9,21-31; Col 2:8-12; Heb 8:13; 9:1-10; 12:27; etc.).
 8. This very inferior form of religion was imposed on the Jews until Jesus (Heb 9:10).
- D. Many claim that the Ark of the Covenant ceased to exist after Nebuchadnezzar's war.
1. The Chaldean king brought temple vessels great and small to Babylon (II Chr 36:18).
 2. Cyrus of Persian sent some back to Jerusalem with the returning Jews (Ezra 1:7-11).
 3. But there is no specific mention of the Ark of the Covenant in any of Bible history.
 4. Yet, it seems highly improbable they left the holy of holies empty until Titus came.
- E. Lesson: You should always give praise and thanks for the new covenant in Jesus Christ.
- F. Lesson: With greater advantages under the new covenant, advance from glory to glory!
- G. Lesson: If we backslide from greater benefits, judgment is greater (Hebrews 2:1-4; etc.).

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.

- A. Jerusalem would be the center of the new religion of Jehovah for Jews and Gentiles.
1. Worldwide conversion of Gentiles would bring very many followers to Jerusalem.
 2. This is a startling fact, for the city of Jerusalem was known by all as for Jews only.
 3. The repetition of Jerusalem is not redundant, but rather emphatic for Gentile nations.
 4. But it was not the degenerate city on earth (Gal 4:26; Heb 12:22; 13:14; Rev 21:2).
- B. The throne of the LORD must have God the Father or Jesus His Son for kingly worship.
1. The Jews had no king after the few returned from Babylon until Jesus was the king.

2. Herod the Great, an Edomite, was the King of the Jews by appointment of Rome.
 3. The wise men came from the east to worship the king of the Jews. Only Jesus fits.
 4. Jesus told Pilate He was king, and Pilate declared Him as such in three languages.
 5. Jeremiah will add more identity to this king and throne in chapters ahead (Jer 23:5).
- C. Gentiles would no longer be idolaters like before, as Demetrius discovered painfully.
1. What else happened in Ephesus with idol craftsmen losing sales (Acts 19:24-28)?
 2. Those using curious arts burned books worth 50,000 pieces of silver (Acts 19:19).
 3. Enemies in Thessalonica said the apostles turned the world upside down (Acts 17:6).
- D. The great name of our God is Jehovah, but the name of His Son Jesus, *Jehovah Saves!*
- E. Jews and Gentiles would embrace a city, throne, and name – Jehovah and His Son Jesus.
- F. Lesson: Never forget the glory and greatness of Jerusalem, the heavenly one above you.
- G. Lesson: Never forget the preaching trips of Paul that eventually also included Europe.
- H. Lesson: The study of Isaiah revealed the Jewish Church exploding with many Gentiles.

18 In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given for an inheritance unto your fathers.

- A. This grand future time would see Judah and Israel together again (Isaiah 11:10-16; etc.).
1. The first step of building the kingdom of God would be united Jews of both nations.
 2. Once regathered Jews rebuilt Jerusalem, the clock ticked for Messiah (Dan 9:24-27).
- B. The language of prophets for grand events like this foretell the N.T. (Acts 2:16; 15:15).
1. Pentecost had Jews from many nations united together in Jerusalem (Acts 2:5-11).
 2. James wrote the twelve tribes scattered abroad, so both Israel and Judah (James 1:1).
 3. John saw the saved of Israel numbering 144,000 from twelve tribes (Rev 7:4; 14:1).
- C. Lesson: Those first converted by the gospel of Jesus were Jews (Eph 1:12; Rev 14:4).
- D. Lesson: Many more Gentiles were then grafted in with them for the united N.T. church.

19 But I said, How shall I put thee among the children, and give thee a pleasant land, a goodly heritage of the hosts of nations? and I said, Thou shalt call me, My father; and shalt not turn away from me.

- A. God here reasoned within Himself about this great future event and told Jeremiah of it.
1. Rather than desire or worry what another is thinking, God disclosed His mind to us.
 2. Since I have made great promises to both houses of Israel, how do I make it happen?
 3. How can I take rebellious and treacherous adulterers to make them citizens of Zion?
 4. How can I help the backsliding and foolish harlots inherit hosts of Gentile nations?

- B. God provided His own answer to the dilemma – He would grant repentance and revival.
- C. He would adopt them – putting them among the children – by His will (Eph 1:3-6).
- D. He would turn them to Himself; He would draw them; they would repent solidly.
- E. The Old Testament prophets saw it coming (Jeremiah 31:1-9,18-20; Hos 11:4; etc.).
- F. The New Testament prophets described it (Acts 2:1-12,37-47; 3:19; 4:4; 21:20; etc.).
- G. John the Baptist, Jesus, and His apostles did exactly this great work (Heb 2:1-4; etc.).
- H. Repentance is God's gift from regeneration to conversion (Matt 3:7-8; John 1:13; 6:44,65; Acts 3:19; 5:31; 11:18; 16:14; 20:21; 26:17-20; II Peter 3:9; etc.).
- I. How did Jews or Gentiles say, *Father*? By the Spirit of God (Rom 8:15; Gal 4:6)!
- J. Lesson: Never forget the choice and work of God to grant repentance (II Tim 2:24-26).

Israel Could Be Forgiven By Repentance – Verses 20-25

20 Surely as a wife treacherously departeth from her husband, so have ye dealt treacherously with me, O house of Israel, saith the LORD.

- A. Having inserted precious promises of a glorious future, God returned to rebuking Israel.
 - 1. He addressed the northern tribes by calling them the house of Israel in this context.
 - 2. He called on them to return, which He used for Israel earlier in this section (Jer 3:12).
 - 3. He called them backsliders again as He had earlier but denied to Judah (Jer 3:6-12).
 - 4. He purposed to provoke Judah to emulation by God's forgiveness of Israel as earlier.
- B. Now let us rightly divide the use of treacherous twice here for Israel – they truly were so – but God made the distinction earlier with backsliding to aggravate Judah's crimes.
- C. Lesson: After God saves us, departing from Him or rebelling against Him is heinous.

21 A voice was heard upon the high places, weeping and supplications of the children of Israel: for they have perverted their way, and they have forgotten the LORD their God.

- A. The LORD God in His marvelous wisdom described Israel repenting to provoke Judah.
 - 1. If this were the present time, the numbers were few and many were scattered abroad.
 - 2. If in the future, it would be more, for God would yet bring Israel and Judah together.
 - 3. If Israel could repent, the lesser of the two in God's sight, then Judah could or should.
- B. Jeremiah's ministry was mainly to Jerusalem and Judah, but Israel illustrated salvation.
- C. To Jews in Jerusalem or Judah, if Israel could humble themselves, then Judah should.
- D. Lesson: True repentance involves crying and begging, as James will teach (Jas 4:8-9).

22 Return, ye backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings.
Behold, we come unto thee; for thou art the LORD our God.

- A. Love the creative exchanges that the Holy Spirit included in this sermon for Jeremiah.
- B. Since the house of Israel wept and supplicated in the previous verse, God answered.
- C. If you return – repenting of sin and reforming your ways – I will forgive you totally.
- D. They immediately responded by declaring new intentions toward Him only as their God.
- E. Lesson: This is the language of the truly repentant, which you must use often with God.

23 ***Truly in vain is salvation hoped for from the hills, and from the multitude of mountains: truly in the LORD our God is the salvation of Israel.***

- A. The repentant speech of Israel continued here shown by the first person pronoun *our*.
- B. There is no hope in Assyria or any other earthly helper, only Jehovah our God can save.
- C. They clearly implied, We have foolishly looked for other help, but there is none else.
- D. Remember for understanding – God created the repentant language to provoke Judah.
- E. Lesson: Our God's jealousy means He wants exclusive language like this in worship.

24 ***For shame hath devoured the labour of our fathers from our youth; their flocks and their herds, their sons and their daughters.***

- A. By a metonym, the result of shame put for the cause of their sins, they had lost all their previous productivity, their assets once owned, and even their own children were lost.
- B. Sin is destructive by the results of foolish choices and supernatural judgment by God.
- C. Lesson: The way of transgressors is hard; God will not be mocked; sinners get punished.
- D. Lesson: Elihu taught how to confess sins that sounds much like it here (Job 33:27-28).

25 ***We lie down in our shame, and our confusion covereth us: for we have sinned against the LORD our God, we and our fathers, from our youth even unto this day, and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God.***

- A. We are all hours of day and night ashamed and confused by what our sins have cost us.
- B. It was our sins and disobedience, we and our fathers, that brought judgment upon us.
- C. Sin brings shame and confusion; Israel was greatly ruined with many scattered widely.
- D. The next chapter's first two verses continue this line before Jeremiah pressed Judah.
- E. Lesson: There is a better way; never get in a situation like Israel; hate sin; avoid sin.