

A.L.I.V.E. Bible Study
Date: September 25, 2019
Jeremiah 4:3-26

1. What does the Lord mean by what he tells Jeremiah to say in verses 4:3-4?
 - a. He seems to be talking about farming.
 - b. He says that the ground needs to be “broken up” or overturned...which means anything growing their currently or the leftover of what used to grown must be torn out so that the new seed can take root and not compete with what was already there.
 - c. Wait, now he’s talking about something way more personal.
 - d. Circumcision was a sign of the covenant between God and His people. However, it was a physical sign and God is calling them to make a covenant with Him that is inside and not outside...a change of heart.
 - e. God says that this change of hearts is necessary because he is not ok with sin and they are in danger of His wrath.

2. What is God speaking through Jeremiah in verses 4:5-9?
 - a. The trumpet was a warning...almost like a tornado warning siren in some towns in the Midwest.
 - b. When an enemy was coming, a horn would be sounded from the watchtower or the city wall. Everyone from outside of the city in the surrounding area would flee to the city with fortified walls.
 - c. God says that a lion and destroyer has left his own place and is coming down against Judah.
 - d. God says that even the kings, officials, priests, and prophets will lose heart and be scared and amazed...these are the people that usually put up a strong front before the people...

3. What does Jeremiah’s response in verse 4:10 mean?
 - a. Well God must have deceived the people.
 - b. Jeremiah is stunned by the harsh words that God is calling him to speak.
 - c. Jeremiah is amazed at the contrast between his words and the words that other prophets were speaking, supposedly in the name of God.

4. What do verses 4:11-12 mean?
 - a. Often when God allows destruction, it separates the evil from those who have been faithful...this is described as a winnowing, which separates the wheat from the chaff (see Genesis 6:9-9:17 and Genesis 19).
 - b. In this case, the wind will be too strong for winnowing, it will wipe everyone out and be a wind of judgment.

5. Do we always expect winnowing instead of judgment? _____

- Do we know that there will be a time when God’s patience with us is no longer and his hand of purification will become his hand of judgment? Yes _____ No _____ Explain. _____

6. What does God say to His people in 4:18? _____
Do we recognize when we are experiencing the consequences of our own actions or do we blame others...or even God? _____

7. According to 4:18-22, does God take joy in this punishment? Yes _____ No _____ Explain. _____
