

IS THERE A WORD?

Jeremiah 37:17 Then Zedekiah the king sent, and took him out: and the king asked him secretly in his house, and said, **Is there any word from the LORD?** And Jeremiah said, **There is:**

THE DILEMMA (OBAMA, WRIGHT, PROPHECY)

HOW DO WE RECONCILE (make friendly again - {Latin 're' - again, with 'conciliare' - make friendly})

- LOVE with TRUTH (Zec 8:19, Eph 4:15, 2Th 2:10, 1Jn 3:18, 2Jn 1:3)
- HOPE with PROPHECY (Ps 39:7, 42:5, 119:116, 130:5, La 3:26, 1Pe 1:3, 1:13)
- 'YES WE CAN' with 'LEST WE FORGET'
- BUILDING A HOUSE OF 'GOOD' on a FOUNDATION OF 'EVIL' (Isa 28:16, Lk 6:47-49, 1Co 3:9-12, 1Ti 6:19, 2Ti 2:19)

KNOW THE PROPHET (What manner of man is the prophet? - from 'The Prophets' by A. Heschel)

- ...a **watchman** (Hosea 9:8), a **servant** (Amos 3:7, Jer 25:4, 26:5) a **messenger of GOD** (Hag 1:13) "an **assayer and tester**" of the people's ways.
- ...a **witness**, and his words a testimony - to HIS Power and Judgement, to His Justice and Mercy
- ...a **lonely man**.
-neither "a singing saint", nor "a moralizing poet", but an **assaulter of the mind**.
-mouth is a "sharp word". He is "a polished arrow" taken out of the quiver of GOD
-an **iconoclast**, challenging the apparently hold, revered, and awesome. Beliefs cherished as certainties, institutions endowed with supreme sanctity, he exposes as scandalous pretensions.
- The prophet's word is a scream in the night. While the world is at ease and asleep, the prophet feels the blast from heaven.
- He begins with a message of doom; he concludes with a message of hope.
- The mission he performs is distasteful to him and repugnant to others; no reward is promised him and nor reward could temper its bitterness. The prophet bears scorn and reproach.

KNOW THE PROBLEM

Jeremiah 2:6-8 And I brought you into a plentiful country, to eat the fruit thereof and the goodness thereof; but when ye entered, **ye defiled my land**, and **made mine heritage an abomination**. 8 The priests said not, Where is the LORD? and they that handle the law knew me not: the **pastors also transgressed against me**, and the prophets prophesied by Baal, and **walked after things that do not profit**.

Jeremiah 5:25-31 Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withholden good things from you. 26 For among my people are found wicked men: they lay wait, as he that setteth snares; **they set a trap, they catch men**. 27 As a cage is full of birds, so are their houses full of deceit: therefore they are become great, and waxen rich. 28 They are waxen fat, they shine: yea, they overpass the deeds of the wicked: they **judge not the cause, the cause of the fatherless**, yet they prosper; and the right of the needy do they not judge. 29 Shall I not visit for these things? saith the LORD: shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this? 30 A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land; 31 **The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so:** and what will ye do in the end thereof?

PRESENT DAY PROBLEMS

ABORTION	IMMORALITY
CORRUPTION	DECEPTION
INJUSTICE	HATRED
GREED	DISCRIMINATION

KNOW THE PLAN

1) REMEMBER (Heb - mark, Web - recall in the mind, retain, mention)

Jeremiah 2:1-5 Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 2 Go and cry in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the LORD; **I remember thee**, the kindness of thy youth, the love of thine espousals, when thou wentest after me in the wilderness, in a land that was not sown. 3 Israel was holiness unto the LORD, and the firstfruits of his increase: all that devour him shall offend; evil shall come upon them, saith the LORD. 4 **Hear ye the word of the LORD**, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel: 5 Thus saith the LORD, What iniquity have your fathers found in me, that they are gone far from me, and have walked after vanity, and are become vain?

Ex 13:3 Remember this day, in which ye came out from Egypt, out of the house of bondage;

Dt 5:15 And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt,

1Ch 16:12 Remember his marvellous works that he hath done, his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth;

Ps 143:5 (David) I remember the days of old; I meditate on all thy works; I muse on the work of thy hands.

I REMEMBER	<i>I Want Jesus to Walk With Me</i>	<i>Tis the Old Ship of Zion</i>
	<i>Real, Real Jesus is Real to me</i>	<i>When We All Get Heaven</i>
	<i>The Storm is Passing Over</i>	<i>Down Through The Years</i>

2) RETURN (to go or come back)

Jeremiah 3:12-15 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. 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. 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: 15 And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

RETURN not RECONCILE

SEPARATE in order to UNIFY

HUMBLE yourselves in order to be EXALTED

3) REJOICE (delight, make joyful, gladden)

Jeremiah 33:2-9 2 Thus saith the LORD the maker thereof, the LORD that formed it, to establish it; the LORD is his name; 3 Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not. 4 For thus saith the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the houses of this city, and concerning the houses of the kings of Judah, which are thrown down by the mounts, and by the sword; 5 They come to fight with the Chaldeans, but it is to fill them with the dead bodies of men, whom I have slain in mine anger and in my fury, and for all whose wickedness I have hid my face from this city. 6 Behold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth. 7 And **I will cause the captivity of Judah and the captivity of Israel to return**, and will build them, as at the first. 8 And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity, whereby they have sinned against me; and I will pardon all their iniquities, whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against me. 9 **And it shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and an honour before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear all the good that I do unto them:** and they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and for all the prosperity that I procure unto it.

WHY REJOICE ????

- because the plan of GOD can only come from the man of GOD
- GOD has chosen the black man to 'blow the trumpet', 'sound the alarm', 'make a little noise'
 - when Jeremiah was in prison, it was Ebed-melech who appealed to the king to be released
 - when GOD repented of the evil, it was a black man (Noah) who found grace and built an ark
 - when Jesus was carrying the cross up the via delarosa, it was a black man (Simon the Cyrene) who carried the cross (Matt 27:32, Mark 15:21, Luke 23:26)
 - there was a man, to whom the Prophet John records in Revelation 1:14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; 15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.