



Jeremiah: Torn Down to Build Up

A Bible Study with the Francis Asbury Society

SESSION 4

Jeremiah 5–6

Background: Before gunpowder came into common usage, the only way to capture a walled city was by means of siege, which involved completely surrounding the city so as to prevent entry or exit, attempting to tunnel under the walls, battering them down with rams, or building ramps against them to get over them (Jer 5:6, 16–17; 6:3–6, 22–26). If the siege was prolonged, conditions inside the city would become unbearable.

- Benjamin was north of Jerusalem, while Beth-hakkerem and Tekoa (Jer 6:1) were south.
 - Describing a city as “daughter” (Jer 6:2) was a way of picturing the enemy who would violate it as a rapist.
1. Record the contents of the two chapters in the order of their appearance. Then review the list and look for repeated themes.
 2. Look for a verse that is repeated twice in chapter 5. What does this repetition tell us about the key theme of the chapter?
 3. Why does spiritual adultery with other gods lead to dishonest dealing and lying (Jer 5:1–9)? Why would devotion to Yahweh promote honest dealing and seeking the truth?
 4. Look at Jeremiah 5:10–11 and 18–19. What do you see here that is incongruent? To understand it, look at Jesus’ parable in Matthew 13:24–30.
 5. What is the point of Jeremiah 5:20–25? What should the people have learned and why?
 6. Compare Jeremiah to the false prophets and priests (Jer 5:11–13, 14, 31; 6:10–12, 13–15, 27–30).

7. Look at Jeremiah 6:16–20. What does God consider “the ancient ways,” and what do the people evidently consider them to be? What is the problem?