



Jeremiah: Torn Down to Build Up

A Bible Study with the Francis Asbury Society

SESSION 8

Jeremiah 13–14

Background: Although the NIV refers to the garment mentioned in Jeremiah 13:1–11 as a “belt,” it is almost certainly a loincloth, the most intimate garment. The word that NIV translates as “waist” is better translated with the archaic English “loins.” It includes the entire area from the groin to the midriff.

The word translated “Perath” in the NIV (4–7) is normally translated “Euphrates [River].” However, since the nearest the Euphrates comes to Jerusalem is about 350 miles, it seems highly unlikely that the actual Euphrates is being referred to. It is possible that Jeremiah dug a ditch, filled it with water and called it the Euphrates. The significance of burying the loincloth beside the “Euphrates” is not clear.

1. Look at Jeremiah 13:11 and identify the significance of this acted-out prophecy. What kind of a relationship does God want with us?
2. What should a wineskin be filled with normally (Jer 13:12)? What is God going to fill the wineskin of Judah and Jerusalem with (Jer 13:13)? What is the inner logic of the contrast? Who is going to be involved? What is the point?
3. Jeremiah 13:15–27 seems to be a single poem. How many parts are there? What is the content of each part?
4. What particular sin is identified in verses 15–17? Why might that attitude have characterized the Judeans? What seemed to be still possible?
5. Who is being addressed in verses 18–27? What is their particular sin? Why is that especially heinous in them?
6. Despite the diversity of forms in chapter 14, there is reason to believe that all of them are occasioned by the same natural event. What is the event and what is the reason?

7. What is the content of verses 7–9 and 17–22? What are they doing here? Who is praying them and why? What is Yahweh's response (vv 10–12)?

8. What was the message of the false prophets (vv 13, 15)? How do we know their prophecies were false?