

“An Appalling and Horrible Thing”

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Jeremiah was “the son of Hilkiah, one of the priests who were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin.”
- B. “The word of the LORD” came to him “in the days of Josiah” in 627 B.C. and throughout the reigns of other kings, “until the captivity of Jerusalem in the fifth month” (July/August of 586 B.C.).
- C. The LORD gave Jeremiah the difficult task of preaching a very unpopular message (*Jer 1*).
- D. The book contains a powerful warning of God’s judgment against his rebellious people (*5:1-29*).

I. “An Appalling and Horrible Thing Has Happened in the Land” (5:30-31)

- A. This “appalling and horrible thing” is directly linked by God to three classes of people:
 - 1. “The prophets” — the word literally means “to boil up like a fountain.”
 - a. In the Old and New Testaments, a prophet was one who spoke the message of God to the people while under the direct influence of the Spirit of God (*2 Pet 1:16-21*).
 - b. The messages may have related to the past, the present, or the future (*Exo 4:15-16; 7:1-2; Deut 18:18-22*).
 - c. Prophets were also known as “seers” (*1 Sam 9:9*), “men of God” (*1 Kings 17:18*), “servants of God” (*Jer 26:4-6*), “messengers of God” (*Hag 1:13*), “watchmen” (*Ezek 3:16-21*) and “oracles” (*1 Pet 4:10-11*).
 - 2. “The priests” — the word literally means, “he that stands.”
 - a. These men were to “stand” as teachers of the people (*Lev 10:8-11; Ezra 8:1-3*).
 - b. They were to “stand” as offerers of sacrifice to God (*Deut 33:10*).
 - 3. “The people” — the general population; expected by God to heed the messages of the prophets, be instructed and served by the priests, and function as a holy nation (*Exo 19:3-6*).
- B. “An appalling and horrible thing has happened in the land” (*Jer 5:30-31a*):
 - 1. “The prophets prophesy falsely” (*6:1-14; 14:13-16; 23:16-17; 27:16-17*).
 - 2. “The priests rule at their direction” (*6:13; 7:8-11, 16-20; 23:11; 32:31-35; 20:1-2*).
 - 3. “My people love to have it so” (*Mic 2:11; 3:9-11; Jer 44:15-17; Amos 5:10*).
- C. “But what will you do when the end comes?” (*Jer 5:31b*)

II. “An Appalling and Horrible Thing” Continues to Happen Throughout the World

- A. Men and women who claim to have “modern-day revelations” from God.
- B. Teachers who fail to abide within the doctrine of Christ and follow their own direction.
- C. Masses of people, driven by their own lusts, who love to have it so.
- D. This “appalling and horrible thing” didn’t somehow sneak up on and surprise God (*2 Tim 4:1-4*).
- E. “But what will you do when the end comes?” (*2 Pet 3:1-14*).
- F. What must the righteous do in the meantime?

1. *"Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you" (Jer 1:8).*
2. *"Continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed" (2 Tim 3:10-17).*
3. *"Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith" (Heb 12:1-4).*