

**The Study on the Book of Jeremiah**  
**Week #16: “The Plot Revealed to Jeremiah”**  
**Sunday, February 9, 2025 (PM Service)**

**1. The Plot Revealed to Jeremiah**

**a. God’s Rejection of His Inheritance (Jer. 12:7-8)**

i. **“I will forsake my house (I will) abandon”** are prophetic **perfects** (translated **“I have forsaken... I have abandoned”**).

ii. God compared **Judah** to a **“speckled bird of prey.”**

1. It was subject to attacks like a bird whose unusual plumage would attract other **“birds of prey”** go to attack it.

iii. **“Shepherds”** are often used as a figure for Judah’s rulers, but in this context, it is more likely they are the Babylonian invaders called **“destroyers”** in **12:12**.

iv. The **failed** harvest would be evidence of God’s displeasure.

**b. A Conditional Promise (Jer. 12:14-17)**

i. The neighbors would not escape punishment. Those neighbors would include **Babylonia**, Syria, Edom, **Moab**, and Ammon.

ii. God is willing to bless any nation that will accept His **lordship**. (**Isa. 56:6-8**)

iii. The invitation contained a twofold condition:

1. **“If they will learn... if any nation does not listen.”**

2. The verses teach the freedom of choice with which God has endowed the human race.

**2. A Corrupt People and Their Punishment (Jer. 13:1-27)**

i. This chapter is composed of five units: the first two are prose; the remaining three are poetry.

**a. The Ruined Linen Garment (Jer. 13:1-11)**

i. **Vss. 1-11:** contains an account of the second symbolic act performed by Jeremiah. He was to purchase a **“linen belt.”**

ii. Linen was used for **priestly** garments, and Judah was a priestly nation. (**Lev. 16:4; Ex. 19:6**)

iii. **Jer. 13:3-5:** Jeremiah was then told to take the garment to the Perath, also translated, **"Euphrates."**

1. Whatever the location, the Lord told Jeremiah to hide the garment in a **crevice** in the rocks.

iv. **Jer. 13:8-11:** As in the other symbolic acts, the Lord then gave the interpretation.

1. The linen undergarment represented **Judah**. Like a garment worn next to the body, it symbolized God clothing Himself with Judah.

**b. The Smashed Wineskins (Jer. 13:12-14)**

i. "Drunkness" here is a figure to describe the **helplessness** of the people to defend themselves from the enemy's attack.

ii. God would **smash** them against one another. In their confusion and panic they would fight among themselves and **destroy** one another.

1. Women would boil their own children for food.

2. Children would eat their fathers; and fathers their children.

iii. His blessings were conditioned on **obedience**.

1. The disobedient people should have known that they could not presume on God's continued favor.