

**The Study on the Book of Jeremiah**  
**Week #18: “The Catastrophes at Hand”**  
**Sunday, February 23, 2025 (PM Service)**

**1. Catastrophes that Cannot be Averted**

**a. A Plea for Mercy (Jer. 14:7-9)**

- i. **Vss. 7-9:** It is uncertain whether the people were **confessing** their sins or Jeremiah was confessing on their **behalf** and pleading with God for relief.
  - 1. If Jeremiah was speaking for himself, his words contain a strong accusation against God.
  - 2. They were not as concerned about their **“backsliding”** (**same word used in other places of this book**) as they were about what they felt was God’s indefensible **position**.
    - a. They taunted Him that His honor was at stake so He must do something for the sake of his name. (His reputation).
  - 3. **Judah** believed that God must deliver the people in order to protect His reputation.
  - 4. Do people still sin but presumptuously claim the promises of God’s blessings?
    - a. The issue here appears to be that of **hypocrisy**.

**b. The Rejection and Judgement (Jer. 14:10-16)**

- i. The rejection is the **Lord’s** rejection of the plea of the **people**.
- ii. **Jer. 14:11-12:** For the third time God told Jeremiah not to pray for the people.
  - 1. His refusal to hear prayers of the people was not due to **indifference** or lack of **compassion**.
  - 2. He knew their hearts were hardened and that they were not going to change, so Jeremiah’s prayers would be futile.
- iii. **The Judgment was on the False Prophets.**
  - 1. **Jer. 14:13:** He protested that the **blame** for the people’s sins should be placed on the false prophets.
  - 2. **Jer. 14:14-16:** God **agreed** with Jeremiah that the prophets were leading the people astray by their reassuring words.
  - 3. God warned that he had not sent the prophets who were confidently insisting that sword or famine would not touch the land.
    - a. Those same prophets would perish by **sword** and **famine**.

**c. Jeremiah’s Lament and Supplication (Jer. 14:17-22)**

- i. It is unclear whether **Jeremiah** or **God** was lamenting the downfall of Judah.
  - 1. Also, it is uncertain whether he was describing an event that had already taken place or one that was going to occur.
  - 2. **“My virgin daughter- my people”** suggests that God is the speaker.

- ii. **Jer. 14:19-21:** Jeremiah made a threefold appeal to God for mercy.
1. First, for the sake of God's name, that is, His nature, He should not **"despise"** Zion. (**Num. 14:13-19**)
    - a. **"Despise"** means **"To treat as foolish or to esteem lightly."**
  2. The second appeal was for God not to **dishonor** His glorious throne.
    - a. "Throne" as used here is generally understood to be a reference to Jerusalem, or more specifically the temple, which was considered to be the abode of God among His people.
  3. Finally, Jeremiah **appealed** to God not to carry out the covenant promises of judgment on Israel.

**Conclusion:**

- Jeremiah's **admission** of Judah's sin and his belief in God as their only hope could **not** serve to appease God's anger.
  - One person, however devout, cannot confess the sins or the faith of another.