**Jeremiah 44:1-30**

***“When Will We Ever Learn?”***

Introduction:

1. When will we ever learn? In 1807 Hegel wrote *Philosophy of History* in the intro he said: *What*

 *experience and history teach is this…that people and governments never have learned anything from*

 *history or acted on principles deduced from it.*

2. Jeremiah 44:1-30 Judah was post-God. America is post-Christian. Both need to answer the question:

 When will we ever learn? Israel never did.

When will we ever learn?

**I. FROM OUR PAIN 44:1-10**

How many times must you stick your finger in a live light socket?

 ***A. The Place of Pain 1***

**1.** *The land of Egypt…*4 cities are mentioned, so it must be some time to get assimilated…perhaps

 580 B.C.

 **2.** This was the place from which God had set them free (Exodus). He wanted them to stay

 away from idols.

 **3.** Why do we keep going back to hurtful places and expect different results? Egypt is a picture

 of sin and our old life. When will we ever learn?

 ***B. The Proclamation of Pain 1,2***

**1.** *The Word…thus saith the Lord*

**2.** We are confronted by the word. When will we ever learn?

 **3.** Ignoring God’s word leads to negative results. When will we ever learn?

 **4.** Past experiences…past failures…past hurts is no guarantee that we will learn anything (2b

 *you have seen the evil)*

 ***C. The Problem of Pain 3,6***

**1.** *Provoked me to anger…burned sacrifices…*they served two gods.

 **2.** Wickedness doesn’t have to be something vile…just worship another god. When will we

 ever learn?

 **3.** Someone must and will pay. Judgment is the answer to forsaking God (v. 6).

 ***D. The Prophets of Pain 4***

**1.** God’s voice has been heard…America has had years of preachers!

 **2.** “*Do not this abominable thing that I hate!”*

 ***E. The Payment of Pain 5,6***

**1.** *They harkened not…not inclined…not turned*

**2.** *Wherefore 6* Not listening or obeying is serious business. When will we ever learn?

 **3.** Judgment is a horrible thing (v. 6). Do you know what judgment looks like? In Chicago,

 NY, LA 70% of inner city children have no father. Drugs are killing and addicting millions.

 Abortion is now considered a woman’s health issue and many running for president in 2020 want

 abortion up to 9 months. Gang violence…fear…hating law enforcement officers…killing

 policemen. Hating the President of the USA. Etc. Etc. Etc.

 ***F. The Puzzle of Pain 7-9***

**1.** *Why?* You will only hurt…*be a curse and a reproach.*

 **2.** You think you are special. You think it will never happen to you. When will we ever learn?

 **3.** Our choices affect our children, our heritage, our nation.

 **4.** *Why does God…?* (v. 8) *Why do we… You provoke Me…*When will we ever learn?

 **5.** *Have you forgotten…wickedness (used 5 times)* To leave God out is wicked. We are

 leaving Him out as a country. Christmas is no longer about Christ. Schools…a mic was shut off at

 a graduation when a speech was given by the valedictorian when God was mentioned. No longer

 do we start class with prayer. In some schools you can teach about Mohammed but not Jesus

 Christ. God is systematically being removed from our public life. When will we ever learn?

 ***G. The Pride of Pain 10***

**1.** *They are not humbled…neither feared my laws, my statutes…*

**2.** Pride is at the root. God’s Word is the standard for right and wrong. When will we ever

 learn?

When will we ever learn?

**II. FROM OUR PUNISHMENT 44:11-14**

God won’t put up with our nonsense. We just don’t get it. You cannot leave God out and not pay a

 heavy price…nationally or personally.

1. ***Antagonism 11a*** *Therefore…*God is upset.

 **1.** We make the choice. The decision is ours.

 **2.** God will respond to our disobedience or our obedience. When will we ever learn?

 ***B. Agitation 11b*** *I will set my face…*It’s a fearful thing when God is against us.

 ***C. Action 12-14*** *I will…*the only ones with hope are those who previously lived in Egypt (v. 12)

 **1.** God is a God of love, but He is also a God of wrath.

 **2.** Sin must be punished. 13 When will we ever learn?

 **3.** God’s wrath is thorough. *Sinners In The Hands of An Angry God* was a message by

 Jonathan Edwards which led to a revival in America. The Sinner was held over the flames of

 hell by a thread.

When will we ever learn?

**III. FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE 44:15-19**

Our perspective is usually wrong because it is shaped by society. They feel they are right!

 ***A. The Congregation 15***

**1.** They may have been at a Queen of Heaven Feast…which is pagan.

 **2.** *All the men…all the women…a great multitude…all the people.*

**3.** Women were the spokes persons for the home, which was a sign of weak leadership.

 **4.** The majority is usually wrong when it comes to spiritual things.

 ***B. The Contention 16***

**1.** *We will not hearken unto thee.* They said the same things to Jeremiah.

 **2.** A change of geographic location does not change the heart.

 **3.** When men are not the spiritual leaders in the home a nation flounders.

 ***C. The Comparison 17-18***

The comparison is between the Queen of Heaven (Ashteroth, Amatar, Ishtar, Isis), a Babylonia

 deity and Jehovah.

1. **What we do:** Lessons we learn…Shaking your fist at God changes nothing. *Queen of*

*Heaven…*worshiping the wrong God doesn’t make a stronger nation. Serving Satan does not produce a better life. Physical and financial prosperity is not the measuring stick of a blessed life.

1. **What we feel:** Lessons we learn…Two and two doesn’t make five. They had already been told why the ‘Good Life’ stopped. What was happening had nothing to do with God. It had everything to do with the choices they made.

 ***D. The Cooperation 19***

**1.** How could he complain. They had their husband’s blessing?

 **2.** A husband without a spiritual backbone cannot be a positive leader.

 **3.** Without the husband leading…the wife must and will!

 **4.** It was a family affair. The family takes its cue from mom and dad. Both are essential!

When will we ever learn?

**IV. FROM OUR PRECEPTS 44:20-28**

There must be a standard. God’s word is the standard! That’s why it is under attack.

 ***A. The Outrage 20-23***

Let’s set the record straight! What the women perceived wasn’t right! When will we ever learn?

1. It takes the Word of God to get a true perspective (20).
2. Only the Word of God can identify and evaluate (21).
3. **It’s not that you’ve tried worshiping God and it doesn’t work…you’ve never tried it!**
4. How you relate to the Word of God is how you relate to life (23). By your choice you get what you choose.

 ***B. The Oath 24-28***

*You have sworn…I have sworn* Go ahead and keep your promise to the false god!

1. Go ahead and do what you want…see where it will lead you (24, 25).

 (Rom. 1:24, 26, 28 *When they knew God they glorified Him not as God: God gave them over…God gave them up)* There is a God-shaped emptiness on the inside of every person.When will we ever learn?

1. Ignore the Lord long enough and His name will not be heard (26). ***The Lord Liveth*** will be replaced by ***God Is Dead!***
2. Do what you want and everything ‘good’ will die (27).
3. God always keeps His eye on a small number (28). Give it time and you will know who is telling the truth (28). **When you know…IT WILL BE TOO LATE!**

When will we ever learn?

**V. FROM OUR PROVIDENCE 44:29-30**

 ***A. The Sign 29a*** The fingerprint of God is all around us. There are evidences, we just can’t read

 the signs.

 ***B. The Surety 29b*** *Surely*

 ***C. The Sovereignty 30***

When will we ever learn?

1. *Punish is so you will know my Word stands.*
2. God rules and God over rules. He lifts up and He puts down. Man is so small. God is so BIG!
3. We are a very small piece of sand in the whole scheme of things! When will we ever learn?

***When will we ever learn?***

**Choose Today!**

***When will we ever learn?***

***THAT ONE DAY IT WILL BE ETERNALLY TOO LATE!!***