The title of my lesson today is:

GOD WILL JUDGE HIS PEOPLE…WHAT WILL BE YOUR CHOICE?

It is good to see everyone this morning.

Let’s have a word of prayer and we will get started.

Our lesson today will be coming from the book of Jeremiah. Specifically, chapter 6. Sense we are studying Jeremiah, I thought it would be appropriate to have a lesson from the same book.

We are in a world where living for and worshipping God is considered “what my parents did”. Starting in Europe, and spreading to the US and the rest of the world, God is (almost) completely out of everyone’s lives. We seem to be too busy; we feverously strive to have what we want; you know the things that make us happy. The world is either legislating God out of society or God and specifically Jesus is completely out of the conversation.

Except when people use His name in vain.

Or, people are worshipping their God based on their personal desires and beliefs. We seek to worship at the church of our choice. We are even seeing in the US, people of the Islamic faith having more morals and they are (often) portrayed as more religious than Christians. God has allowed these people to grow in number throughout the world. They have even become our neighbors. We hear in the news about radical Muslims in the Middle East, Syria, Egypt, Hamas, Al Qaeda. What we don’t see are the other Muslims that are slowly entering this country and moving into our neighborhoods.

This is not new in our history or in the history of God’s people. **We let it happen**. We sin, we turn from God and worship idols.

We are presently studying the book of Jeremiah. Israel has left God. Judah is playing the harlot and quickly leaving God to worship idols of the pagans. God sent Jeremiah to tell them their destruction was at hand.

Let’s read **Jeremiah 5 vs. 14-17**… God is tells his people that they will be destroyed by a nation from a far off, a nation whose language you do not know. This nation was Babylon Sounds familiar. As a nation, we have been protected by having oceans between us and the wars that took place in the 19th century. WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Aflaganistan. Are we protected today?

Going back to Jeremaih, let’s see why God is doing this to His people. God gives 4 reasons His people will be destroyed. In the next few minutes, we will look at those reasons and make application to the world today.

---Turn to **Jeremiah 6** starting with vs. 10, the first sentence. **“To whom shall I speak and give warning that they may hear? Behold their ears are closed and they cannot listen**”

The people do not want to listen to what God has to say.

**Jeremiah 5** vs**. 22** says: **“Do you not fear Me? declares the Lord. Do you not tremble in My presence?”**

In our churches today, we talk about God’s grace and mercy. We talk about God loves each of us. We talk about His goodness. There is no way that God will let good people go to hell. I was talking to a Muslim last week. He said to me, “If you do good and treat people in a good way, you will go to heaven”. Yes God provides us grace and mercy. I am so thankful for His mercy.

I want to tell you that being good is important also, but obeying His will is more important. Having reverent fear is very important. A fear that leads you and I to listen to God.

---Obeying God is doing His will and not your own. We need to open our ears and eyes and see what is going on around us. We might be in the generation that God sends a people to destroy us because we do not fear God. We need to fear God and keep His commandments.

**Point 2**… They have no delight in God’s word

**Read the second half of vs. 10-12**. The people then did not delight in God’s word, in God’s commandments. They did not want to go to Jerusalem. They did not want to make sacrifices to God. They did not want to worship the Lord God. What did they do? They worshipped wood!

Read **Jeremiah 10:vs. 1-8**. The people had to see and carry around what they worshipped. Why did they do that? Was it for convenience, or “that is what my neighbors are doing”? Or, “My parents did it” or “I think it is a good thing”? It makes me feel good. I am doing a good thing by being religious.

Today we read God’s word, but we apply what we want vs. what God tells us. We enjoy the social gospel better than the harder choices of doing God’s will the way He tells us.

What is our idol…video games, smart phones, my job, my “things”, what I like to do?

**Point 3---**Everyone is greedy for gain. Read **Jer. 6 vs. 13-14**

From the least to the greatest, everyone is interested in the almighty dollar. But it is not just the dollar. People want to gain in other ways.

Have you experienced on the interstate highways that when people want to merge with you, they always want to merge in *front of you* and *not behind you.* They want to be aggressive instead of dropping in with the flow.

What about the aggressiveness of people wanting to get ahead for any reasons, including finding ways to make others look bad.

We have a “Me—Me” society. What is my benefit? How can I make myself happy? What can I do to have an advantage over other people?

Do I lie?

Do I cheat?

Do I gossip?

Do I find ways to gain advantage over others?

**Point 4**—They did not even know how to blush. Read **6 vs. 15**

Think about it today. When was the last time you saw someone blush? With all the different medias, there is nothing left to the imagination. There is nothing that we keep our eyes & ears away from. We used to talk about the TV as the screen of the devil that comes into our house. Now the devil has other ways to entice you:

1. the internet
2. Smart phones
3. Instant media
4. We can access anything we can imagine at the slide and punch of a screen

What should God’s people do? Jeremiah tells us in vs**. 16**

As we have read, Jeremiah warns the people of Judah that if they don’t listen He will destroy His people. God even told them how He was going to do it.

Babylon will destroy His people and their way of life. Why, because they forsook Him & served foreign gods. They worshipped their god instead of doing God’s will and worshipping God His way.

So what is our take away for the lesson this morning?

1. We cannot seek the things of this world
2. We need to have the correct respect (fear) for God and His teachings. Do not look to do what seems to be a good work. Have the reverence and fear in your heart that you only want to do God’s will.
3. We need to love each other so much that we will do everything in our power to keep each of our lives pure and focused on doing God’s will.
4. Lastly, we need to take what we know about God’s salvation through Jesus Christ and share it with others.

**Ecclesiastes** **12 vs. 12-13:** The conclusion, when all has been heard is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person.

Why? **Vs. 14**…Because God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.

So what about you today?

Are you worshipping the “wood” of the world, or God?

Are you lost in your sins?

If so, Jesus Christ has given you a way out.

Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God?

Do you want to repent of your sins?

Then come up front & be baptized for the remission of your sins.

If you need to respond, please come as we stand and sing.