

If My People

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If My People

God says,

“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; **then** will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” (II Chronicles 7:14)

But what sins must God’s people turn from? What have we done that we must humble ourselves and pray and seek God’s face? Let’s take a look at **“my people”** from the book of Jeremiah. Are any of these sins a problem among Christians in America today? Are any of them a problem in our own lives? In my life?

Jeremiah

Chapter 2

Jeremiah 2:11

“Hath a nation changed *their* gods, which *are* yet no gods? but **_my people_** have changed their glory for *that which* doth not profit.”

Jeremiah 2:13

“For **_my people_** have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, *and* hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.”

Jeremiah 2:31b,32

“Wherefore say **_my people_**, We are lords; we will come no more unto thee? Can a maid forget her ornaments, *or* a bride her attire? yet **_my people_** have forgotten me days without number.”

Chapter 4

Jeremiah 4:11b-14

“A dry wind of the high places in the wilderness toward the daughter of **_my people_**, not to fan, nor to cleanse, ¹² *Even* a full wind from those *places* shall come unto me: now also will I give sentence against them... Woe unto us! for we are spoiled. ¹⁴O... wash thine heart from wickedness, that thou mayest be saved. How long shall thy vain thoughts lodge within thee?”

Jeremiah 4:22

“ **_My people_**

is foolish,

they have not known me;

they *are* sottish children, and

they have none understanding: they *are* wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge.”

Sottish – doltish, very foolish, drunken (Webster’s 1913 unabridged dictionary)

Chapter 5

Jeremiah 5:26-29

“Among

my people

are found wicked *men* : they lay wait, as he that setteth snares; they set a trap, they catch men. ²⁷As a cage is full of birds, so *are* their houses full of deceit: therefore they are become great, and waxen rich.

²⁸They are waxen fat, they shine: yea, they overpass the deeds of the wicked: they judge not the cause, the cause of the fatherless, yet they prosper; and the right of the needy do they not judge.

²⁹Shall I not visit for these *things*? saith the LORD: shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?”

Jeremiah 5:31

“The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and

my people

love *to have it so*: and

what will ye do in the end thereof?”

Chapter 6

Jeremiah 6:14-16a

“¹⁴They have healed also the hurt *of the daughter of*

my people

slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when *there is* no peace.

¹⁵Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall among them that fall: at the time *that* I visit them they shall be cast down, saith the LORD.

¹⁶Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where *is* the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls.”

Jeremiah 6:26-30

²⁶O daughter of

my people

gird *thee* with sackcloth, and wallow thyself in ashes: make thee mourning, *as for* an only son, most bitter lamentation: for the spoiler shall suddenly come upon us. ²⁷I have set thee *for* a tower *and* a fortress among

my people

that thou mayest know and try their way.

²⁸They *are* all grievous revolvers, walking with slanders:
they are brass and iron; *they are* all corrupters.

... the wicked are not plucked away.

³⁰Reprobate silver shall *men* call them, because the LORD hath rejected them.”

Chapter 7

Jeremiah 7:12,13

“¹²But go ye now unto
my place

which *was* in Shiloh, where I set
my name

at the first, and see what I did to it for the wickedness of
my people...

¹³And now... saith the LORD... I spake unto you, rising up early and speaking, but ye heard not; and I called you, but ye answered not.”

Jeremiah 7:23,24

“This thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be
my people:

and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you.

²⁴But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but
walked in the counsels *and* in the imagination of their evil heart, and
went backward, and not forward.”

Chapter 8

Jeremiah 8:7,9

“Yea, the stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed times; and the turtle and the crane and the
swallow observe the time of their coming; but

my people
know not the judgment of the LORD...

they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom *is* in them?”

Jeremiah 8:11-13a (See also Jeremiah 6:14-16a)

“¹¹For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of
my people

slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when *there is* no peace.

¹²Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed,
neither could they blush:

therefore shall they fall among them that fall: in the time of their visitation they shall be cast down, saith
the LORD. ¹³I will surely consume them, saith the LORD

Jeremiah 8:19-22

¹⁹Behold the voice of the cry of the daughter of

my people

because of them that dwell in a far country: *Is not the LORD in Zion? is not her king in her?*

Why have they provoked me to anger with their graven images, *and* with strange vanities?

²⁰The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.

²¹For the hurt of the daughter of

my people

am I hurt; I am black; astonishment hath taken hold on me. ²² *Is there* no balm in Gilead; *is there* no physician there? why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?"

Chapter 9

We ought to weep over the sins of God's people and over the distress these sins have brought upon them. We ought to be grieved at the sins and the consequences.

Jeremiah 9:1,2

¹Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of

my people!

²Oh that I had in the wilderness a lodging place of wayfaring men; that I might leave

my people,

and go from them!

for they *be* all adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men."

Jeremiah 9:4b-9

"Trust ye not in any brother: for

every brother will utterly supplant, and

every neighbour will walk with slanders. ⁵And

they will deceive every one his neighbour, and will not speak the truth:

they have taught their tongue to speak lies, *and* weary themselves to commit iniquity. ⁶Thine habitation *is* in the midst of deceit;

through deceit they refuse to know me, saith the LORD.

⁷Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, I will melt them, and try them; for how shall I do for the daughter of

my people?

⁸Their tongue *is as* an arrow shot out; it speaketh deceit:

one speaketh peaceably to his neighbour with his mouth, but in heart he layeth his wait.

⁹Shall I not visit them for these *things*? saith the LORD: shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?"

Chapter 11

What God wants of His people:

Jeremiah 11:4b

“Obey my voice, and do them [His words/commandments], according to all which I command you: so shall ye be

my people,

and I will be your God.”

Chapter 12

Every nation that rejects and will not obey the word of the Lord should be afraid because God can utterly pluck up and destroy that nation.

Jeremiah 12:16,17

¹⁶“And it shall come to pass, if they will diligently learn the ways of

my people,

to swear by my name, The LORD liveth; as they taught

my people

to swear by Baal; then shall they be built in the midst of

my people.

¹⁷But if they will not obey, I will utterly pluck up and destroy that nation, saith the LORD.”

Chapter 15

Jeremiah 15:6,7

⁶“Thou hast forsaken me, saith the LORD,

thou art gone backward:

therefore will I stretch out my hand against thee, and destroy thee; I am weary with repenting. ⁷And I will fan them with a fan in the gates of the land; I will bereave *them* of children, I will destroy

my people,

[Why?]

since they return not from their ways.”

Chapter 18

Jeremiah 18:15-17

¹⁵Because

my people

hath forgotten me,

they have burned incense to vanity, and

they have caused them to stumble in their ways *from* the ancient paths, to walk in paths, *in* a way not cast up; ¹⁶To make their land desolate, *and* a perpetual hissing; every one that passeth thereby shall be

astonished, and wag his head.

¹⁷I will scatter them as with an east wind before the enemy; I will shew them the back, and not the face, in the day of their calamity.”

Chapter 23

Sins of the pastors, prophets, and spiritual leaders. God takes breaches of spiritual leadership very seriously.

Jeremiah 23:1,2

¹“Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD.

²Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed

my people;

Ye have scattered my flock, and

driven them away, and

have not visited them:

behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD.”

Jeremiah 23:13-15

¹³And I have seen folly

in the prophets

of Samaria; they prophesied in Baal, and caused

my people

Israel to err.

¹⁴I have seen also

in the prophets

of Jerusalem an horrible thing:

they commit adultery, and walk in lies:

they strengthen also the hands of evildoers, that none doth return from his wickedness:

they are all of them unto me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah.

¹⁵Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts

concerning the prophets;

Behold, I will feed them with wormwood, and make them drink the water of gall: for

from the prophets

of Jerusalem is profaneness gone forth into all the land.”

Jeremiah 23:22-28a

²²But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused

my people

to hear my words, then

they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings.

²³Am I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a God afar off? ²⁴Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.

²⁵I have heard what

the prophets said,

that prophesy lies in my name, saying, I have dreamed, I have dreamed. ²⁶How long shall *this* be in the heart of the prophets that prophesy lies? yea,

they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart;

²⁷Which think to cause

my people

to forget my name by their dreams which they tell every man to his neighbour, as their fathers have forgotten my name for Baal.

²⁸The prophet

that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; and

he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully.”

Jeremiah 23:32

“³²Behold, I *am* against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the LORD, and do tell them, and cause

my people

to err by their lies, and by their lightness; yet

I sent them not, nor commanded them:

therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the LORD.”

Chapter 24

Jeremiah 24:7

“I will give them an heart to know me, that I *am* the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart.”

Chapter 50

God’s people turned away from the Lord by those that should have been their spiritual shepherds.

Jeremiah 50:6

“ **_My people_**

hath been lost sheep:

their shepherds have caused them to go astray,

they have turned them away *on* the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill,

they have forgotten their restingplace.”