



### Jeremiah's complaint in the adversity {part I}

15 *Lord, you understand;  
remember me and care for me.  
Avenge me on my persecutors.  
You are long-suffering—do not take me away;  
think of how I suffer reproach for your sake.*

16 *When your words came, I ate them;  
they were my joy and my heart's delight,  
for I bear your name,  
Lord God Almighty.*

17 *I never sat in the company of revelers,  
never made merry with them;  
I sat alone because your hand was on me  
and you had filled me with indignation.  
Jeremiah 15*

#### Question :

- **What did Jeremiah give as the reason for his suffering (v15 and 16)?**
- **How can we discern the difference between righteous adversity and trials that are part of our discipline or consequences of our poor choices?**
- **Do you think it is always clear cut as to what is the source of our adversity and does the source of our adversity change the way we approach it or pray?**

### Jeremiah's Complaint in the adversity {part II}

*Why then does my suffering continue?  
Why is my wound so incurable?  
Your help seems as uncertain as a seasonal brook,  
like a spring that has gone dry."  
Jeremiah 15*

#### Question :

- **What was it specifically about the adversity in this case that Jeremiah was questioning?**
- **Why would God's help seem fickle to Jeremiah or even us? What are our expectations for God's help in adversity?**

## God's Answer to Jeremiah's complaint

### **11 The Lord replied,**

*"I will take care of you, Jeremiah.  
Your enemies will ask you to plead on their behalf  
in times of trouble and distress.*

#### **Question :**

- **What is the hope that God gives Jeremiah in the answer?**
- **What difference does it make to us in our adversity to know that God will work and turn things around?**

### **19 This is how the Lord responds:**

*"If you return to me, I will restore you  
so you can continue to serve me.  
If you speak good words rather than worthless ones,  
you will be my spokesman.  
You must influence them;  
do not let them influence you!"*

#### **Question :**

- **What is the condition that God puts on Jeremiah if he wants to see God turn things around and cause Jeremiah to begin to get the influence he desires?**
- **What do you think is the proper way to handle adversity?**

**Consider the following scripture.**

*And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. 2 We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy waiting for him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. 3 Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up.  
Hebrews 12*

#### **Question :**

- **What is it about saints faithfully enduring for the sake of God's purposes that causes breakthrough?**
- **How do we see this demonstrated in Christ?**
- **Why is Jesus the perfect example of enduring and breakthrough? How is he superior to Jeremiah in his handling of adversity?**