

**9<sup>TH</sup> YAG RETREAT**  
**Theme: I Have Hope**  
**Text: Jeremiah, Lamentations**

**8.00pm**  
**Session #5**

**1 May 2009**

**A. A NECESSARY TEST**

1. In the realm of Prayer

a) Personal

b) Intercessory

2. Praying

a) Amidst difficulties

b) Against all odds

3. Exercise of Hope

a) In persevering prayer

b) With understanding

c) With hope

4. Jeremiah

a) Imprisonment      Jeremiah 37-38

b) Pleading with the Lord

c) Three observations

i) Prayer heard      Lamentations 3:56

ii) Presence of God felt      Lamentations 3:57a

iii) Personal word to Jeremiah given      Lamentations 3:57b

d) Great encouragement to keep praying

## **B. UNDERSTANDING WHY GOD DOES NOT HEAR OUR PRAYERS**

*"We have transgressed and rebelled; You have not pardoned"* Lamentations 3:42

*"Your iniquity is marked before Me," says the LORD.*" Jeremiah 2:22b

*"How shall I pardon you for this?"* Jeremiah 5:7a

### **1. Departing from the Lord Jeremiah 2:5a**

- a) Changing of faith in God in favour of idols Jeremiah 2:11
- b) Changing of their Glory to things that did not profit Jeremiah 2:8e, 11b
- c) Forsaken the Lord Jeremiah 2:13, 17b, 19d

### **2. Devoted to idolatry Jeremiah 2:5b**

### **3. Defilement of the Promised Land (wicked idolatrous practices) Jeremiah 2:7**

### **4. Disappointing behaviour**

- a) People did not desire to know more about the Lord Jeremiah 2:6
- b) Priests did not inquire from the Lord Jeremiah 2:8a
- c) Teachers of the law did not know the Lord Jeremiah 2:8b
- d) Rulers transgressed Jeremiah 2:8c
- e) Prophets prophesied by Baal Jeremiah 2:8d

### **5. Disastrous pursuits**

- a) Wickedness Jeremiah 2:19a
- b) Backsliding Jeremiah 2:19b
- c) Breaking promises to God Jeremiah 2:20

### **6. Degeneration**

From nobility to degeneration

*"Yet I had planted you a noble vine, a seed of highest quality. How then have you turned before Me into the degenerate plant of an alien vine?"* Jeremiah 2:21

## **7. Denial**

a) Refusal to admit pollution

*"How can you say, 'I am not polluted.'" Jeremiah 2:23*

b) Refusal to return to God

*"But you said, 'There is no hope. No! For I have loved aliens, and after them I will go.'" Jeremiah 2:25b*

c) Refusal to accept correction

*"In vain I have chastened your children; they received no correction" Jeremiah 2:30*

d) Refusal to admit wrong

*"Yet you say, 'I have not sinned'" Jeremiah 2:35*

## **8. Devastating rejection of invitation to return to God**

*"Yet return to Me, says the LORD" Jeremiah 3:1*

*"And I said after she had done all these things, 'Return to Me.' But she did not return" Jeremiah 3:7*

*"Return, O backsliding Israel, says the LORD" Jeremiah 3:12b*

*"Return, O backsliding children, says the LORD" Jeremiah 3:14*

*"Return, you backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings" Jeremiah 3:22*

## **C. UNDERSTANDING THE NEED TO MAKE APPROPRIATE RESPONSES**

### **1. From God**

a) Anger will be set aside Jeremiah 3:12b

b) Mercy will be given Jeremiah 3:12c

c) Acknowledgment of iniquity necessary Jeremiah 3:13a

d) Promise of a fully restored relationship Jeremiah 3:14-15, 17-18

### **2. From Jeremiah**

a) Coming to God Jeremiah 3:22c

b) Confession of sin Jeremiah 3:23-25

## **D. PERSEVERING IN HOPEFUL PRAYER**

### 1. Despite adverse circumstances

- |                                    |                      |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| a) The anger of the Lord displayed | Lamentations 3:43    |
| b) Prayers not heard and answered  | Lamentations 3:44    |
| c) Desolation and destruction      | Lamentations 3:45-47 |
| d) Enemies                         | Lamentations 3:52-54 |

### 2. Determination to seek God in prayer

- |                                     |                   |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| a) Tears “without interruption”     | Lamentations 3:48 |
| b) Till the Lord looks down and see | Lamentations 3:49 |
| c) Calling on the Lord              | Lamentations 3:55 |
| d) Pleading with the Lord           | Lamentations 3:56 |

## **E. APPRECIATING THE RESPONSE OF THE LORD**

### 1. God hearing prayers

*“You have heard my voice”* Lamentations 3:56

### 2. God drawing near

*“You drew near on the day I called You, and said, ‘Do not fear’”* Jeremiah 3:57

### 3. God’s vindication Lamentations 3:58-66

*“O LORD, You have pleaded the case for my soul; You have redeemed my life.”*  
Jeremiah 3:58

(Cf. Psalm 3:3-4)