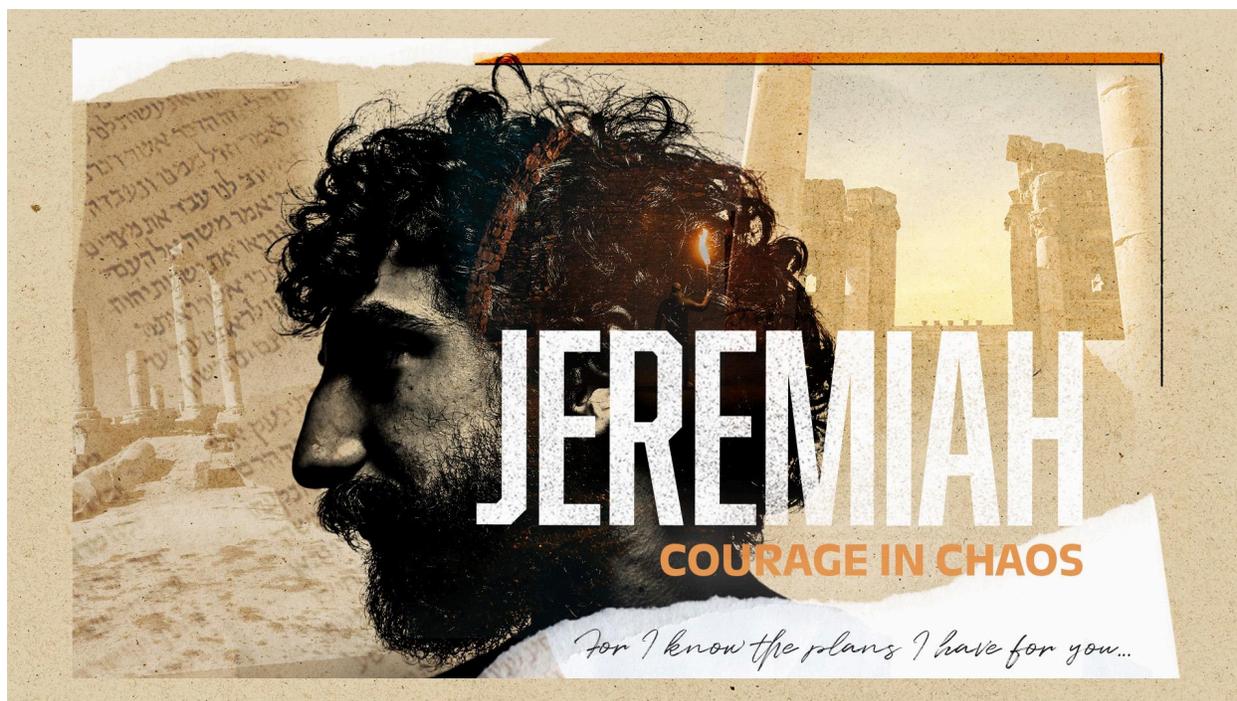


Jeremiah 18-19



Study Guide

Big Idea: Be pliable. Trust that God is making something beautiful.

A. The Potter and the Clay (18:1-4)

1. Read Jeremiah 18:1-3.

Try to visualize a potter and a lump of clay. Discuss the implications of this analogy:

- a. God is sovereign (large and in charge).
- b. We are clay.

Why is this hard for us to accept at times? What are the results when we don't accept this?

2. Read Jeremiah 18:4

4 And the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do.

a. "Spoiled/Reworked" – Salvation

Think of what Adam and Eve did to 'spoil' what they had. Look up the following verses and discuss the implication of what God did to make us into a "new creation" in Christ. What does this mean to you? How does it change the way you live?

2 Corinthians 5:17-

2 Corinthians 5:21-

2 Corinthians 12:9-

b. "Spoiled/reworked" – Sanctification

4 And the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do.

Even now, it is the potter who brings our lives under His hand and is shaping us on the wheel of circumstances and the pressure of His hand to make us according to His will. Discuss the 'reshaping' that the Potter has done or is doing in your life. What may He be up to? Read the following verses and discuss:

- i. God is making me complete. (James 1:2-4)
- ii. God is keeping me from becoming conceited (2 Cor. 12:9)
- iii. God is making me more like Jesus (Phil. 3:10)

B. The Potters Right to Destroy (18:5-19:15)

Here God turns from the personal experience of the potter and the clay to entire nations. Take a minute to read about the progression.

1. When Nations Respond to God (18:5-11)

If a nation turns back to God, He has the right to relent (Hebrew- "*sigh of relief*"), and not bring disaster. If a nation does not turn to God, He has the right to destroy it. Judah did not relent (v. 12)!

2. Bad Logic (18:13-17)

13 ... *Who has heard the like of this?*

Outrage! Who runs away from the source of life?

3. Harmful Practice (18:18)

18 *Then they said, "Come, let us make plots against Jeremiah..."*

Instead of heeding the warning, they plot to kill Jeremiah.

4. Deep Anger (18:19-23- Imprecatory prayer)

Jeremiah prays for their destruction but does not lift a hand against them. He calls on God for justice.

5. Broken Pottery (Jeremiah 19:1-15)

Jeremiah goes to the garbage heap outside of Jerusalem and breaks a piece of pottery to show how God will destroy Judah.

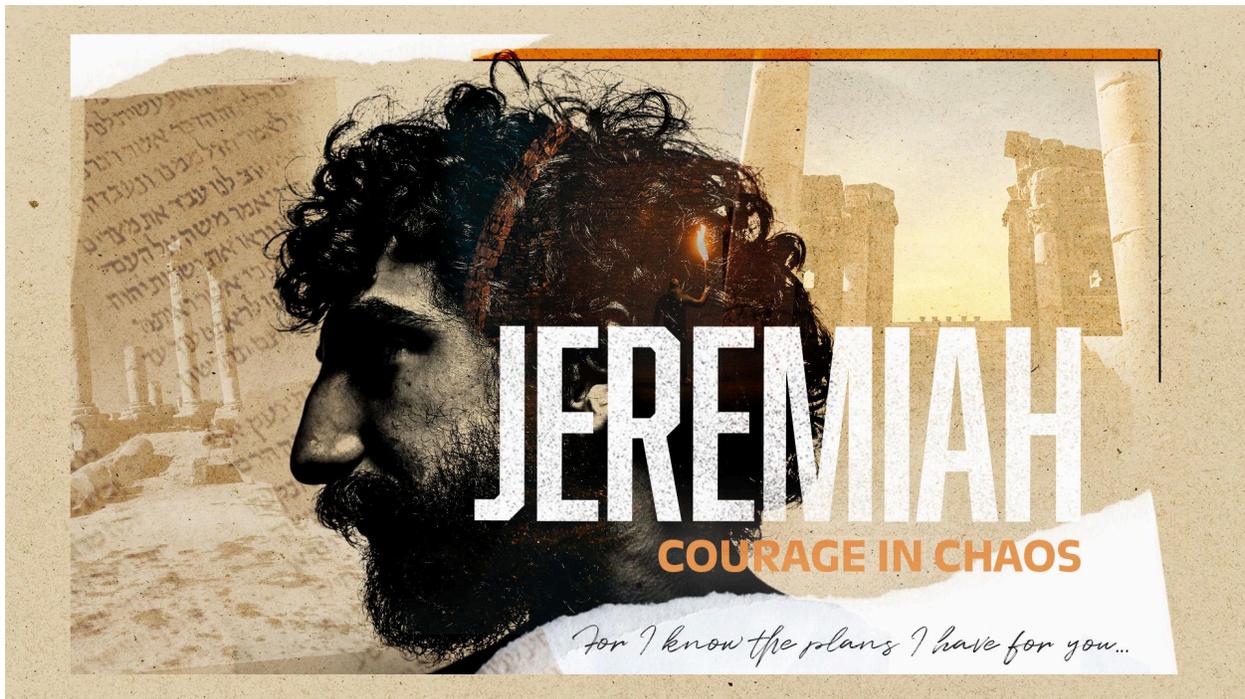
Despite what we see in our nation, the stubbornness, bad logic, hurtful practice, deep anger for people being hurt, we are led to recognize that the reason for the problems is because people are not pliable in the Potter's hand. Reaffirm today that God is shaping us. He has a plan. He knows what He is doing.

Big Idea: Be pliable. Trust that God is making something beautiful.

Prayer

Take time to pray for areas where we can be stubborn or where we need extra faith to trust in God's goodness.

Jeremiah 18-19



Sermon Notes

Big Idea: Be pliable. Trust that God is making something beautiful.

A. The Potter and the Clay (Jeremiah 18:1-4)

1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: 2 "Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." 3 So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel.

Image- Potter Clay

Implications:

1. God is Sovereign
2. We are Clay

A. The Potter and the Clay (Jeremiah 18:1-4)

3. God reworks us. (18:4)

4 And the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do.

2 Corinthians 5:17

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

2 Corinthians 5:21

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

A. The Potter and the Clay (Jeremiah 18:1-4)

3. God reworks us. (18:4)

2 Corinthians 12:9

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

A. The Potter and the Clay (Jeremiah 18:1-4)

4. God reshapes us (18:4)

4 And the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do.

1 John 3:2

"Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is."

B. The Potters Right to Destroy (18:5-19:15)

1. When Nations Respond to God (18:5-11)

5 ... "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter has done? ... If at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, and if that nation, ... turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I intended to do to it.

11 Now, therefore, say to the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: 'Thus says the Lord, Behold, I am shaping disaster against you and devising a plan against you. Return, every one from his evil way, and amend your ways and your deeds.'

12 "But they say, 'That is in vain! We will follow our own plans, and will every one act according to the stubbornness of his evil heart.'

2. Bad Logic (18:13-17)

13 ... Who has heard the like of this? The virgin Israel has done a very horrible thing. Does the snow of Lebanon leave the crags of Sirion? Do the mountain waters run dry, the cold flowing streams? But my people have forgotten me; ...making their land a horror, ...

3. Harmful Practice (18:18)

18 Then they said, "Come, let us make plots against Jeremiah, for the law shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet.

4. Deep Anger (18:19-23- Imprecatory prayer)

Should good be repaid with evil? Yet they have dug a pit for my life. Remember how I stood before you to speak good for them, to turn away your wrath from them.

Therefore deliver [them] up ...famine...sword...pestilence...

5. Broken Pottery (Jeremiah 19:1-15)

1... "Go, buy a potter's earthenware flask, and take some of the elders of the people and some of the elders of the priests, 2 and go out to the Valley of the Son of Hinnom ... and proclaim there the words that I tell you.

Big Idea: Be pliable. Trust that God is making something beautiful.