

Jeremiah 2:12-13

Be appalled, O heavens, at this;  
be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the LORD,  
for my people have committed two evils:  
they have forsaken me,  
the fountain of living waters,  
and hewed out cisterns for themselves,  
broken cisterns that can hold no water.

Jeremiah 17:5, 7

Thus says the LORD:

“Cursed is the man who trusts in man  
and makes flesh his strength,  
whose heart turns away from the LORD...

“Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,  
whose trust is the LORD.”

Jeremiah 18:1-4

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD:  
“Arise, and go down to the potter’s house,  
and there I will let you hear my words.”

So I went down to the potter’s house,  
and there he was working at his wheel.  
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.

Jeremiah 18:5-6

Then the word of the LORD came to me:  
“O house of Israel, can I not do with you  
as this potter has done? declares the LORD.  
Behold, like the clay in the potter’s hand,  
so are you in my hand,  
O house of Israel.”

Jeremiah 18:7-8

“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, concerning which I have spoken,  
turns from its evil,  
I will relent of the disaster  
that I intended to do to it.”

Jeremiah 18:9-10

“And if at any time I declare  
concerning a nation or a kingdom  
that I will build and plant it,  
and if it does evil in my sight,  
not listening to my voice,  
then I will relent of the good  
that I had intended to do to it.”

Jeremiah 18:11

“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, everyone from his evil way,  
and amend your ways and your deeds.’”

Jeremiah 18:12

“But they say, ‘That is in vain!  
We will follow our own plans,  
and will everyone act  
according to the stubbornness  
of his evil heart.’”

# 1. The problem of uncircumcised hearts

Jeremiah 16:10-12

And when you tell this people all these words,  
and they say to you,  
“Why has the LORD pronounced  
all this great evil against us?  
What is our iniquity?  
What is the sin that we have committed  
against the LORD our God...?”

Jeremiah 16:10-12

Then you shall say to them:

“Because your fathers have forsaken me,  
declares the LORD,  
and have gone after other gods  
and have served and worshiped them,  
and have forsaken me and have not kept my law,  
and because you have done worse than your fathers,  
for behold, every one of you follows  
his stubborn, evil will,  
refusing to listen to me.”

Jeremiah 17:1

The sin of Judah is written with a pen of iron;  
with a point of diamond it is engraved  
on the tablet of their heart,  
and on the horns of their altars.

Jeremiah 17:9-10

The heart is deceitful above all things,  
and desperately sick;  
who can understand it?

Jeremiah 17:9-10

The heart is deceitful above all things,  
and desperately sick;  
who can understand it?

I the LORD search the heart  
and test the mind,  
to give every man according to his ways,  
according to the fruit of his deeds.

Matthew 15:18-20

“But what comes out of the mouth  
proceeds from the heart,  
and this defiles a person.

“For out of the heart come evil thoughts,  
murder, adultery, sexual immorality,  
theft, false witness, slander.  
These are what defile a person.  
But to eat with unwashed hands  
does not defile anyone.”

1. The problem of uncircumcised hearts
2. God's call to repent

Jeremiah 4:4, 14

Circumcise yourselves to the LORD;  
remove the foreskin of your hearts,  
O men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem;  
lest my wrath go forth like fire,  
and burn with none to quench it,  
because of the evil of your deeds...

O Jerusalem, wash your heart from evil,  
that you may be saved.  
How long shall your wicked thoughts  
lodge within you?

1. The problem of uncircumcised hearts
2. God's call to repent
3. Judah's failure/refusal to repent

Jeremiah 3:10

Yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah  
did not return to me with her whole heart,  
but in pretense,  
declares the LORD.

Jeremiah 3:10

Yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah  
did not return to me with her whole heart,  
but in pretense,  
declares the LORD.

Jeremiah 9:8

Their tongue is a deadly arrow;  
it speaks deceitfully;  
with his mouth each speaks peace to his neighbor,  
but in his heart  
he plans an ambush for him.

Jeremiah 12:2b

You are near in their mouth  
and far from their heart.

1. The problem of uncircumcised hearts
2. God's call to repent
3. Judah's failure/refusal to repent
4. The sickness and stubbornness of evil hearts

Jeremiah 5:23

But this people has a stubborn  
and rebellious heart;  
they have turned aside and gone away.

Jeremiah 5:23

But this people has a stubborn  
and rebellious heart;  
they have turned aside and gone away.

Jeremiah 7:24

But they did not obey or incline their ear,  
but walked in their own counsels  
and the stubbornness of their evil hearts,  
and went backward and not forward.

Jeremiah 18:12

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.”

Jeremiah 13:10

This evil people, who refuse to hear my words,  
who stubbornly follow their own heart  
and have gone after other gods to serve them  
and worship them,  
shall be like this loincloth,  
which is good for nothing.

1. The problem of uncircumcised hearts
2. God's call to repent
3. Judah's failure/refusal to repent
4. The sickness and stubbornness of evil hearts
5. God's decree of judgment

Jeremiah 7:16

As for you, do not pray for this people,  
or lift up a cry or prayer for them,  
and do not intercede with me,  
for I will not hear you.

Jeremiah 7:16

As for you, do not pray for this people,  
or lift up a cry or prayer for them,  
and do not intercede with me,  
for I will not hear you.

Jeremiah 11:14:

Therefore do not pray for this people,  
or lift up a cry or prayer on their behalf,  
for I will not listen when they call to me  
in the time of their trouble.

Matthew 7:22-23

“On that day many will say to me,  
‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name,  
and cast out demons in your name,  
and do many mighty works in your name?’

“And then will I declare to them,  
‘I never knew you; depart from me,  
you workers of lawlessness.’”

Jeremiah 14:11-12

The LORD said to me:

“Do not pray for the welfare of this people.  
Though they fast, I will not hear their cry,  
and though they offer burnt offering  
and grain offering, I will not accept them.  
But I will consume them by the sword,  
by famine, and by pestilence.”

Jeremiah 14:19-21

“Have you utterly rejected Judah?  
Does your soul loathe Zion?  
Why have you struck us down  
so that there is no healing for us?”

Jeremiah 14:19-21

“We acknowledge our wickedness, O LORD,  
and the iniquity of our fathers,  
for we have sinned against you.

“Do not spurn us, for your name’s sake;  
do not dishonor your glorious throne;  
remember and do not break  
your covenant with us.”

Jeremiah 15:1

Then the LORD said to me,  
“Though Moses and Samuel stood before me,  
yet my heart would not turn toward this people.  
Send them out of my sight,  
and let them go!”

1. The problem of uncircumcised hearts
2. God's call to repent
3. Judah's failure/refusal to repent
4. The sickness and stubbornness of evil hearts
5. God's decree of judgment
6. Jeremiah's anguish, and his consolation

Jeremiah 8:18, 21

My joy is gone; grief is upon me;  
my heart is sick within me...

For the wound of the daughter of my people  
is my heart wounded;  
I mourn, and dismay has taken hold on me.

Jeremiah 11:20

But, O LORD of hosts, who judges righteously,  
who tests the heart and the mind,  
let me see your vengeance upon them,  
for to you have I committed my cause.

Jeremiah 15:16

Your words were found, and I ate them,  
and your words became to me a joy  
and the delight of my heart,  
for I am called by your name,  
O LORD, God of hosts.

1. The problem of uncircumcised hearts
2. God's call to repent
3. Judah's failure/refusal to repent
4. The sickness and stubbornness of evil hearts
5. God's decree of judgment
6. Jeremiah's anguish, and his consolation
7. God's promise for those who repent

Jeremiah 3:17

At that time Jerusalem shall be called  
the throne of the LORD,  
and all nations shall gather to it,  
to the presence of the LORD in Jerusalem,  
and they shall no more stubbornly  
follow their own evil heart.

Jeremiah 29:11-14

For I know the plans I have for you,  
declares the LORD,  
plans for wholeness and not for evil,  
to give you a future and a hope.

Then you will call upon me and come  
and pray to me, and I will hear you.

You will seek me and find me.

When you seek me with all your heart,  
I will be found by you, declares the LORD...  
and I will bring you back to the place from which I  
sent you into exile.

Jeremiah 24:7

I will give them a heart  
to know that I am the LORD,  
and they shall be my people  
and I will be their God,  
for they shall return to me  
with their whole heart.

1. The problem of uncircumcised hearts
2. God's call to repent
3. Judah's failure/refusal to repent
4. The sickness and stubbornness of evil hearts
5. God's decree of judgment
6. Jeremiah's anguish, and his consolation
7. God's promise for those who repent:

A new heart!

Jeremiah 31:33-34

But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD:

I will put my law within them,  
and I will write it on their hearts.  
And I will be their God,  
and they shall be my people.

Jeremiah 31:33-34

And no longer shall each one teach  
his neighbor and each his brother, saying,  
“Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me,  
from the least of them to the greatest,  
declares the LORD.

For I will forgive their iniquity,  
and I will remember their sin no more.

Romans 10:9-10

If you confess with your mouth  
that Jesus is Lord  
and believe in your heart  
that God raised him from the dead,  
you will be saved.

For with the heart one believes and is justified,  
and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

Romans 6:17-18

Thanks be to God,  
that you who were once slaves of sin  
have become obedient from the heart  
to the standard of teaching  
to which you were committed,  
and, having been set free from sin,  
have become slaves of righteousness.

1 John 3:19-24

By this we shall know that we are of the truth  
and reassure our heart before him;  
for whenever our heart condemns us,  
God is greater than our heart,  
and he knows everything.

And beloved, if our heart does not condemn us,  
we have confidence before God;  
and whatever we ask we receive from him,  
because we keep his commandments  
and do what pleases him.

1 John 3:19-24

And this is his commandment,  
that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ  
and love one another,  
just as he has commanded us.

Whoever keeps his commandments abides in him,  
and he in them.

And by this we know that he abides in us,  
by the Spirit whom he has given us.

# TAKE HEART!

Christ has overcome the world.  
He died for you, and now lives for you.  
He will never leave or forsake you!

In him, you are given  
a new heart and a new Spirit