



Sounding the Trumpet

Jeremiah 6:9-17



Sounding the Trumpet

- Prophets and priests in the Northern Ten Tribes of Israel were targets for assassination.
- Prophets in the Southern Two Tribes of Judah were for sale to the highest bidder; they prophesied for money and power.



Sounding the Trumpet

- Jer. 5:1, 7, 26 - "Run to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem; See now and know; And seek in her open places If you can find a man, If there is anyone who executes judgment, Who seeks the truth, And I will pardon her... 7 How shall I pardon you for this? Your children have forsaken Me And sworn by those that are not gods. When I had fed them to the full, Then they committed adultery And assembled themselves by troops in the harlots' houses... 26 For among My people are found wicked men; They lie in wait as one who sets snares; They set a trap; They catch men."



Sounding the Trumpet

- Jer. 9:2, 6, 8 - "Oh, that I had in the wilderness A lodging place for travelers; That I might leave my people, And go from them! For they are all adulterers, An assembly of treacherous men... 6 Your dwelling place is in the midst of deceit; Through deceit they refuse to know Me, says the LORD... 8 Their tongue is an arrow shot out; It speaks deceit; One speaks peaceably to his neighbor with his mouth, But in his heart he lies in wait."



Sounding the Trumpet

- Jer. 22:13 - "Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness And his chambers by injustice, Who uses his neighbor's service without wages And gives him nothing for his work"
- Jer. 29:23 - "Because they have done disgraceful things in Israel, have committed adultery with their neighbors' wives, and have spoken lying words in My name, which I have not commanded them. Indeed I know, and am a witness, says the LORD."



Sounding the Trumpet

- Israelites in the north embraced idolatry; at least they made a choice.
- Judeans in the south simply rejected the truth; they chose nothing, and therefore were vulnerable to everything.
- “History is a vast early warning system.” (Norman Cousins)
- “The friendly preacher who fails to warn of the reality of Hell, betrays the Son of God with a kiss.” (Ray Comfort)

Jeremiah's Background

- Jeremiah was called by the Lord to the office of a prophet while still a youth (1:6) between 16 to 20 years of age
- After the fall of Jerusalem, he prophesied in Egypt for several years for a period of about 50 to 60 years
- Jeremiah is often described as a very tender and sensitive who had the responsibility of delivering a very hard, clear message of repentance to or destruction by God.
 - Jer. 12:1-6 - “If you have run with the footmen, and they have wearied you, Then how can you contend with horses?”



Jeremiah's Background

- Jer. 20:7-12 - "O LORD, You induced me, and I was persuaded; You are stronger than I, and have prevailed. I am in derision daily; Everyone mocks me. 8 For when I spoke, I cried out; I shouted, Violence and plunder! Because the word of the LORD was made to me A reproach and a derision daily. 9 Then I said, I will not make mention of Him, Nor speak anymore in His name. But His word was in my heart like a burning fire Shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, And I could not. 10 For I heard many mocking: Fear on every side! Report, they say, and we will report it! All my acquaintances watched for my stumbling, saying, Perhaps he can be induced; Then we will prevail against him, And we will take our revenge on him. 11 But the LORD is with me as a mighty, awesome One. Therefore my persecutors will stumble, and will not prevail. They will be greatly ashamed, for they will not prosper. Their everlasting confusion will never be forgotten. 12 But, O LORD of hosts, You who test the righteous, And see the mind and heart, Let me see Your vengeance on them; For I have pleaded my cause before You."

Jeremiah's Background

- Since Judah refused an honest repentance, Jeremiah had to announce the doom awaiting Judah, captivity by Babylon (Jer. 25:1-7, 8-11).
- He was God's man with a special mission, and came to be numbered among the Jews' favorite five prophets of the Old Testament (Jer. 1:5-10, 20:7-9, 23:25-28).

The First Blast Of The Trumpet

- They will be thoroughly wiped out by the Babylonians; but, who will listen to the warning?
 - Jer. 6:9, 12 - “Thus says the LORD of hosts: They shall thoroughly glean as a vine the remnant of Israel; As a grape-gatherer, put your hand back into the branches...
12 And their houses shall be turned over to others, Fields and wives together; For I will stretch out My hand Against the inhabitants of the land, says the LORD.”



The First Blast Of The Trumpet

- God's word is unpleasant to them; they refuse to listen.
 - Jer. 6:10 - "To whom shall I speak and give warning, That they may hear? Indeed their ear is uncircumcised, And they cannot give heed. Behold, the word of the LORD is a reproach to them; They have no delight in it."



The First Blast Of The Trumpet

- Jeremiah knows the truth, knows the preciousness of the souls he is preaching to, knows the danger they are in; he cannot keep it in.
 - Jer. 6:11 - “Therefore I am full of the fury of the LORD. I am weary of holding it in. "I will pour it out on the children outside, And on the assembly of young men together; For even the husband shall be taken with the wife, The aged with him who is full of days.”



The First Blast Of The Trumpet

- Judah had traded their fellowship with God and their eternal souls for finances here on earth.
 - Jer. 6:13 - “Because from the least of them even to the greatest of them, Everyone is given to covetousness; And from the prophet even to the priest, Everyone deals falsely.”



The Second Blast Of The Trumpet

- In spite of the majority's assurances, they are not safe.
 - Jer. 6:14 - "They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, Saying, Peace, peace! When there is no peace."

The Second Blast Of The Trumpet

- We have rationalized our way into feeling saved and safe, and we hate it when someone points out that we are neither.
 - 1Thes. 5:2-3 - “For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. 3 For when they say, Peace and safety! then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.”
 - Isa. 48:22 - “There is no peace, says the LORD, for the wicked”

The Second Blast Of The Trumpet

- Jer. 25:3-11 - “From the thirteenth year of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, even to this day, this is the twenty-third year in which the word of the LORD has come to me; and I have spoken to you, rising early and speaking, but you have not listened. 4 And the LORD has sent to you all His servants the prophets, rising early and sending them, but you have not listened nor inclined your ear to hear. 5 They said, 'Repent now everyone of his evil way and his evil doings, and dwell in the land that the LORD has given to you and your fathers forever and ever. 6 Do not go after other gods to serve them and worship them, and do not provoke Me to anger with the works of your hands; and I will not harm you. 7 Yet you have not listened to Me, says the LORD, that you might provoke Me to anger with the works of your hands to your own hurt. 8 Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: Because you have not heard My words, 9 behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, says the LORD, and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land, against its inhabitants, and against these nations all around, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, a hissing, and perpetual desolations. 10 Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones and the light of the lamp. 11 And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.”



The Second Blast Of The Trumpet

- They replaced the natural defense of shame over sin with pride in being hip, broadminded, and contemporary.
 - Jer. 6:15 - “Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed; Nor did they know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; At the time I punish them, They shall be cast down, says the LORD.”



The Second Blast Of The Trumpet

- Their embarrassment over their sins has been replaced with anger toward to prophet who pointed them out
 - Jer. 3:3 - “You have had a harlot's forehead; You refuse to be ashamed.”
 - Jer. 11:21 - “Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the men of Anathoth who seek your life, saying, Do not prophesy in the name of the LORD, lest you die by our hand”



The Third Blast Of The Trumpet

- Learn from the past; God's way always works; man's ways inevitably lead to failure
 - Jer. 6:16 - "Thus says the LORD: "Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk in it"
 - Prov. 14:12 - "There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death."



The Third Blast Of The Trumpet

- God's truth, established in the past, is relevant and right over and above all variations and doctrines of men popular in the present
 - Jer. 18:15 - "Because My people have forgotten Me, They have burned incense to worthless idols. And they have caused themselves to stumble in their ways, From the ancient paths, To walk in pathways and not on a highway"



The Third Blast Of The Trumpet

- There is only one right way that can never be wrong, God's way
 - 1Thes. 5:21-22 - "Test all things; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil."
 - Rom. 12:1-2 - "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

The Third Blast Of The Trumpet

- Eph. 5:8-12 - “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), 10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. 11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.”
- Matt. 11:28-30 - “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

The Third Blast Of The Trumpet

- When the watchmen gave a blast on their trumpets, it meant that the enemy was approaching the gates of the city, and that the residents must immediately respond with action
 - Jer. 6:17 - “Also, I set watchmen over you, saying, Listen to the sound of the trumpet! But they said, We will not listen.”
 - Jer. 44:16 - “As for the word that you have spoken to us in the name of the LORD, we will not listen to you!”

The Third Blast Of The Trumpet

- Contemporary Christians fire watchmen and preachers who sound the trumpet and hire men who go about saying “All is well”
 - 2Tim. 4:2-5 - “Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. 5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”
 - Isa. 56:10 - “His watchmen are blind, They are all ignorant; They are all dumb dogs, They cannot bark; Sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber.”



Sounding the Trumpet

- “Do you think that your sin is hidden away? Do you think that men will never know it? Well, you should remember that God knows it already. And you should remember, second, that sin continued in will inevitably come to light. Usually it will be exposed in this life. Certainly it will be exposed when you stand before God and God's record books are opened. That which is whispered in a corner shall be shouted from a housetop. God will bring every secret thing to judgment, we are told. What warning to our hearts!”
(John R. Rice)