

An illustration of the prophet Jeremiah in the foreground, wearing a brown robe and a green turban, breaking a clay jar with his foot. He is pointing towards a group of men in the background who are watching him. The scene is set in a dusty, outdoor environment with a stone wall and a path in the background.

# VISIONS OF FAITH

## JEREMIAH

# Babylon has Arrived

Today's verses start off with the first people of Judah being carried off into exile

This is the beginning of the end

The unthinkable has and is happening,  
God has allowed his people  
to become slaves to the world

Their land will gradually be overrun with Pagans

They will become subjects to the rule of a  
earthly king not from the lineage of David



*Visions  
of Faith*





**How could God do this?**



# How could God do this?

The reality is Judah should have known this day was coming

They had already watched their fellow Israelites carried off

God had sent them messengers calling them to repentance

They did not listen





**The last few weeks have not be fun,  
but I hope they have been challenging**

**Two Sins of Judah – the walk away from faith**

**The Buried Belt --- Unused faith**

**The Potter's House --- Misshaped faith**

**The Broken Vessel --- Busted faith**

*Visions  
of Faith*



# **There is good news though, we are only on chapter 24**

The book of Jeremiah is 52 chapters long  
Judah's fall will be painstakingly slow

That means the back half of the book  
of Jeremiah the message of judgement  
will turn to a message of redemption

God's not done with Israel

In spite of all they had done God still  
desired a relationship with them





**But for that relationship to  
happen the people of God  
are going to have to  
listen to the voice  
of the messenger**

*Visions  
of Faith*

**JEREMIAH**  


# The Baskets of Figs

Unlike the other lessons from Jeremiah  
this one is a true vision

Jeremiah is not being asked to buy,  
sell or do anything

He just has to look, listen and answer the  
questions God asks

*Visions  
of Faith*





# He is presented with two baskets of figs

The baskets are placed in front of the temple  
where Israel would associated  
the presence of God

One basket was full of good figs

The other was full of bad figs

Please see God's words are not  
Good and Evil, but Good and Bad



# The Baskets of Figs

The question:

“What do you see, Jeremiah?”

The answer:

“Figs,” I answered. “The good ones are very good, but the bad ones are so bad they cannot be eaten.”

They were ALL figs





# The Baskets of Figs

Just by looking Jeremiah could tell  
the good from the bad

He did not have to touch them,  
smell them or taste them

The good ones were very good,  
we are told they were ripe and ready

The bad ones were bad and could not be used

**Note: There were no "OK" ones**



# Promises to the good figs

The good are the exiles from Judah  
that remained faithful (The true followers)

My eyes will watch over them for their good

I will bring them back to this land

I will build them up and not tear them down

I will plant them and not uproot them.

I will give them a heart to know me,  
that I am the Lord

They will be my people,  
and I will be their God

*Visions  
of Faith*





# Promises to the bad figs

I deal with Zedekiah king of Judah,  
his officials and the survivors from Jerusalem

I will make them abhorrent  
Inspiring disgust and loathing; repugnant

I banish them  
Send (someone) away from a country  
or place as an official punishment

I will send the sword, famine and plague  
against them until they are destroyed





# Jesus teaches a similar lesson (Matthew 13:47-50)





# Parable of the Net

This is one of those "kingdom" parables which is not about heaven but instead about church

It's compared to a large net that brings in many fish

In the net there were "good" fish and "bad" fish

Like the figs you can tell them apart

Like the figs they have different destinations

Good  
Kept

Bad  
Destroyed



# **We are not to be the judge**

The angels will come and separate  
the wicked from the righteous

We are not the sin police

Somehow the church got the  
idea they are supposed to be  
the “moral compass” of the world

Interesting Jesus saw it as a collecting  
point for both “good” and “bad”

It is not our job to decide who  
is “good” and who is “bad”





# Now is not the time to separate

This is how it will be at the end of the age

This is an end time lesson

Like when God spoke to Jeremiah  
it is an event in the future

Until that time the net's job is collect fish

The doors of the church are open to ANYBODY that  
chooses to walk through them

ANYBODY that walks through them we  
have a responsibility to minister to them.



# Promises to the Fish

Then they sat down and collected  
the “good” fish in baskets

The “bad”

Throw them into the blazing furnace,  
where there will be weeping and  
gnashing of teeth

*Visions  
of Faith*

JEREMIAH  






**“Have you understood  
all these things?” Jesus  
asked. “Yes,” they  
replied.**

**v. 51**



