**CALLED TO GOD’S WORK OF JUSTICE 05-24-2020 J E R E M I A H 22:1-10**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL (UNIT) DATE S C R I P T U R E S**

**Lesson Title: “Do The Right Thing” Lesson 8 of 13 Lesson 4 of 5 of this Unit**

1. This is the third of five lessons from our unit, ***“Called to God’s Work of Justice*,”** and the last of two from the Major Prophet Jeremiah. Jeremiah is the writer, and the people is the nation of Judah (Southern Kingdom). Jeremiah again is often called the “weeping prophet” because of how he was treated by his fellow priests, his family, and the leaders. He even felt like God had deceived him and turned His back on him as in Jeremiah 20:7-9.
2. When Jeremiah began to prophesy, the Northern Kingdom of Israel had been destroyed by the Assyrians in 722 B. C. and even though the Southern Kingdom had not been attacked by Nebuchadnezzar in 605 B. C., they were on their way to destruction because they too, would not listen to the Words of the LORD.
3. The nation of Judah, the last two remaining tribes of the Lord had been waging war against Egypt, the Assyrian, and the Chaldeans. One writer wrote, **“*Though the light of other prophets such as Habakkuk, and Zephaniah flickered in Jerusalem, Jeremiah was the blazing torch who espoused the darkness of Judah’s sins.***
4. In the previous lesson, chapter 21, God refused to answer King Zedekiah’s request to forbid the Babylonian and Nebuchadnezzar from attacking them. In our lesson today, God sends another word by the prophet Jeremiah, still insisting that Judah live a life of justice and righteousness. But if they refused to heed the words of the prophet, God said that the ***“house would become a desolation (Jeremiah 22:5, KJV***).

**CENTRAL TRUTH OF THE LESSON: *What if we can truly take God at His WORD, believing His WORD and accepting that which brings about blessings as well as curses; especially since, we have decades of proof to validate both the power and the validity of His WORD. WORD UP, TRUMPS WORD DOWN!***

INTRO TO LESSON: Would you say that it is easy to do the right thing, even if you do not desire to do it?

***MAIN THOUGHT 3Thus saith the Lord; Execute ye judgment and righteousness, and deliver the spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor: and do no wrong, do no violence to the stranger, the fatherless, nor the widow, neither shed innocent blood in this place (Jeremiah 22:3, KJV).***

1. **BLESSINGS: ACT WITH JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS [JEREMIAH 22:1-4] It is not every day that we get a clear word from the LORD of the do’s and don’ts of life, but if and when we do, it behooves us to not only hear, but to be prepared to do the right thing or face the consequences—again, do good or accept the bad.**
2. **CURSES; AGAINST THE NATION FOR INJUSTICE [JEREMIAH 22:5-7] I wonder, if we really believe in the WORD of God, so much so, we are willing to accept the just punishment issued by God; or do we just take our chance and wait and see what the end will be—I pray and trust that you heed the WORD and OBEY!**
3. **WEEP NOT: YOU DID IT TO YOURSELF [JEREMIAH 22:8-10*]* As believers of God and followers of Jesus Christ, we should do our best to make sure we do not test God to the point that His anger is seen both far and near—nearer is too painful when it is too close!**
	* Thus saith the Lord . . .--The message, delivered in continuation of Jeremiah 21, and therefore probably as following up the answer to the messengers of Zedekiah;
	* (2) That sittest upon the throne of David.—The words obviously imply that the message was delivered to the king as he sat in the gate in the presence of his people.
	* Do no wrong . . .—The Hebrew order connects both verbs with the substantives—*to the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, do no wrong, no violence—*and gives the latter the emphasis of position.
	* (4) Then shall there enter in . . .—The picture of renewed and continued prosperity gains a fresh force, as reproducing the very terms of [Jeremiah 17:25](https://biblehub.com/jeremiah/17-25.htm). In both the “chariots and horses” are conspicuous as the symbol of kingly pomp ([1Kings 4:26](https://biblehub.com/1_kings/4-26.htm));
	* (6) Thou art Gilead unto me, and the head of Lebanon. Even in his utterance of woes the prophet’s mind is still that of a poet. The chief point of the comparison in both cases is to be found in the forests that crowned the heights of both ranges of mountains. The “oaks of Bashan,” in the Gilead district ([Isaiah 2:13](https://biblehub.com/isaiah/2-13.htm); [Zechariah 11:2](https://biblehub.com/zechariah/11-2.htm)), were as famous as the cedars of Lebanon, and both were alike the fit symbol of the glory of sovereignty ([Isaiah 37:24](https://biblehub.com/isaiah/37-24.htm); [Ezekiel 17:3](https://biblehub.com/ezekiel/17-3.htm)).

V. THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK—It is better to heed the advise of the WORD, then to prepare for the consequence.

**V. EXERCISE FOR NEXT WEEK—Lord help us to live with our heart bent toward adhering and obeying Your WORD.**

**BLESSINGS: ACT WITH JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS JEREMIAH 22:1-4 [KJV (A Warning for Judah's Kings)** [**1**](https://biblehub.com/jeremiah/22-1.htm)Thus saith the LORD; Go down to the house of the king of Judah, and speak there this word, [**2**](https://biblehub.com/jeremiah/22-2.htm)And say, Hear the word of the LORD, O king of Judah, that sittest upon the throne of David, thou, and thy servants, and thy people that enter in by these gates: [**3**](https://biblehub.com/jeremiah/22-3.htm)Thus saith the LORD; Execute ye judgment and righteousness, and deliver the spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor: and do no wrong, do no violence to the stranger, the fatherless, nor the widow, neither shed innocent blood in this place. [**4**](https://biblehub.com/jeremiah/22-4.htm)**For if ye do this thing indeed, then shall there enter in by the gates of this house kings sitting upon the throne of David, riding in chariots and on horses, he, and his servants, and his people.**

**CURSES; AGAINST THE NATION FOR INJUSTICE [JEREMIAH 22:5-7]** [**5**](https://biblehub.com/jeremiah/22-5.htm)But if ye will not hear these words, I swear by myself, saith the LORD, that this house shall become a desolation. (**A Warning about the Palace)** [**6**](https://biblehub.com/jeremiah/22-6.htm)For thus saith the LORD unto the king's house of Judah; **Thou *art* Gilead unto me, *and* the head of Lebanon: *yet* surely I will make thee a wilderness *and* cities *which* are not inhabited.** [**7**](https://biblehub.com/jeremiah/22-7.htm)**And** I will prepare destroyers against thee, every one with his weapons: and they shall cut down thy choice cedars, and cast *them* into the fire.

**WEEP NOT: YOU DID IT TO YOURSELF [JEREMIAH 22:8-10]** [**8**](https://biblehub.com/jeremiah/22-8.htm)And many nations shall pass by this city, and they shall say every man to his neighbour, Wherefore hath the LORD done thus unto this great city? [**9**](https://biblehub.com/jeremiah/22-9.htm)Then they shall answer, Because they have forsaken the covenant of the LORD their God, and worshipped other gods, and served them. (**A Warning about Jehoahaz)** [**10**](https://biblehub.com/jeremiah/22-10.htm)Weep ye not for the dead, neither bemoan him: *but* weep sore for him that goeth away: for he shall return no more, nor see his native country.

**BLESSINGS: ACT WITH JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS JEREMIAH 22:1-4 [NLT]   (A Message for Judah’s Kings)** [**1**](http://biblehub.com/jeremiah/22-1.htm)This is what the LORD said to me: “Go over and speak directly to the king of Judah. Say to him, [**2**](http://biblehub.com/jeremiah/22-2.htm)‘Listen to this message from the LORD, you king of Judah, sitting on David’s throne. Let your attendants and your people listen, too. [**3**](http://biblehub.com/jeremiah/22-3.htm)This is what the LORD says: Be fair-minded and just. Do what is right! Help those who have been robbed; rescue them from their oppressors. Quit your evil deeds! Do not mistreat foreigners, orphans, and widows. Stop murdering the innocent! [**4**](http://biblehub.com/jeremiah/22-4.htm)**If you obey me, there will always be a descendant of David sitting on the throne here in Jerusalem. The king will ride through the palace gates in chariots and on horses, with his parade of attendants and subjects.**

**CURSES; AGAINST THE NATION FOR INJUSTICE [JEREMIAH 22:5-7]** [**5**](http://biblehub.com/jeremiah/22-5.htm)But if you refuse to pay attention to this warning, I swear by my own name, says the LORD, that this palace will become a pile of rubble.’” (**A Message about the Palace)** [**6**](http://biblehub.com/jeremiah/22-6.htm)Now this is what the LORD says concerning Judah’s royal palace: “I love you as much as fruitful Gilead and the green forests of Lebanon. But I will turn you into a desert, with no one living within your walls. [**7**](http://biblehub.com/jeremiah/22-7.htm)I will call for wreckers, who will bring out their tools to dismantle you. They will tear out all your fine cedar beams and throw them on the fire.

**WEEP NOT: YOU DID IT TO YOURSELF [JEREMIAH 22:8-10]** [**8**](http://biblehub.com/jeremiah/22-8.htm)“People from many nations will pass by the ruins of this city and say to one another, ‘Why did the LORD destroy such a great city?’ [**9**](http://biblehub.com/jeremiah/22-9.htm)And the answer will be, ‘Because they violated their covenant with the LORD their God by worshiping other gods.’” **(A Message about Jehoahaz)** [**10**](http://biblehub.com/jeremiah/22-10.htm)Do not weep for the dead king or mourn his loss. Instead, weep for the captive king being led away! For he will never return to see his native land again.