

WHY DO THE WICKED PROSPER?

Jeremiah 12

Let's look at Jeremiah's questions and God's comments

I. JEREMIAH'S REMARKS (1-4)

A. WHY: Questioning God's purposes (1-3)

1. The Appeal: To a righteous (1a) and sovereign (3a) God
2. The Desire
3. The Background (see Jer. 11:19-23)
4. The Question: Offered by others as well
 - See Job. 21:7, Asaph in Psalm 73:3-5, 12 and Habakkuk 1:13
5. The Observations (1b-2)
 - They are prosperous, comfortable, established, fruitful and religious
6. The Suggestion (3) > Kill them!

B. WHEN: Questioning God's Timing (4)

1. The Conditions: Mourning and withering
2. The Causes: Wickedness and stealing
3. The Confidence: They don't think God sees

II. GOD'S REPLY (5-6)

- Jeremiah, you need to learn and grow

A. YOU'RE JUST GETTING STARTED (5)

- It gets worse ... buck up ... get ready!

B. YOU'LL BE SURPRISED AND HURT (6a)

1. Your family is part of the conspiracy to kill you!
2. Your family betrays you

C. YOU'LL NEED TO BE SKEPTICAL (6b)

- Flatterers aren't always believable

Over please >

III. GOD'S REMINDERS (7-11)

A. SITUATIONS

- A very personal look into the nature of God is revealed here

1. I've lost those I love (7)
2. I've been attacked (8)
3. I've seen My people attacked (9)
4. I've suffered loss (10)
5. I've seen My land suffer (11)

B. SYMPATHY: "Jeremiah, you're not alone."

IV. GOD'S RETRIBUTION (12-14)

- Justice is served!

A. THE LORD IS DEVOURING (12)

B. THE LAND IS DESOLATE (13)

C. THE LOATHSOME ARE DISPOSSESSED

V. GOD'S RECEPTION (15-17)

- Showing mercy amid misery

A. COMPASSION GIVEN (15)

B. CONNECTION OFFERED (16)

C. CATASTROPHE PROMISED (17)

CONCLUSION: *God showed Jeremiah who He is*

1. I'm a trainer (5-6)
2. We're together (7-11)
3. I'll get tough ... (12-14)
4. But can also be tender (15-17)

**Much like Job learned, Jeremiah was taught that knowing WHO GOD IS,
is much better than knowing why and when He'll work.**

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