

# **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

### 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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