

BRAGGING

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*Jeremiah 9*

*Jeremiah 2:2 (NIV)*

"Go and proclaim in the hearing of Jerusalem:  
"I remember the devotion of your youth,  
how as a bride you loved me and followed me  
through the desert, through a land not sown.

*Jeremiah 2:20 (NIV)* "Long ago you broke off your yoke and tore off your bonds; you said, 'I will not serve you!' Indeed, on every high hill and under every spreading tree you lay down as a prostitute.

## *Jeremiah 2:23-24 (NIV)*

<sup>23</sup> "How can you say, 'I am not defiled; I have not run after the Baals'? See how you behaved in the valley; consider what you have done. You are a swift she-camel running here and there,  
<sup>24</sup> a wild donkey accustomed to the desert, sniffing the wind in her craving-- in her heat who can restrain her? Any males that pursue her need not tire themselves; at mating time they will find her.

*Jeremiah 2:32 (NIV)* Does a maiden forget her jewelry, a bride her wedding ornaments? Yet my people have forgotten me, days without number.

## *Jeremiah 3:1-3 (NIV)*

<sup>1</sup> "If a man divorces his wife and she leaves him and marries another man, should he return to her again? Would not the land be completely defiled? But you have lived as a prostitute with many lovers-- would you now return to me?" declares the Lord.

<sup>2</sup> "Look up to the barren heights and see. Is there any place where you have not been ravished? By the roadside you sat waiting for lovers, sat like a nomad in the desert. You have defiled the land with your prostitution and wickedness.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore the showers have been withheld,  
and no spring rains have fallen. Yet you have the  
brazen look of a prostitute; you refuse to blush  
with shame.

## *Matthew 25:1-3 (NIV)*

<sup>1</sup> "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

<sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish and five were wise.

<sup>3</sup> The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them.

## *Matthew 25:5-13 (NIV)*

<sup>5</sup> The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

<sup>6</sup> "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'

<sup>7</sup> "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps.

<sup>8</sup> The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'

<sup>9</sup> "'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'

10 "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

11 "Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!'

12 "But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.'

13 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

We know what to expect from them.

We also know what pleases them.

# I. What Delights God?

## A. Righteousness

In biblical usage righteousness is rooted in covenants and relationships. For biblical authors, righteousness is the fulfillment of the terms of a covenant between God and humanity or between humans in the full range of human relationships.

The law was given as an act of divine mercy to provide Israel with guidelines for keeping the nation's own portion of the covenant

Salvation and condemnation exist together as the two sides of God's righteousness; the leading side is always deliverance: God condemns only because He also saves.

# I. What Delights God?

## A. Righteousness

Rather than being a ladder that Israel climbed to get to God, the law was understood to be a divine program for the *maintenance* of a healthy relationship between Israel and God—Holman Bible Dictionary

# I. What Delights God?

## A. Righteousness

*Matthew 23:28 (NIV)*

In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

# I. What Delights God?

## A. Righteousness

*Luke 11:42 (NIV)* "Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone."

# I. What Delights God?

## B. Justice

**JUSTICE** The order God seeks to reestablish in His creation where all people receive the benefits of life with Him. —Holman Bible Dictionary

**First**, it is the standard by which penalties are assigned for breaking the obligations of society.

**Second**, justice is the standard by which the advantages of social life are handed out, including material goods, rights of participation, opportunities, and liberties.

# I. What Delights God?

## B. Justice

*Jeremiah 9:25-26 (NIV)* <sup>25</sup> "The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will punish all who are circumcised only in the flesh--

<sup>26</sup> Egypt, Judah, Edom, Ammon, Moab and all who live in the desert in distant places. For all these nations are really uncircumcised, and even the whole house of Israel is uncircumcised in heart."

# I. What Delights God?

## C. Loving Kindness

*Jeremiah 3:11-19 (NIV)* <sup>11</sup> The Lord said to me, "Faithless Israel is more righteous than unfaithful Judah.

<sup>12</sup> Go, proclaim this message toward the north:

"'Return, faithless Israel,' declares the Lord, 'I will frown on you no longer, for I am merciful,' declares the Lord, 'I will not be angry forever.

<sup>13</sup> Only acknowledge your guilt-- you have rebelled against the Lord your God, you have scattered your favors to foreign gods under every spreading tree, and have not obeyed me,'" declares the Lord.

14 "Return, faithless people," declares the Lord, "for I am your husband. I will choose you--one from a town and two from a clan--and bring you to Zion.

15 Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding.

16 In those days, when your numbers have increased greatly in the land," declares the Lord, "men will no longer say, 'The ark of the covenant of the Lord.' It will never enter their minds or be remembered; it will not be missed, nor will another one be made.

17 At that time they will call Jerusalem The Throne of the Lord, and all nations will gather in Jerusalem to honor the name of the Lord. No longer will they follow the stubbornness of their evil hearts.

18 In those days the house of Judah will join the house of Israel, and together they will come from a northern land to the land I gave your forefathers as an inheritance.

19 "I myself said, "'How gladly would I treat you like sons and give you a desirable land, the most beautiful inheritance of any nation.' I thought you would call me 'Father' and not turn away from following me.

## *Romans 3:21-31 (NIV)*

<sup>21</sup> But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.

<sup>22</sup> This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

<sup>25</sup> God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished--

<sup>26</sup> he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup> Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith.

<sup>28</sup> For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.

<sup>29</sup> Is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too,

<sup>30</sup> since there is only one God, who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith.

<sup>31</sup> Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law.

*Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV)*

<sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--

<sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast.

<sup>10</sup> For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

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