



## *Sin Unveiled: An Adulterous People*

*“My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.” (Jer 2:13)*

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### Call to Worship

Behold, God is our salvation;  
We will trust, and will not be afraid;  
for the LORD God is our strength and our song,  
and he has become our salvation.

*(Isa 12:2)*

**Sing praises to the LORD,  
for he has done gloriously;  
let this be made known in all the earth.**

*(Isa 12:5)*

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,  
to you all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from you no secrets are hidden.  
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## Psalm 45 (O King)

O King, you are most worthy,  
of men you are the best  
Your words are true and gracious,  
you are forever blessed  
Take up your sword in splendour,  
ride forth in majesty  
For justice and mercy  
and true humility  
Your arrows pierce your enemies,  
you march across the land  
The peoples and the nations  
against you cannot stand

Your throne will last forever,  
with justice you shall reign  
You love all that is righteous  
and hate all evil gain  
So God has richly blessed you  
with joy abundantly  
Your robes are all fragrant,  
your courts are ivory  
There princesses attend you,  
sweet music from of old  
Your future queen awaits you  
arrayed in finest gold

O bride forsake all others,  
don't give your love abroad  
The king desires your beauty;  
so honour him your Lord  
The gown he gives is glorious,  
the threads are twined with gold  
In shimmering colours  
the envy of the world  
A joyful crowd is with her,  
with gladness now they sing  
And finally she enters  
the palace of the king

This king will reign forever,  
his sons upon the earth  
And ev'ry generation  
will tell of his great worth  
All nations will soon praise him  
and fall down at his feet  
His kingdom established,  
where truth and mercy meet  
O Jesus we adore you,  
our lover and our king  
Your church, your bride is waiting  
and so to you we sing

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## Confession and Assurance

Hear what God's word says:

*"O LORD, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether." (Ps 139:1-4)*

Have mercy on us, O God

**According to your unfailing love;  
According to your great compassion.**

God's word tells us:

*"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.  
If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins  
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* (1 Jn 1:8-9)

Let us therefore confess our sins against God,  
and against our neighbour, first in silence and then aloud together.

*Please kneel or be seated.*

### *Prayer of Confession*

Almighty and most merciful Father,

**We have wandered and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.  
We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.  
We have offended against your holy laws.  
We have left undone those things that we ought to have done;  
and we have done those things that we ought not to have done;  
and there is no health in us.**

**But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us sinners.  
Spare those who confess their faults.  
Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises  
declared to mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,  
that we may live a disciplined, righteous and godly life,  
to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

*"For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day  
and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of  
summer. I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will  
confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin."*

*(Ps 32:3-5)*

## *How Deep the Father's Love*

How deep the Father's love for us,  
How vast beyond all measure,  
That He should give His only Son

To make a wretch His treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss –  
The Father turns His face away,  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One  
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,  
My sin upon His shoulders;  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
Call out among the scoffers.

It was my sin that held Him there  
Until it was accomplished;  
His dying breath has brought me life –  
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,  
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,  
His death and resurrection.

Why should I gain from His reward?  
I cannot give an answer;  
But this I know with all my heart –  
His wounds have paid my ransom.

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## God's Word

*First Reading: Matt 2:1-23, "Futile Opposition", p. 807*

This is the Word of the Lord,  
**Thanks be to God**

### *Psalm 111*

Praise the LORD!

**I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.**

Great are the works of the LORD,  
studied by all who delight in them.

**Full of splendour and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures for ever.**

He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful.

**He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant for ever.**

He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the inheritance of the nations.

**The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy; they are established for ever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

He sent redemption to his people;  
he has commanded  
his covenant for ever.  
Holy and awesome is his name!  
**The fear of the LORD is the beginning  
of wisdom; all those who practise it  
have a good understanding.  
His praise endures for ever!**

Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit.  
**As it was in the beginning,  
is now, and shall be forever,  
age after age.**  
**Amen!**

*Second Reading: Jer 2:1-19, p. 628*

This is the Word of the Lord,  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Sermon: Sin Unveiled: An Adulterous People (Mark Payne)*

*Psalm 96, Sing Unto the Lord a New Song*

Sing unto the Lord a new song,  
Sing to Him, O all the earth!  
Bless the name of God forever;  
Sing salvation's wondrous worth.  
Tell His glory to the nations;  
Of His wonders, anthems raise.  
He is Lord of all creation,  
Great, and greatly to be praised.

Other gods fade as a vapour;  
There is none beside the Lord.  
In His dwelling, strength, and splendour,  
God exalted and adored.  
Give Him glory, all ye people;  
Give Him glory due His name.  
In His temple, as an off'ring,  
All His pow'r and might proclaim.

Worship God in holy beauty;  
Bow before His throne in fear.  
Now proclaim among the nations  
His dominion, ever near.  
By His word, the earth was founded,  
That it never may be moved;  
In His word is justice grounded,  
That He righteous may be proved.

Let the heavens shout, rejoicing,  
And the earth in joy aflame;  
Let the sea in thunder praise Him,  
Field and forest now acclaim.  
For the Lord, the Lord is coming;  
Let the earth resound again!  
To His people, He is coming  
In His righteousness to reign!

*Words: David P. Regier*

*Music: J. Wyeth's Repository of Sacred  
Music, Part II, 1813*

## *The Apostles Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived  
by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

**Amen.**

## *Prayers of Intercession*

*After each petition:*

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

# The Lord's Supper

## *Invitation to the Table*

*All baptised Christians who trust in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and seek to lead a new life by God's mercies, are welcome at this table. If you do not profess faith in Christ, please refrain from receiving the bread and wine.*

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The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Please join in saying the Sanctus ("The Holy", based on Isaiah 6:3)*

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

*The stewards will distribute the wine and bread.*

*Eat the bread as you receive it, but keep the wine until we all drink together.*

## *Prayer of Thanksgiving*

**Almighty and eternal God, we thank you for reassuring us at this meal of your favour and goodness towards us, of your word for us. We thank you that we are truly members of the body of your Son, that we are heirs, by grace, of your eternal kingdom. We humbly beg you, heavenly Father, to keep us as faithful members of your church, to strengthen us by your Spirit, to draw us together in love and unity, that we may serve through those good works which you have prepared for us to do through Jesus Christ our Lord, and for His glory.**

**Amen.**

## *Gifts and Offerings*

Gifts and offerings may be placed in the offertory box at the back of the hall. *"Honour the LORD with your wealth and with the first-fruits of all your produce." (Pro 3:9)*

## O Church Arise

O Church, arise,  
and put your armour on;  
Hear the call of Christ our Captain.  
For now the weak can say  
that they are strong  
In the strength that God has given.  
With shield of faith and belt of truth,  
We'll stand against the devil's lies;  
An army bold, whose battle-cry is Love,  
Reaching out to those in darkness.

Our call to war,  
to love the captive soul  
But to rage against the captor;  
And with the sword  
that makes the wounded whole,  
We will fight with faith and valour.  
When faced with trials on every side  
We know the outcome is secure,  
And Christ will have  
the prize for which He died,  
An inheritance of nations.

Come see the cross,  
where love and mercy meet,  
As the Son of God is stricken;  
Then see His foes  
lie crushed beneath His feet,  
For the Conqueror has risen!  
And as the stone is rolled away,  
And Christ emerges from the grave,  
This victory march continues till the day  
Every eye and heart shall see Him.

So Spirit, come  
put strength in every stride,  
Give grace for every hurdle,  
That we may run  
with faith to win the prize  
Of a servant good and faithful.  
As saints of old still line the way,  
Retelling triumphs of His grace,  
We hear their calls  
and hunger for the day  
When with Christ we stand in glory.

*Stuart Townend & Keith Getty*  
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## Benediction

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

**In the Name of Christ, Amen.**

**Please diarise and pray for the items below:**

IN THE COMING WEEK		
<b>Tue 16<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Food and Chat</b>	6:30pm - speak to Jenny for more details
<b>Thu 18<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Prayer Meeting</b>	At church - 7:15pm
<b>Sun 21<sup>st</sup> May</b>	<b>Sunday Worship</b>	Ascension Sunday

*Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture references are from the English Standard Version (ESV)*



# The Book of Jeremiah

## Theme

In ch 1:9, 10 we're given the theme of the book in poetic form, which is also the heart of God's message to Judah through Jeremiah. *"Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me, 'Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."*

Jeremiah would go on to take God's word to Judah, under 5 kings, for over 40 years.

## Structure

It's important to see that the book of Jeremiah is not a chronological account, but rather one that moves between different camera angles, giving us a number of perspectives of God's dealings with the people of Judah and of the full unfolding of redemption in Christ. The structure is unusual and can be confusing with *Restoration* featuring before *Judgement* (see below). It does, however, reflect what we see in the thematic verse above of plucking up and destroying. But not without hope - there will be building and planting in the future. Commentators differ significantly on how the book reflects this thematic verse, but broadly speaking we have the following, which we will use to frame our sermon series:

## Outline

1. Prologue
  - a. God's Word in Jeremiah (ch. 1)
2. Sin Unveiled
  - a. An Adulterous People (ch. 2-6)
  - b. An Idolatrous People (ch. 7-10)
  - c. Struggling with God (ch. 11-20)
  - d. Confronting Sin (ch. 21-29)
3. Restoration Promised
  - a. Rejoice in Hope! (ch. 30-33)
4. Judgement Assured
  - a. Judah Faces Judgement (ch. 34-45)
  - b. The Nations Face Judgement (ch. 46-51)
5. Epilogue
  - a. Jerusalem Falls (ch. 52)

## Historical Setting

- Long before Jeremiah, the Lord covenanted with Abraham that his people would inherit the promised land and would be blessed (Gen 17:6-8).
- The people did multiply (Ex 1:7), God brought them out of Egypt where they were in captivity and made a covenant with them at Sinai (Ex 3-Num 10). He then renewed the covenant with them (Deuteronomy) and gave them the land (Joshua).
- He also made additional promises: he swore that the sons of Levi would be his priests forever (Num 25:12-13), and that the son of David would reign and establish his house forever (2 Sam 7:13-16).
- Solomon, David's son, built the temple and dedicated it to the Lord, which God blessed with his presence (1 Kings 8). But all was not well, and Solomon prevailed on the Lord to hear and forgive them when they fell (1 Kings 8:45-53).
- Sadly, Solomon himself then led the way into idolatry (1 Kings 11:4). His son Rehoboam compounded the situation and split the nation in two: the northern tribes (henceforth called Israel) and the southern tribes (Judah). Israel, lacking any good king, quickly fell into sin and, despite the warnings of prophets like Hosea, refused to repent. And so the Lord sent the Assyrian army in judgement, which defeated and deported the people of Israel in 722 B.C.
- Judah was graciously delivered from Assyria at the last moment through the prayer of Hezekiah (2 Kings 19:14-17). Despite this, Hezekiah's godly reign was followed by the evil rule of Manasseh (687 B.C. - 643 B.C.), marked by the worship of false gods in the temple, sacrificing his own children as burnt offerings, consulting with the occult, and the shedding of much innocent blood (2 Kings 21:3-16). He provoked the Lord to anger, and the Lord resolved to judge them as he had done with Israel (2 Kings 21:10-15).
- Shortly after Manasseh, Judah had one last good king: Josiah, a contemporary of Jeremiah. He restored worship and reverence for Scripture, and sought to establish justice in the land.
- But did this change people's hearts, and would they avoid the promised judgement - the looming danger of Babylon? This is when Jeremiah received his call from the Lord in 627 B.C.
- In all of this, throughout all of history, we see the promise of an eternal restoration revealed in "the shadow of things to come", with the "substance belonging to Christ" (Col 2:17), and Jeremiah is no different. When all seems lost forever, he proclaims the coming of a New Covenant, in which God will "be our God, and we shall be His people"!

## Subsequent Timeline (Rulers of Judah underlined)

640 B.C.	<u>Josiah</u> becomes king at the age of 8.
627 B.C.	Jeremiah, a young man at the time (perhaps younger than 20) is called by the Lord (Jer 1:1-19). So he was of similar age to Josiah.
609 BC	Josiah dies in battle against Pharaoh Neco. <u>Jehoahaz</u> reigns briefly; Neco replaces him with <u>Jehoiakim</u> .
605 BC	Nebuchadnezzar (king of Babylon) wins the battle of Carchemish against the Assyrians and Babylon becomes the dominant power.
598 BC	Jehoiakim rebels against Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar comes to reconquer Judah, but Jehoiakim dies and his son <u>Jehoiachin</u> reigns.
597 BC	Jehoiachin surrenders to Nebuchadnezzar, preventing a siege. Nebuchadnezzar exiles the elite citizens (including Jehoiachin and Ezekiel) and establishes <u>Zedekiah</u> in Jehoiachin's place.
589 BC	Zedekiah rebels, and Nebuchadnezzar returns to besiege Jerusalem.
587 BC	After a long siege (~18 months), Jerusalem falls to the Babylonians. The temple and city are destroyed, and Nebuchadnezzar exiles many Judeans and establishes <u>Gedaliah</u> as governor. Jeremiah remains in Judea.
c. 582 BC	Gedaliah is assassinated, and Jeremiah is dragged to Egypt with other Judeans.