

“I WILL...BECAUSE”

In His final effort to save Judah from Babylon, God sent His great prophet Jeremiah to preach to His people. Although they did not heed the words of this great man, his sentiments echo through the centuries in dire warning to all who refuse to turn to the Creator of the universe.

One of the numerous magnificent lessons delivered by Jeremiah finds him breaking a potter's vessel at the instruction of God and comparing it to broken Judah (Jeremiah 19:1, 2, 10). In this chapter it is of great interest to note the statements by God that involve the phrase “I will,” and to note the corresponding reasoning denoted by the word “because.”

Through His spokesman God said, “*I will* bring evil upon this place” (Jeremiah 19:3); “*I will* make void the counsel of Judah” (Jeremiah 19:7); “*I will* cause them to fall by the sword” (Jeremiah 19:7); “their carcasses *will I* give to be meat for the fowls” (Jeremiah 19:7); “*I will* make this city desolate” (Jeremiah 19:8); “*I will* cause them to eat the flesh of their sons...their daughters...his friend” (Jeremiah 19:9); “Even so *will I* make this people and this city as one breaketh a potter's vessel” (Jeremiah 19:11); “*I will* bring upon this city and upon all her towns all the evil that I have pronounced against it” (Jeremiah 19:15).

God was not going to do all of this on a whim or for some haphazard reason. Nor was He going to bring all of this upon them without any due consideration of them or without any time allotted for them to change. They had failed to heed the warning that was ever before them in the example of the destruction of their sister Israel some 100 years before this time (Jeremiah began his prophetic work about 95 years after the fall of Israel and continued for some 41 years).

God was not only telling them what would become of them; He was also spelling out the reasons for it. He said, “*Because* they have forsaken me, and have estranged this place, and have burned incense in it unto other gods” (Jeremiah 19:4). He concluded His words to them on this occasion by saying, “*because* they have hardened their necks, that they might not hear my words” (Jeremiah 19:15).

As we look at the moral decay around us, could not these same somber words be uttered against our own country? The fact of the matter is, they do pertain to our society, and to every society. Just as Judah failed to heed the warnings and plunged headlong into destruction, our great nation is swiftly carving out its course to total rejection of God and His divine precepts. Can judgment against such a people be too far away? “The wicked shall be turned into hell and all the nations that forget God” (Psalm 17).