

A Burning in the Bones

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Jeremiah 20.
- B. What a Christian can expect to go through in the final years before a nation's collapse.
- C. God prepared Jeremiah for difficult times.
- D. Jeremiah was a profoundly perturbed prophet who faced things with human despair.

II. The prophet's dilemma.

- A. He feels that the Lord has deceived him.
 - 1. He recalls the promise of protection in the midst of beating and threats.
 - 2. He charges God with lying because he looked at the promises superficially even though lying is the one thing that God cannot do.
- B. He felt that people were mocking him.
- C. He wants to quit preaching because the Word brought derision to him subjecting him to pain.
- D. He suffered from insecurity—there was not one that he could trust.

III. Faith comes to the rescue.

- A. His faith fastened on God and His greatness.
- B. However, Jeremiah moves back into despair.
- C. The Word nevertheless began to triumph over his trembling heart. Greater is the One in us than the one in the world.
- D. God's consolation was that God would watch over His Word to perform it.

Application questions:

- 1. What was Jeremiah's problem? Have you ever been in a place of doubt concerning the Lord's promise? Explain.

2. How is God faithful despite Jeremiah's original disposition?

3. What can you learn from Jeremiah's response—how can we face trouble and still hold confidently to God's promises?
