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**The Shadow of Deuteronomy**  
**Series: The Weeping Prophet**  
**The Village Church at Shell Point**  
**Evening Service**  
**August 7, 2022**

I. **Redemptive History – So Far**

A. Study of Jeremiah

1. Last years of Judah leading to Babylonian exile
2. Much to learn, chapter by chapter, from the weeping prophet
3. About half way through series
4. Take some time to put Jeremiah back into the master story of the Bible
  - a. Without which we will misunderstand God’s overriding redemptive purposes for His people

B. **Covenant as the organizing principle of the Bible**

1. **Abrahamic**

- a. Multiplication of people
  - (1) Family to nation
- b. Land

2. **Mosaic**

- a. Rescue from Egypt
- b. Law at Sinai
  - (1) 10 Commandments (Apodictic Law)
  - (2) Case law (Casuistic Law)
- c. Wandering in wilderness

C. **Deuteronomy – 2<sup>nd</sup> Law**

1. Preparations for conquest of Canaan
2. Renewal of covenant
  - a. Ten Commandments
  - b. Holy lifestyle
  - c. Godly leadership
3. **Covenant sanctions – Blessings for obedience**
  - a. **Deuteronomy 28:1–7 (ESV) —**
    - (1) 1 “And if you faithfully obey the voice of the LORD your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth.
    - (2) 2 And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the LORD your God.
    - (3) 3 Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field.
    - (4) 4 Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of

your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock.

(5) 5 Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.

(6) 6 Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.

(7) 7 “The LORD will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before you. They shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.

b. **Deuteronomy 28:10–11** (ESV) —

(1) 10 And all the peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they shall be afraid of you.

(2) 11 And the LORD will make you abound in prosperity, in the fruit of your womb and in the fruit of your livestock and in the fruit of your ground, within the land that the LORD swore to your fathers to give you.

c. **Deuteronomy 28:13–14** (ESV) —

(1) 13 And the LORD will make you the head and not the tail, and you shall only go up and not down, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, being careful to do them,

(2) 14 and if you do not turn aside from any of the words that I command you today, to the right hand or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

4. **Covenant Sanctions – Curses for disobedience**

a. **Deuteronomy 28:15–26** (ESV) —

(1) 15 “But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD your God or be careful to do all his commandments and his statutes that I command you today, then all these curses shall come upon you and overtake you.

(2) 16 Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the field.

(3) 17 Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.

(4) 18 Cursed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock.

(5) 19 Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out.

(6) 20 “The LORD will send on you curses, confusion, and frustration in all that you undertake to do, until you are destroyed and perish quickly on account of the evil of your deeds, because you have forsaken me.

(7) 21 The LORD will make the pestilence stick to you until he has consumed you off the land that you are entering to take possession of it.

- (8) 22 The LORD will strike you with wasting disease and with fever, inflammation and fiery heat, and with drought and with blight and with mildew. They shall pursue you until you perish.
  - (9) 23 And the heavens over your head shall be bronze, and the earth under you shall be iron.
  - (10) 24 The LORD will make the rain of your land powder. From heaven dust shall come down on you until you are destroyed.
  - (11) 25 “The LORD will cause you to be defeated before your enemies. You shall go out one way against them and flee seven ways before them. And you shall be a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth.
  - (12) 26 And your dead body shall be food for all birds of the air and for the beasts of the earth, and there shall be no one to frighten them away.
- b. **Deuteronomy 28:32–34** (ESV) —
- (1) 32 Your sons and your daughters shall be given to another people, while your eyes look on and fail with longing for them all day long, but you shall be helpless.
  - (2) 33 A nation that you have not known shall eat up the fruit of your ground and of all your labors, and you shall be only oppressed and crushed continually,
  - (3) 34 so that you are driven mad by the sights that your eyes see.
- c. **Deuteronomy 28:36–37** (ESV) —
- (1) 36 “The LORD will bring you and your king whom you set over you to a nation that neither you nor your fathers have known. And there you shall serve other gods of wood and stone.
  - (2) 37 And you shall become a horror, a proverb, and a byword among all the peoples where the LORD will lead you away.
- d. **Deuteronomy 28:41** (ESV) —
- (1) 41 You shall father sons and daughters, but they shall not be yours, for they shall go into captivity.
- e. **Deuteronomy 28:45–53** (ESV) —
- (1) 45 “All these curses shall come upon you and pursue you and overtake you till you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep his commandments and his statutes that he commanded you.
  - (2) 46 They shall be a sign and a wonder against you and your offspring forever.
  - (3) 47 Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joyfulness and gladness of heart, because of the abundance of all things,

- (4) 48 therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger and thirst, in nakedness, and lacking everything. And he will put a yoke of iron on your neck until he has destroyed you.
- (5) 49 The LORD will bring a nation against you from far away, from the end of the earth, swooping down like the eagle, a nation whose language you do not understand,
- (6) 50 a hard-faced nation who shall not respect the old or show mercy to the young.
- (7) 51 It shall eat the offspring of your cattle and the fruit of your ground, until you are destroyed; it also shall not leave you grain, wine, or oil, the increase of your herds or the young of your flock, until they have caused you to perish.
- (8) 52 “They shall besiege you in all your towns, until your high and fortified walls, in which you trusted, come down throughout all your land. And they shall besiege you in all your towns throughout all your land, which the LORD your God has given you.
- (9) 53 And you shall eat the fruit of your womb, the flesh of your sons and daughters, whom the LORD your God has given you, in the siege and in the distress with which your enemies shall distress you.

f. **Deuteronomy 28:63–65 (ESV) —**

- (1) 63 And as the LORD took delight in doing you good and multiplying you, so the LORD will take delight in bringing ruin upon you and destroying you. And you shall be plucked off the land that you are entering to take possession of it.
- (2) 64 “And the LORD will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other, and there you shall serve other gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known.
- (3) 65 And among these nations you shall find no respite, and there shall be no resting place for the sole of your foot, but the LORD will give you there a trembling heart and failing eyes and a languishing soul.

D. **Joshua and the settling of the Promised Land**

1. **Joshua 1:1–9 (ESV) —**

- a. 1 After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses’ assistant,
- b. 2 “Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel.
- c. 3 Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses.

- d. 4 From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory.
- e. 5 No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you.
- f. 6 Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them.
- g. 7 Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go.
- h. 8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.
- i. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

2. **Joshua 21:43–45** (ESV) —

- a. 43 Thus the LORD gave to Israel all the land that he swore to give to their fathers. And they took possession of it, and they settled there.
- b. 44 And the LORD gave them rest on every side just as he had sworn to their fathers. Not one of all their enemies had withstood them, for the LORD had given all their enemies into their hands.
- c. 45 Not one word of all the good promises that the LORD had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass.

E. **Judges**

1. **Judges 2:6–10** (ESV) —

- a. 6 When Joshua dismissed the people, the people of Israel went each to his inheritance to take possession of the land.
- b. 7 And the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great work that the LORD had done for Israel....
- c. ... 10 And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the LORD or the work that he had done for Israel.

2. **Judges 2:11–15** (ESV) —

- a. 11 And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals.
- b. 12 And they abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them. And they provoked the LORD to anger.

- c. 13 They abandoned the LORD and served the Baals and the Ashtaroht. 14 So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he gave them over to plunderers, who plundered them. And he sold them into the hand of their surrounding enemies, so that they could no longer withstand their enemies.
    - d. 15 Whenever they marched out, the hand of the LORD was against them for harm, as the LORD had warned, and as the LORD had sworn to them. And they were in terrible distress.
  - 3. **Judges 2:16–17** (ESV) —
    - a. 16 Then the LORD raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them.
    - b. 17 Yet they did not listen to their judges, for they whored after other gods and bowed down to them. They soon turned aside from the way in which their fathers had walked, who had obeyed the commandments of the LORD, and they did not do so.
  - 4. Downward spiral through 13 cycles
    - a. Nearly complete moral collapse
  - 5. **Judges 21:25** (ESV) —
    - a. 25 In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.
- F. **Samuel – The Last Judge**
  - 1. Even in the midst of the moral collapse – God provided a deliverer through grace
  - 2. **1 Samuel 7:3–4** (ESV) —
    - a. 3 And Samuel said to all the house of Israel, “If you are returning to the LORD with all your heart, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtaroht from among you and direct your heart to the LORD and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.”
    - b. 4 So the people of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashtaroht, and they served the LORD only.
  - 3. Moral revival and reformation
    - a. Defeated Philistines – enemy du jour
  - 4. **1 Samuel 8:4–9** (ESV) —
    - a. 4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah
    - b. 5 and said to him, “Behold, you are old and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations.”
    - c. 6 But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to judge us.” And Samuel prayed to the LORD.
    - d. 7 And the LORD said to Samuel, “Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them.
    - e. 8 According to all the deeds that they have done, from the day I

brought them up out of Egypt even to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are also doing to you.

f. 9 Now then, obey their voice; only you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.”

5. **Saul chosen**

- a. Victories
- b. Disobedience
- c. Rejected as king

6. **David anointed**

- a. Defeat of Goliath
- b. Service to Saul
- c. Saul's jealousy; David on the run

7. Saul's death

- a. David as king

G. **1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles**

1. Death of David

2. **Solomon**

3. **Divided Kingdom**

a. **Judah (Davidic succession)**

- (1) Rehoboam
- (2) Jerusalem as capital

b. **Israel**

- (1) Jereboam
- (2) Samaria as capital

H. All rooted in Deuteronomy

- 1. Rights to Promised Land based on Deuteronomic blessing
- 2. Success = covenant faithfulness
- 3. Failure = covenant unfaithfulness

I. **Period of Prophets**

- 1. Kings and Chronicles
- 2. All look back to Deuteronomy
  - a. Called people back to repentance
- 3. Strange – prophets looking back, rather than forward

II. **Decline of Israel and Judah**

A. Both declined; Israel more rapidly

B. Israel

- 1. More quickly devolved into idolatry and syncretism
  - a. Dissociated from central worship in Jerusalem
- 2. All of the kings of Israel are condemned
  - a. Sins of Jereboam
  - b. “Made Israel to sin”

C. Judah

- 1. Retained some semblance of covenant faithfulness longer
  - a. Kings – mixed bag
    - (1) Some great kings

- (2) Some awful kings
    - 2. Times of revival and reformation
      - a. Times of backsliding and idolatry
    - 3. Greatest sin – had the example of Israel’s collapse
      - a. Had the instruction
      - b. And the visual aid!
    - 4. **Isaiah**
      - a. Ministered to Judah and Jerusalem
      - b. Warning them of apostasy
      - c. Israel fell about midway through Isaiah
        - (1) 722 BC
        - (2) Overrun by the Assyrians
    - 5. **Jeremiah**
      - a. Couple generations later than Isaiah
      - b. Warned Judah of apostasy
      - c. Object lesson of Israel
      - d. Judah would fall as well
        - (1) 586 BC
        - (2) Babylonians, Nebuchadnezzar
    - 6. Basis of Isaiah and Jeremiah
      - a. Deuteronomic curses
  - D. **Last five kings**
    - 1. **Josiah – 640-609**
      - a. Last good king
      - b. Led the last great reformation
      - c. Died foolishly, coming out against the Egyptians
    - 2. **Jehoahaz – 609 (3 months)**
    - 3. **Jehoiakim – 609-598**
    - 4. **Jehoiachin – 598-597 (3 months)**
    - 5. **Zedekiah – 597-586**
  - E. **Geopolitical context**
    - 1. Assyria – dominant power during Isaiah
      - a. Fall of Israel in 722
    - 2. Babylon defeats Assyria in 612
    - 3. Babylon and Egypt contest the region
  - F. **Fall of Judah**
    - 1. Stages
      - a. **605 – first deportation**
      - b. **597 – first invasion by Babylon**
      - c. **586 – second invasion by Babylon**
- III. **Jeremiah’s Ministry**
  - A. **Repent and avoid judgment**
    - 1. **Jeremiah 7:1–15 (ESV) —**
      - a. 1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD:
      - b. 2 “Stand in the gate of the LORD’s house, and proclaim there this



word, and say, Hear the word of the LORD, all you men of Judah who enter these gates to worship the LORD.

- c. 3 Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your deeds, and I will let you dwell in this place.
- d. 4 Do not trust in these deceptive words: ‘This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD.’
- e. 5 “For if you truly amend your ways and your deeds, if you truly execute justice one with another,
- f. 6 if you do not oppress the sojourner, the fatherless, or the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own harm,
- g. 7 then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your fathers forever.
- h. 8 “Behold, you trust in deceptive words to no avail.
- i. 9 Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known,
- j. 10 and then come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, ‘We are delivered!’—only to go on doing all these abominations?
- k. 11 Has this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, I myself have seen it, declares the LORD.
- l. 12 Go now to my place that was in Shiloh, where I made my name dwell at first, and see what I did to it because of the evil of my people Israel.
- m. 13 And now, because you have done all these things, declares the LORD, and when I spoke to you persistently you did not listen, and when I called you, you did not answer,
- n. 14 therefore I will do to the house that is called by my name, and in which you trust, and to the place that I gave to you and to your fathers, as I did to Shiloh.
- o. 15 And I will cast you out of my sight, as I cast out all your kinsmen, all the offspring of Ephraim.

B. **Too late to repent**

1. **Jeremiah 19:1–15** (ESV) —

- a. 1 Thus says the LORD, “Go, buy a potter’s earthenware flask, and take some of the elders of the people and some of the elders of the priests,
- b. 2 and go out to the Valley of the Son of Hinnom at the entry of the Potsherd Gate, and proclaim there the words that I tell you.
- c. 3 You shall say, ‘Hear the word of the LORD, O kings of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem. Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I am bringing such disaster upon this place that the ears of everyone who hears of it will tingle.
- d. 4 Because the people have forsaken me and have profaned this

- place by making offerings in it to other gods whom neither they nor their fathers nor the kings of Judah have known; and because they have filled this place with the blood of innocents,
- e. 5 and have built the high places of Baal to burn their sons in the fire as burnt offerings to Baal, which I did not command or decree, nor did it come into my mind—
  - f. 6 therefore, behold, days are coming, declares the LORD, when this place shall no more be called Topheth, or the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, but the Valley of Slaughter.
  - g. 7 And in this place I will make void the plans of Judah and Jerusalem, and will cause their people to fall by the sword before their enemies, and by the hand of those who seek their life. I will give their dead bodies for food to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the earth.
  - h. 8 And I will make this city a horror, a thing to be hissed at. Everyone who passes by it will be horrified and will hiss because of all its wounds.
  - i. 9 And I will make them eat the flesh of their sons and their daughters, and everyone shall eat the flesh of his neighbor in the siege and in the distress, with which their enemies and those who seek their life afflict them.’
  - j. 10 “Then you shall break the flask in the sight of the men who go with you,
  - k. 11 and shall say to them, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts: So will I break this people and this city, as one breaks a potter’s vessel, so that it can never be mended. Men shall bury in Topheth because there will be no place else to bury.
  - l. 12 Thus will I do to this place, declares the LORD, and to its inhabitants, making this city like Topheth.
  - m. 13 The houses of Jerusalem and the houses of the kings of Judah—all the houses on whose roofs offerings have been offered to all the host of heaven, and drink offerings have been poured out to other gods—shall be defiled like the place of Topheth.’ ”
  - n. 14 Then Jeremiah came from Topheth, where the LORD had sent him to prophesy, and he stood in the court of the LORD’s house and said to all the people:
  - o. 15 “Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, behold, I am bringing upon this city and upon all its towns all the disaster that I have pronounced against it, because they have stiffened their neck, refusing to hear my words.”

C. **Salvation through remnant in exile**

1. **Jeremiah 24:1–10** (ESV) —
  - a. 1 After Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had taken into exile from Jerusalem Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, together with the officials of Judah, the craftsmen, and the metal workers,

and had brought them to Babylon, the LORD showed me this vision: behold, two baskets of figs placed before the temple of the LORD.

- b. 2 One basket had very good figs, like first-ripe figs, but the other basket had very bad figs, so bad that they could not be eaten.
- c. 3 And the LORD said to me, “What do you see, Jeremiah?” I said, “Figs, the good figs very good, and the bad figs very bad, so bad that they cannot be eaten.”
- d. 4 Then the word of the LORD came to me:
- e. 5 “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Like these good figs, so I will regard as good the exiles from Judah, whom I have sent away from this place to the land of the Chaldeans.
- f. 6 I will set my eyes on them for good, and I will bring them back to this land. I will build them up, and not tear them down; I will plant them, and not pluck them up.
- g. 7 I will give them a heart to know that I am the LORD, and they shall be my people and I will be their God, for they shall return to me with their whole heart.
- h. 8 “But thus says the LORD: Like the bad figs that are so bad they cannot be eaten, so will I treat Zedekiah the king of Judah, his officials, the remnant of Jerusalem who remain in this land, and those who dwell in the land of Egypt.
- i. 9 I will make them a horror to all the kingdoms of the earth, to be a reproach, a byword, a taunt, and a curse in all the places where I shall drive them.
- j. 10 And I will send sword, famine, and pestilence upon them, until they shall be utterly destroyed from the land that I gave to them and their fathers.”

#### IV. **Jeremiah's Personal Connection**

- A. Tendency to see what was unfolding in detached, clinical manner
  - 1. Not the way Jeremiah saw it
- B. Jeremiah lived through the decline and collapse
  - 1. Up through Ch 24 – before the exile
- C. Jeremiah lived through the siege of Jerusalem and its fall
  - 1. Even lived after the fall, into the first portion of exile
- D. Personal devastation
  - 1. Last thing he wanted to see was the collapse of Judah
    - a. Loved these people
    - b. Loved the land
  - 2. **Lamentations 1:16** (ESV) —
    - a. 16 “For these things I weep; my eyes flow with tears; for a comforter is far from me, one to revive my spirit; my children are desolate, for the enemy has prevailed.”
  - 3. **Lamentations 2:11** (ESV) —
    - a. 11 My eyes are spent with weeping; my stomach churns; my bile is

poured out to the ground because of the destruction of the daughter of my people, because infants and babies faint in the streets of the city.

- E. Jeremiah identified with his people, live through their devastation
  - 1. **2 Corinthians 11:28–29** (ESV) — 28 And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches. 29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant? [NIV – “inwardly burn”]
  - 2. **Philippians 3:18–19** (ESV) — 18 For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.
- F. Evangelical response to our nation in decline?
  - 1. Don’t see the tears, the anguish, the weeping
- V. Jeremiah continues – More of the same?
  - A. Yes, but
  - B. **Hope**, even in the darkest of times
    - 1. Salvation narrative unfolds
      - a. Sees the preservation of Israel through remnant
      - b. Sees ahead to the New Covenant people of God
  - C. **Jeremiah 29:11–13** (ESV) —
    - 1. 11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.
    - 2. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you.
    - 3. 13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.
  - D. **Jeremiah 31:31–33** (ESV) —
    - 1. 31 “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah,
    - 2. 32 not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD.
    - 3. 33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
  - E. Sunshine of the grace of God always stands out against the backdrop of the dark clouds of judgment
    - 1. Jeremiah will walk us through that judgment
      - a. With tears
    - 2. But will reveal to us the glories of New Covenant grace
  - F. Deuteronomy casts a long shadow
    - 1. Against that shadow we shall see glory