Jeremiah - Commentaries by Henry Allan Ironside

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, April 25

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“A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land; the prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and My people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?” — Jeremiah 5:30, 31.

THE false prophets in Jeremiah’s day ridiculed predictions of coming judgment and prated of peace and safety when the Judge stood at the door (6:14; 8:11). It is the same today and will be until the vials of the wrath of God are actually being poured out upon the earth (1 Thess. 5:3). Men prefer these soft-spoken teachers of error who prophesy smooth things (Isa. 30:10), to the faithful men of God who declare unflinchingly the Word of the Lord without fear or favor. But in the day of Christ, when every hidden thing is brought to light, God’s true servants will be recognized and rewarded, and the preachers of falsehood will be dealt with in judgment.

—J. J. P.

Daily Sacrifice, May 2

“Seekest thou great things for thyself? Seek them not”— Jeremiah 45:5.

THESE words were spoken to Baruch by Jeremiah, the weeping prophet. Our blessed Lord, in the days of His humiliation here on earth, emphasized the importance of self-abnegation as a first requisite for the life of discipleship. He Himself chose to take the lowly way, and all who would follow Him must deny self and seek the honor that comes from God only. This is the very opposite to the way of the world. It is the pushing, energetic, self-assertive man who craves a name for himself in earth’s halls of fame. It is the meek and humble follower of Christ who will be recognized in the day when the Lord makes up His jewels.

—Christina Rossetti.

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, April 28

“Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers, in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which My covenant they brake, although I was a husband unto them, saith the Lord: but this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be My people”— Jeremiah 31:31-33.

THE new covenant is the covenant of grace. The legal covenant demanded of man what the unrenewed person could not give—perfect righteousness—implicit obedience to the holy law of God as a ground of blessing. It is epitomized in the words, “Which if a man do, he shall live in them” (Lev. 18:5). But it contained the solemn warning, “Cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them” (Deut. 27:26). Because all were disobedient all found it to be a ministration of death and condemnation (2 Cor. 3:7,9). If it could have given life to dead sinners, it would then have produced righteousness, as Paul tells us in Galatians 3:21.

But God used the law to show men their need of His grace because of their own utter sinfulness and their helpless condition. This grace is revealed in the new covenant.

—Toplady.

Daily Sacrifice, April 29

“Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee: know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and bitter, that thou hast forsaken the Lord thy God, and that My fear is not in thee, saith the Lord God of hosts”— Jeremiah 2:19.

WHEN we are not obedient to the voice of God He permits us to become enslaved to unholy passions and evil propensities, that we may learn anew the corruption and untrustworthiness of our own hearts and the need of constant dependence upon Him. Thus sin itself is made to serve. We learn lessons through our failures that some of us refuse to learn at the feet of the Lord.

—Steele

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, April 27

“I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran: I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied. But if they had stood in My counsel, and had caused My people to hear My words, then they should have turned from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings” —Jeremiah 23:21, 22.

JEREMIAH is often called “The weeping prophet” because of his tenderness of heart and the grief that possessed him on account of the defection of his people (9:1). But he could also be very stern when rebuking iniquity. In these things he manifested the same spirit that was seen in all perfection in our blessed Lord, whose tears and denunciations were in perfect keeping. False prophets have ever been the bane of those who are ready to accept almost anyone claiming to speak with divine authority, instead of testing him by what God has already revealed. It was true of old; it is just as true now (2 Peter 2:1-3). Therefore we need to try the spirits whether they be of God (1 John 4:1), for Satan has his ministers who speak plausibly but are really seeking to mislead rather than to edify (2 Cor. 11:14, 15). Justin Martyr wrote long ago: “Many spirits are abroad in the world and the credentials they display are splendid gifts of eloquence and ability. Christian, look carefully. Ask for the print of the nails.”

—John Newton.

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, April 26

“This is His name whereby He shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS” — Jer. 23:6.

THIS is one of the great covenant names of God: “Jehovah Tsidkenu.” It tells us that God has a righteousness for those who can pretend to none of their own, Christ Himself is made unto all who believe in Him, wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption. In order that this might be, He the sinless One, was “made sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Cor. 5:21): He is Himself the righteousness in which every redeemed one stands perfect and complete before God. Paul exclaims with rapture that it was his glory “to be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness which is by the law, but the righteousness which is of God by faith” (Phil. 3:9).

—R. M. McCheyne.

Daily Sacrifice, May 1

“Then I went down to the potter’s house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hands of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it”— Jer. 18:3, 4.

THE pottery was probably outside the walls of the city, where suitable clay could be found for making jars and bowls and other kinds of earthenware. As the prophet entered the establishment, he found the potter making a vessel upon the wheels.

As Jeremiah looked on, he saw that the vessel was ruined in the process of working it on the wheels. But it was not cast away as though it had become utterly useless. The potter crushed the clay, softened it again with running water, and refashioned it. This was a vivid illustration of what God can do with broken lives, or with nations that have turned away from allegiance to Him.

—A. A. P.

Daily Sacrifice, April 30

“He that getteth riches, and not by right, shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool”— Jeremiah 17:11.

FROM the beginning, the Holy Scriptures have recognized the rights of mankind to the enjoyment of the results of their own thrift and providence, as also of property lawfully acquired by inheritance. The Bible does not countenance a state of society in which private possessions are to be confiscated far the benefit of all. It does teach the responsibility of those who have them, to be considerate of the needy and to share with those who have not. But this must be a voluntary thing, not the taking by force from those who are wealthier than their neighbors, in order to give to the poor. Stealing what belongs to another is not only a crime against society, it is also a sin against God. All orderly governments recognize the distinction between “mine” and “thine.” Where this is not acknowledged, we see chaos and anarchy.

The Christian, above all others, should be characterized by honesty in all things. Unjust gains, unlawful accumulation of wealth, riches obtained by deceit or trickery, are all abhorrent to the new life that has hew imparted to the believer.

— Abram J. Ryan.

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