

# Jeremiah: What Happened to God's Truthful, Servant Leaders?

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Last week we were reminded of God's sorrow and anger over the rebellion of the people of Judah. Proclaiming God's message, Jeremiah warns them that there are consequences for such blatant and persistent disobedience ("therefore" Jer. 5:6 and 14) and that God will indeed judge and punish them, even though God also "will not make a full end of you." (Jer. 5:18) Especially troubling is the dishonest and corrupt leaders, prophets, and priests among them.

## **Grounding Scripture: Jeremiah 5:30-31; 6:13-20**

1. As you read through Jeremiah 6:13-15, what stands out to you as the behavior of these leaders which was so offensive to God? What offends God?
2. How might a true prophet be distinguished from a false prophet?
3. Review verses 16 and 17. What is the primary issue and what is God pleading for? What is the response of the people?
4. What is meant by the "ancient paths, where the good way lies" as found in verse 16?
5. Verse 18 begins with a "therefore." What is the "therefore" there for?
6. Verse 20 holds a criticism and sad truth related to their worship. What is it?
7. Because the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament are inextricably linked, consider 2 Timothy 4:1-8. What is the apostle Paul warning Timothy about as it relates to faithful teaching and leadership?
8. What might God be saying to us? What might be the warning and instruction to us?

**Verse to Remember:** ...*Stand at the crossroad, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.* (Jeremiah 6:16b)