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Haftarah Matot/Masei
by Julie Zhuk on 2022-07-30

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Jeremiah: 2:4-28- 4:1-2

This week's haftara is going to be coming from the book of Jeremiah. It's the second series of the three haftarot that covers affliction. These three haftarot come together, because they are read during the three weeks. During the time of the three weeks, Jews mourn for Jerusalem. There is a fast on the 17th of Tammuz and the 9th of Av. Jeremiah did a very important thing for the Jewish people, he transmitted a message G-d sent to the Jews. Jeremiah was a prophet that used strong tones and he chastised all of the different groups of Jewish people. He was calling them out on their leadership and their abandonment towards G-d. G-d asked Jeremiah to pass along the question to the Jews: "What wrong did your forefathers find in me that they would distance themselves from Me and they went after futility and then themselves became futile?"

G-d had to remind the Jewish people of the kindness he showed them when they fled Egypt and how they got to the point where they were now. This reminder covered the travels they had through the desert and all the miracles they witnessed. He asked them why they were repaying Him in this way of being so disloyal to Him. G-d told Jeremiah the Jewish people transgressed twice, they had forsaken Him. G-d was going to punish them now, they were no longer going to have fresh spring water at their luxurious use. The Jews were ordered to dig for themselves, finding cisterns. They found broken cisterns and these didn't hold any water. G-d asked the Jews to view the actions of their neighboring nations specifically the, Kitties and the Kedarites and to see whether there was any such thing, whether a nation exchanged a god or there never was a god to begin with. G-d had a point with what He was saying to the Jews.

G-d was telling the Jewish people they had exchanged their glory for what was not really there. Since the Jews mistreated G-d and His commandments in this way He had a plan for them. They weren't going to like it and as much begging and pleading a prophet such as Jeremiah could do or even Moses their leader before he passed away to be kind to the Jews, they weren't getting out of this punishment. G-d wanted to teach the Jewish people their lesson and He told Jeremiah that they were going to suffer for a long time in their foreseeable future. Jeremiah was to pass this message along to the Jews. Jeremiah said to the Jewish people that they would suffer at the hands of their enemies and also their erstwhile allies. This meant that their evil will chastise them and they will be reprimanded for their backsliding. The last thing G-d told the Jews was they would know soon enough how their forsaking the L-rd your G-d is evil and bitter.

G-d really did love the Jewish people. All of these things He stated towards them was not going to happen forever or last forever. He was warning the Jews what life was going to be like if they continued to have their backs turned away from Him. The parsha ends on an encouraging note, Jeremiah lets the Jews know that no matter what G-d will always FORGIVE them for their transgressions. All G-d is wanting from the Jewish people is they turn back to Him and show how much they want Him in their lives. Jeremiah's last comment on this to the Jewish people was, if they were to turn back to G-d with sincerity they would be restored to their full glory.

