

“Seek not Bethel, nor enter into Gilgal” by Jeremiah

Today, I would like to give a message from Amos 5:4-6 where it talks about the ill-fated future of churches.

Amos 5:5 But seek not Bethel, nor enter into Gilgal, and pass not to Beersheba: for Gilgal shall surely go into captivity, and Bethel shall come to nought.

Let’ s think about what this scripture means. What kind of place is Bethel? Below is a clue to understand this.

Genesis 28:16 And Jacob awoke out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the Lord is in this place, and I knew it not.

28:17 And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.

28:18 And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil on top of it.

28:19 And he called the name of that place Bethel: but the name of that city was called Luz at the first.

What we can understand from this part is that Bethel is where Jacob met the living God. This is, therefore, the house of God and the gate of heaven. It is perhaps like a massive change made by Luther who made Protestant independent from Catholic. Now, how about Gilgal? The answer is found below.

Joshua 5:7 And their children, whom he raised up in their stead, them Joshua circumcised: for they were uncircumcised because they had not circumcised them by

the way.

5:8 And it came to pass when they had done circumcising all the people, that they abode in their places in the camp, till they were whole.

5:9 And the Lord said unto Joshua, This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt from off you. Wherefore the name of the place is called Gilgal to this day.

This scripture talks about Lord “rolling away the reproach of Egypt” against exiled people. Egypt may be a parable of the world which also means that Gilgal is a special place where Christians are separated from this world, I guess you could say.

However, Lord tells us not to seek Bethel or go to Gilgal despite these places are very significant for Christians Why?

The reason is written in the scripture below.

Amos 5:5 But seek not Bethel, nor enter into Gilgal, and pass not to Beersheba: for Gilgal shall surely go into captivity, and Bethel shall come to nought.

This scripture talks about how even such significant place like Bethel will come to nought. It also tells us that Gilgal will go into captivity.

What we can learn from here is that no matter how historically significant place it may be, the group will become in vain in the eye of God and get moved. Unfortunately, the Bible insists that some churches will not remain the same and change their nature from what they are supposed to be like.

<Churches will change, be captured, and come to nought>

Bethel existed during the time of Jacob and Gilgal is from Joshua’s era, but the Bible was written for people living in later eras as well. This means what the Bible talks about Bethel and Gilgal are relative to us, and I presume that it is giving us a warning.

In Old Testament, Bethel came to nought and Gilgal was captured and removed. In the same way, no matter how big and faithful a church is, they will come to nought or be

captured and removed in New Testament era. This is at least my very personal understanding of what the Bible could be implying.

<Bethel will come to nought and Gilgal captured in the New Testament era>

For example, this year marks Luther's 500th anniversary of Religious Revolution. Luther is a man who separated Protestant from Catholic through his revolution with pure faith-based intention. However, after 500 years, their doctrine has completely changed and rejoined Catholic to become a rebellious church in my opinion.

You see how I still insist that Bethel came to nought and Gilgal captured in the days of New Testament.

This doesn't just apply to Luther related denomination. Many American churches accept homosexuality and ignore the teaching of the Bible. They also practice "Bethel and Gilgal" theory. It also applies to people. For example, Billy Graham says "There is no issue in Catholic," but Catholic states that Mary is sinless and raised to heaven, as well as God is four in one including Mary, which is absolutely non-Biblical doctrine. There is no way that Catholic doesn't have any issue. It is Billy Graham himself who actually has issues.

<The earth will be changed like a garment>

The Bible talks about how churches change their nature as time goes by in different expressions. They are parables and secret of the kingdom of heaven, but we need to understand with Lord's wisdom. Below is the example of how the Bible talks about changes in the churches.

Psalm 102:25 Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands.

102:26 They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed:

102:27 But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end.

What it says "heaven and earth here" is a parable of the church. Lord told descendants of Abraham to multiply like the stars in the sky and sand on the beach. That is why Christians are considered as star and sand. Heaven and earth are where stars and sand are, therefore represent the churches.

The Bible tells us that the churches will change into destruction as the scripture says "all of them shall wax old like a garment," the church and gatherings of Christians will wear out as the time goes by, and become unworthy to be worn by Christ.

“as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed.”

This one explains that the church will be changed. Think how the church was when Jesus came to the world for the first time. Not only the Jews’ church was not suitable for Him to be in, but Jews also persecuted Him.



Luther’ s 500th anniversary

Because of that, the gathering was no longer to be used by God and changed to New Testament church. This is what “as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed” means. Whether we like it or not, the church as a vesture will be worn out and become meaningless and will end up changing into the new church. That is what the Bible says.

<Heaven and earth will fade away>

The fact that the church will change doesn’ t just apply to the Old Testament churches but also to the New Testament churches in End Times. This is explained below, for example.

Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

This part shows the contrast between heaven and earth (the church) and the word of Christ. This means that the churches will one day stop trusting the word of Christ and make it go away. Some of you may say it is impossible, but please look at the scripture below as well.

Revelation 6:14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

This scripture is a parable of heavenly church disappearing. It also talks about "scroll" which is the Bible. What this means is that even heavenly church will be gone when it denies the word of Christ.

“Every mountain and island” are also about the church. Again, it describes that the church will be moved from where it is supposed to be, due to its sin.

This is happening right now. For example, homosexuality is actually unacceptable at the church, and the Bible warns about it too. However, some churches in the U.S and other countries publicly accept homosexuality and pastors even lead their weddings. Some churches are changing their nature rapidly. These churches will experience”**every mountain and island moved out of their places**” sooner or later.

<Apostasy>

Some people may reject the idea of the church changing and get removed, but Thessalonians clearly talks about apostasy taking place at the churches as below.

2 Thessalonians 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

It says "falling away, " and there is no area for the mistake. Unfortunately, therefore, it is true that the churches will change their nature in End Times and this is what the Bible is continuously warning.

<The wrath of God and judgment>

The main focus of the warning is that the wrath of God will come down on the fallen churches.

Luke 21:20 And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.

21:21 Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains, and let them which are in the midst of it depart out, and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto.

21:22 For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

21:23 But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! For there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people.

This prophecy has two meanings. Firstly, it gets fulfilled when Jesus came to the earth for the first time, and it happens again in End Times.

Jerusalem was surrounded by Romans and destroyed in 70 A.D. The reason for that is the wrath of God. I interpret that the wrath of God was due to the crucifixion of His only Son Jesus performed by the people of the Old Testament.

As it is written **"For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled,"** it was the day of God's judgment, and this will also possibly happen in End Times perhaps. We may see the crucifixion and apostasy if you choose to believe it as the scripture below describes.

Revelation 11:8 And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

Sodom is known for homosexuality, and this represents churches which support homosexuality at the moment. The wrath of God will come upon those churches but what should we do? The clue is found in the scripture below.

21:21 Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains, and let them which are in the midst of it depart out, and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto.

It is important to run away from fallen churches so that we don't get affected by their sin. Lot who ran away from Sodom to survive is our role model.

Amen



Lot and friends ran away from Sodom into the mountain.

Knowing the era "Generation which underestimates Jesus" by H.F

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Lord said that He is the way, truth, and the source of salvation. That is why the world needs Jesus, and many people have preached the gospel. It is no brainer that Jesus is the most important for Christians but is it really so at the moment?

In the UK, many schools don't use B.C (Before Christ) and A.D (Anno Domini=Lord's era) terms anymore to consider the emotional feelings of other religion. Instead, they use BCE=Before Common Era and CE=Common Era (according to Christian News issued on 14th October 2017).

The UK is said to be a Christian nation with many churches, but they abandoned the

terms B.C and A.D. How about the U.S, who is also Christian country?

Christmas season is almost around the corner and there used to be signs saying "Merry Christmas" everywhere. However, it is harder to see those signs and shop assistants will often say "Happy Holidays" instead of "Merry Christmas" I hear.

Even greeting cards now say "Season' s Greetings" or "Happy Holidays" these days.

In the U.S, "Political Correctness" is well accepted which means that if you say "Merry Christmas," you are seen as forcing other religious people to be included in particular religious activities and customs, therefore, it is against the religious freedom. This is becoming the mainstream idea. As you can see, the name of Jesus is getting disregarded to consider the feeling of people who believe in other religions.

Furthermore, Catholics celebrate the 100th anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima in 2017. This means that Mary is believed to have appeared in Fatima, Portugal 100 years ago which was officially approved by Roman Catholic to be celebrated on the 13th May. On that day, there was a special service held in Japan as well.

As you can see, Catholic focuses on Mary instead of Jesus and they pray to Mary more than to Jesus. Their understanding of Mary is completely non-Biblical.

Also, Roman Pope is well known for praying to "Merciful almighty God" instead of in the name of Jesus after mentioning about Chrislam which is a symbol of emerging with other religions at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York in 2015. This is a classic example of how Catholics undervalue Lord Jesus.

Protestants have made themselves separated from Catholics 500 years ago. Those two were supposed to be different but how does it look now?

This year marks 500th anniversary of Religious Revolution by Marin Luther, and there are many events planned around the world. Some were ecumenical events and Protestant combined with Catholic in Japan as well. Leaders of Christianity are discussing to reconcile without conflicts from now on.

We see more ecumenical movement in Christian churches which don't always seek Jesus and His truth and just accept the difference in each other. Some think that if they say Jesus is the only way, it could cause troubles so it is better not to insist on that. They even treat someone who dares to follow Jesus as if they are trying to stir peace. Don't you think we are in the era of underestimating Jesus?

Matthew 10:22 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.

As Jesus said, the time will come when people will be hated because they insist that the truth is only found in Jesus. We need to know that it is coming near.



Chrislam: Combination of Christianity and Islam