

August 4 Answers

- 1) Earlier, God had shown Jeremiah a vision of a boiling **pot**, tilting toward Judah from the north. It symbolized the armies of **Babylon**, which would soon come and besiege Jerusalem (Jer 1:13–16). God now gave Jeremiah a vivid experience of what that future judgment would be like. “In that day, declares the LORD, courage shall fail both king and officials. The priests shall be appalled and the prophets astounded” (Jer 4:9). The people would hear of the enemy and panic: “Our hands fall helpless; anguish has taken hold of us, pain as of a woman in labor” (Jer 6:24). The devastation Jeremiah saw was so great that he cried out: “My heart, my heart—I writhe in pain! My heart pounds within me! I cannot be still. For I have heard the blast of enemy trumpets and the roar of their battle cries” (Jer 4:19 NLT). Why did God paint such a terrible picture of the coming destruction of Jerusalem? Because He wanted Judah to **repent**! “O Jerusalem, wash your heart from evil, that you may be saved. How long shall your wicked thoughts lodge within you? Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls” (Jer 4:14; 6:16). This teaches us that God is always reaching out to sinners, calling them to **return**. If we would be like God, we must do the same. We must share God’s **burden** for the lost! We need to be so filled with God’s words that we are compelled to **proclaim** the gospel! The next time we think we’re too small and insignificant to make a **difference**, we need to remember what God said to Jeremiah: “Go up and down the streets of Jerusalem, look around and consider, **search** through her squares. If you can find but **one** person who deals honestly and seeks the truth, I will **forgive** this city” (Jer 5:1 NIV).