

August 5 Answers

- 1) God told Jeremiah to stand in the gate of the **temple** and condemn the people for their sin: “Will you steal and murder, commit adultery and perjury, burn incense to Baal and follow other gods you have not known, and then come and stand before me in this house, which bears my Name, and say, ‘We are **safe**’—safe to do all these detestable things?” (Jer 7:9–10 NIV). The people of Judah thought they could get away with sin because they were God’s **chosen** people (cf. Jer 9:25–26). Do we think that because we’re Christians, we can sin and get by? We need to remember: “Whoever says ‘I know him’ but does not keep his commandments is a **liar**, and the **truth** is not in him” (1 John 2:4). Jesus recalled Jeremiah’s words when He cleansed the temple over 600 years later: “Has this house, which bears my Name, become a den of robbers to you? But I have been watching! declares the LORD” (Jer 7:11 NIV; cf. Matt 21:13). Judah’s day of judgment was fast approaching, and they had no one to blame but themselves. Most frustrating of all, they didn’t believe that God would destroy them. They said things like, “This is the temple of the **LORD** (He would never let it be destroyed). We are **wise** and the **law** of the LORD is with us. **Peace**, peace!” (Jer 7:4; 8:8, 11). Jeremiah tried to break through these lies, but nothing he said would persuade them (e.g., Shiloh in Jer 7:12–14). Yet God didn’t give up; He kept sending Jeremiah back to warn them. This teaches us that God is longsuffering and **faithful**. God does everything He can to keep people from flinging themselves into a devil’s hell, and when nothing will turn them from their folly, God grieves over their fate: “Oh that my head were waters, and my eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!” (Jer 9:1). Friends, let’s purpose to live in such a way that we never cause God such pain!