

Jeremiah's Linen Loincloth

Jeremiah 13 - 17

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The Lord told Jeremiah to buy a linen loincloth and put it on. "But do not wash it." Then at the Lord's instruction Jeremiah buried the loincloth. A long time later the Lord sent Jeremiah to dig it up. It was rotten and falling apart.

The Lord said, "Just as a loincloth is made to cling to the body, I created Judah and Israel to cling to me. But they have lived according to their own stubborn inclinations. They have become like this loincloth – good for nothing."

Jeremiah carried the Lord's message to the people of Judah, "You will all fall into drunkenness. Armies will march down from the north. They will rape you. You will be carried off into exile. All because of your many sins."

Judah suffered a terrible drought. False prophets came speaking lies in the name of the Lord. The people cried out to the Lord, "We have sinned against you. But please don't leave us."

The Lord replied, "You are destined for death, war, famine, and captivity. But one day I will bring you back to this land. Then people of every nation will come to know me saying, 'Lord, you are my strength, my fortress, my refuge in time of trouble.' Cursed is the one who trusts in human strength, but blessed is the one who trusts in me. The human heart is more deceitful than anything else, desperately sick, and unfathomable. But I, the Lord, search the heart; I examine inner motivations; and I reward accordingly."