

Finally Comes the Poet

Walter Brueggemann, *Finally Comes the Poet* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press: 1989),

Root causes of Israel's Homelessness

Jer. 3:19-20;

19 I thought how I would set you among my children, and give you a pleasant land, the most beautiful heritage of all the nations. And I thought you would call me, My Father, and would not turn from following me. 20 Instead, as a faithless wife leaves her husband, so you have been faithless to me, O house of Israel,

[God laments for Israel's betrayal and unfaithfulness to God.](#)

Jer. 5: 8; Jer. 13:27;

8 They were well-fed lusty stallions, each neighing for his neighbor's wife. 9 Shall I not punish them for these things? says the LORD; and shall I not bring retribution on a nation such as this? 10 Go up through her vine-rows and destroy, but do not make a full end; strip away her branches, for they are not the LORD's. 11 For the house of Israel and the house of Judah have been utterly faithless to me,

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[God cites Israel's utter unfaithfulness to God as the cause of God's punishment of Israel to homelessness.](#)

Jer. 5:25-28

Your iniquities have turned these away, and your sins have deprived you of good. 26 For scoundrels are found among my people; they take over the goods of others. Like fowlers they set a trap; they catch human beings. 27 Like a cage full of birds, their houses are full of treachery; therefore they have become great and rich, 28 they have grown fat and sleek. They know no limits in deeds of wickedness; they do not judge with justice the cause of the orphan, to make it prosper, and they do not defend the rights of the needy. 29 Shall I not punish them for these things says the LORD, and shall I not bring retribution on a nation such as this?

[God cites Israel's idolatry, wickedness, greed, and ignore the poor and needy.](#)

[God expresses wrath, indignation and anger and pledge to punish such a nation.](#)

Jer. 6:13-15:

13b everyone is greedy for unjust gain; and from prophet to priest, everyone deals falsely. 14 They have treated the wound of my people carelessly, saying, "Peace, peace," when there is no peace. 15 They acted shamefully, they committed abomination; yet they were not ashamed, they did not know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; at the time that I punish them, they shall be overthrown.

[God cites greed, unjust gain, false deals, lie, committed abomination without any guilt felling, and God announces Israel's fall \(homelessness into Babylonia\).](#)

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How God brings Israel Home

Jer. 30: 3- 31:30;

30: 3 For the days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will restore the fortunes of my people, Israel and Judah, says the LORD, and I will bring them back to the land that I gave to their ancestors and they shall take possession of it. 10 for I am going to save you from far away, and your offspring from the land of their captivity. 18 I am going to restore the fortunes of the tents of Jacob, and have compassion on his dwellings; the city shall be rebuilt upon its mound, and the citadel set on its rightful site. 22 And you shall be my people, and I will be your God. 31: 20 Ephraim my dear son? Is he the child I delight in? As often as I speak against him, I still remember him. Therefore I am deeply moved for him; I will surely have mercy on him,

[God grieves for the pain of Israel and promises to bring Israel back home.](#)