

Fact Sheet for **“He Said, He Said, They Said, They Said,  
She Said, They Said, He Said”**  
**Jeremiah 3:6-6:30**

Pastor Bob Singer  
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The Song of Solomon is one of the poetic books of the OT. If you have ever studied it you know that there are three voices that make up the whole book... Solomon, his bride, and a chorus of others.

Something similar is going on in God's second message to Judah in Jeremiah 3-6, only there are many more voices here than in the Song of Solomon. This morning we are going to read through those four chapters, identifying the voices who are speaking as we go. Keep in mind that this is a commentary, and there is debate as to who is speaking on some occasions, but this approach will give you a good feel for these chapters.

We will be reading from the New Living Translation. I have found this translation to be of great help in understanding the prophetic books of the OT.

As this message begins you will find that God addresses both Israel and Judah. Israel refers to the northern 10 tribes that split from Judah after the death of Solomon. Israel was no longer their own nation, having fallen to the Assyrians about a century earlier.

And also, before we begin, I'm going to give you a task. Pay particular attention to God's multiple calls for the people to repent. You may find these in a passing comment or in an extended section, but make a mental note of them as we go.

*Read through “Jeremiah 3\_6-6\_30 NLT Text.docx.” This document will identify the various voices for you.*

God began His message with the mention of “faithless Israel” and “treacherous Judah”. Both had become steeped in idolatry. And even though many of Israel had long since been deported to Assyria God offered them forgiveness and blessing if they would only acknowledge their sin and repent.

**NLT Jeremiah 3:12-14** Therefore, go and give this message to Israel. This is what the LORD says: "O Israel, my faithless people, come home to me again, for I am merciful. I will not be angry with you forever. <sup>13</sup> Only acknowledge your guilt. Admit that you rebelled against the LORD your God and committed adultery against him by worshiping idols under every green tree. Confess that you refused to listen to my voice. I, the LORD, have spoken! <sup>14</sup> "Return home, you wayward children," says the LORD, "for I am your master. I will bring you back to the land of Israel-- one from this town and two from that family-- from wherever you are scattered.

In fact, if you look at chapter three you can easily see that there are strong overtones for events that are still future to us. One day both Israel and Judah will return to God.

As God called Judah to repentance this was meant to be an example for them, but they would not take it to heart. Both God and Jeremiah repeatedly warned them of coming judgment.

Jeremiah knew that there was an eventual promise of restoration from God, but even the prophet was at a loss to explain their current judgment with God's future promise.

**ESV Jeremiah 4:10** Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD, surely you have utterly deceived this people and Jerusalem, saying, 'It shall be well with you,' whereas the sword has reached their very life."

The destruction of Jerusalem would be so massive that Jeremiah figuratively compared it to Genesis 1:1-2.

**ESV Genesis 1:1** ¶ In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

**ESV Jeremiah 4:23** I looked on the earth, and behold, it was without form and void; and to the heavens, and they had no light.

And yet God still sought their repentance.

**ESV Jeremiah 6:8** Be warned, O Jerusalem, lest I turn from you in disgust, lest I make you a desolation, an uninhabited land."

Jeremiah also called them to listen to God.

**ESV Jeremiah 6:10a** To whom shall I speak and give warning, that they may hear?

Listen to what the LORD said, and how the people of Judah responded.

**ESV Jeremiah 6:16** Thus says the LORD: "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. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'

So God would reject them.

These chapters in Jeremiah speak of a dark time in the relationship of the Jewish people to God. But they are also a poignant reminder that we, as individual Christians, can choose to serve God, or not. Israel and Judah both incurred judgment here on earth for their disobedience. So can we if choose the path of sin. There are two verses in the NT that shout in my mind as I read these chapters in Jeremiah. They are verses that are written to believers.

**ESV 1 John 1:9-10** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

There is another verse that comes to mind.

**NAU 2 Chronicles 16:9a** "For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His"

With every decision, with every thought, I try to find myself asking, "Is my heart completely God's?" God is a God of judgment. But He is also a God of mercy, of forgiveness, and of blessing. Which path will you choose?