

## Critters at the Crossroads

*Finding Rest for our Souls*

### Jeremiah 6:16-17

<sup>16</sup> *This is what the LORD says:*

***“Stand at the crossroads and look;  
ask for the ancient paths,  
ask where the good way is, and walk in it,  
and you will find rest for your souls.***

*But you said, ‘We will not walk in it.’*

<sup>17</sup> *I appointed watchmen over you and said,*

*‘Listen to the sound of the trumpet!’*

*But you said, ‘We will not listen.’*

### 1. Israel at the Crossroads

- Rebellion against God
  - Jeremiah prophesied during one of the darkest periods in Jewish history.
  - The people’s rebellion against God had reached the point of no return.

### Jeremiah 7:9-11

<sup>9</sup> *“Will you steal and murder, commit adultery and perjury,<sup>[a]</sup> burn incense to Baal and follow other gods you have not known, <sup>10</sup> 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? <sup>11</sup> Has this house, which bears my Name, become a den of robbers to you? But I have been watching! declares the LORD.*

- God’s hand of judgment was coming upon Israel through Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon (modern day Iraq).
- That judgment came in three major phases.
  - The first siege of Jerusalem. Following the siege of Jerusalem in 605 BCE, many Judeans, including the prophet Daniel, were taken to Babylon.
  - Around 597 BCE, after another siege, more Judeans were deported.
  - The third siege came in 586 BCE which included the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple of Solomon.
- The nation that once held such favor in God’s eyes now found itself in complete bondage because of its rebellion.

### ISRAEL WAS AT THE CROSSROADS!

### 2. America at the Crossroads

- Rebellion against God
  - We live in one of the darkest periods in America’s history.

### Let’s read Jeremiah 7:9-11 again.

<sup>9</sup> *“Will you steal and murder, commit adultery and perjury,<sup>[a]</sup> burn incense to Baal and follow other gods you have not known, <sup>10</sup> 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? <sup>11</sup> Has this house, which bears my Name, become a den of robbers to you? But I have been watching! declares the LORD.*

- One of the latest Barna polls on Christianity in America reveals the following.

- Americans are increasingly comfortable picking and choosing what they deem to be helpful and accurate theological views and **have become comfortable discarding the rest of the teachings in the Bible.**
- Growing numbers of people now serve as their own theologian-in-residence. One consequence is **that Americans are embracing an unpredictable and contradictory body of beliefs.**

- In the past, most people determined their theological and moral points of view from exclusively Christian options – e.g., Methodist, Baptist, etc.
- Today, Americans are more likely to “create” their own theology by combining Christian and non-Christian views. This has resulted in what can be called a “hodge-podge” worldview which may include some tenants of Christianity but also include ideas from other world religions such as Buddhism, Judaism, Hinduism, and Islam as well as secularism.

- A casual look around us reveals the **lack of belief in the absolute truth of God’s Word and of who God is.**
- Has America reached the point of no return?
  - Three sieges in America today.
    - The siege of godlessness.
    - The siege of immorality.
    - The siege of depravity.
- America: The nation that once held such favor in God’s eyes now finds itself on the brink of complete bondage because of rebellion.

**America IS at a crossroads.**

### **3. You and I are at the crossroads**

- The purpose of this study is to seriously consider the fact that we are at a crossroads individually and as a nation. (reference: Family Matters)  
***“The choices we make today will determine the consequences we will live with tomorrow.” (Family Matters Sermon Series)***
- Rebellion is in the heart of man.
  - Godlessness, immorality, and depravity surround us every day.
  - The enemy is the devil, and he is seeking to destroy us if we follow him.
  - God calls us to look for and follow HIS ancient paths so that we may find rest for our souls.
- **Will we heed God’s instruction as we stand at the crossroads?**

Read introduction to “Critters.”